Text 4

Ireland

Ireland is the third largest island in Europe, located between the Atlantic Ocean and the Irish Sea, and is about 84,000 square kilometres in size. Five sixths of the island is known officially as the Republic of Ireland and its capital is Dublin. Its currency is the euro.

The other sixth is Northern Ireland which is part of the United Kingdom. This part is sometimes called "The North" or "Ulster", and its capital city is Belfast. This part uses the same currency as the rest of the UK. The biggest river in Ireland is the Shannon (386 kilometres long). The official language of Ireland is English but some people also speak Gaelic.

Ireland is called the "Emerald Isle" because of its green countryside which includes forests, woodland and open farmland. The west coast is quite mountainous, green and beautiful. The reason that Ireland is so green is that the climate is mild but wet with lots of regular, soft rain.

Apart from tourism, which is the most important source of income, Ireland has several industries including steel and lead, textiles, machinery and glass and is famous for producing "Guinness" beer. Agriculture is also important.

Sport is very popular in Ireland. The national sports are Gaelic football and hurling, but golf is now very important for the tourist industry. Rugby is an all-island sport which means that teams include players from the North and South.

The Irish tradition of folk music and dance is also well -known. U2, Enya, The Corrs, The Cranberries, Boyzone and Westlife are among the Irish music artists known all over the world.

27. Where is Ireland, according to the text?
    a. In Europe
    b. In America
    c. In the English Channel

28. Which part of Ireland is also called Ulster?
    a. The central part
    b. The West
    c. The North

29. Which language is spoken in Ireland, apart from English, according to the text?
    a. Gaelic
    b. Greek
    c. German

30. The word "currency" in the first paragraph can best be replaced with
    a. Bank
    b. Government
    c. Money

31. According to the text, which sport is an important tourist attraction?
    a. Football
    b. Rugby
    c. Golf