Scotland

1. There is nowhere like Scotland. It is often cold and grey. It rains a lot. But many visitors love the country very much. They love the beautiful empty hills of the north. They love the sea and the islands. They love the big cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow. They love the people, who are warm, friendly and funny.

2. For many years Scotland was a poor country, but today it is getting richer. People in many countries drink Scotch whisky and this brings money to Scotland. There is oil and gas in the sea between Scotland and Norway. Visitors bring money to the country too because there are lots of things to do and see. Scotland has more freedom now with its own parliament in Edinburgh. Life can be hard but for many people things are changing.

3. Between 1066 and 1328, there were many battles between England and Scotland. In 1314, the Scottish king, Robert the Bruce, beat the English at the Battle of Bannockburn. 10,000 Englishmen died and, soon after, Scotland was free. In 1542, a girl became queen. She became Mary, Queen of Scots. The man who made the first telephone, Alexander Graham Bell, was born in Scotland. John Logie Baird, who made the first television, was Scottish, too. There are many other famous Scots.

4. Edinburgh is the capital city of Scotland. It is an old city with many interesting buildings. The first thing you see when you leave Waverley Station is Edinburgh Castle. Then go down the Royal Mile to Holyroodhouse. It is three hundred years old. Near Princes Street is the national Gallery of Scotland, with pictures from Scotland and from other countries. Glasgow is the biggest city in Scotland. It used to be a city of shipbuilding. You can see some of the beautiful buildings from that time in George Square.

5. Golf started in Scotland in the 15th century. It has been popular since then. Mary, Queen of Scots, played it. The golfing capital of Scotland is St. Andrews, a small city near Edinburgh. For many Scots, golf is very important. It is not very expensive, and there are many beautiful golf courses: more than four hundred! In the summer, you can play from 7 in the morning till ten at night.

6. The Highlands are good for walking, climbing and fishing. The hills are not very high, but they can sometimes be difficult and dangerous for walkers in the winter, and in the summer, too. Sometimes cold weather comes from the north and so it is important to be warm and always carry something to eat and drink.
A. It is not only a free time activity but a tradition, too.

B. Scotland is special and the people there are special, too.

C. The economic situation is getting better.

D. Tradition is very important for Scots.

E. There were many important people in the history of Scotland.

F. There are some historical places to visit.

G. This area of Scotland is for those who enjoy spending their time outdoors.