

## The Isles of Scilly (B2)

### A – Before you start

*Answer the questions with a partner.*

1. Are there any archipelagos off the coast of your country?
2. If so, where are they? What are they called? How many islands are they made up of?
3. What do you know about the Isles of Scilly?

### B – Listen and answer

*Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and choose the correct answer.*

1. The Isles of Scilly  
a) are a 45-island archipelago.      b) are 145 in number.      c) are 145 miles from Cornwall.
2. It is possible that in Roman times the Isles of Scilly  
a) were a single large island.      b) were part of Cornwall.      c) had 140 churches.
3. The population of the Isles of Scilly has almost doubled in the last two centuries.  
a) True.      b) False.      c) The article doesn't say.
4. Most of the homes on the islands now belong to  
a) the state.      b) King Charles.      c) Prince William.
5. At present, the islands' main source of income is  
a) shipbuilding.      b) growing and selling flowers.      c) tourism.
6. One of the most pressing problems on the islands is  
a) a lack of housing.      b) crime.      c) unemployment.

### C – Read and answer

*Read the article and answer the questions.*

1. What's the connection between the Isles of Scilly and King Arthur?
2. Why have the islands been described as "hilltops"?
3. Why did medieval fishermen often find pieces of doors and windows in their nets?
4. Which of the islands should you visit if you're interested in horticulture?
5. How did the Valhalla Museum manage to collect hundreds of figureheads from ships?
6. What advantage did flower farmers on the Isles of Scilly have in the 19<sup>th</sup> century? Why?
7. What attracts so many holiday-makers to the Isles of Scilly?
8. How do the incomes of the islands' inhabitants compare with those of the rest of England?

### D – Learn it! Use it!

*Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from singular to plural.)*

1. After the exceptionally heavy rain, most of the roads were \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Amina's \_\_\_\_\_ so she needs to wear glasses to drive.
3. Andy's hobby is \_\_\_\_\_. He spends his weekends outdoors with a notebook and binoculars.
4. The cottage was on a \_\_\_\_\_ from which there was a wonderful view of the valley below.
5. The police discovered that the man had murdered his wife and \_\_\_\_\_ her in the back garden.
6. If you climb to the top of the tower, you can see most of the city's \_\_\_\_\_.

**E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 4)**

*Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. Use between 2 and 5 words including the word given.*

Example: Perhaps part of the myth is actually true.

MAY Part of the myth *may actually be* true.

1. Historians think King Arthur is a mythical figure.

BE King Arthur \_\_\_\_\_ a mythical figure.

2. The sea was four metres lower three thousand years ago.

HAS The sea \_\_\_\_\_ the last three thousand years.

3. Most residents are tenants of the Prince of Wales.

HOMES Most residents \_\_\_\_\_ from the Prince of Wales.

4. The entire archipelago is named after one uninhabited island.

GIVES One uninhabited island \_\_\_\_\_ the entire archipelago.

5. However, the islands don't suffer from one problem.

OTHER There is, \_\_\_\_\_, one problem the islands don't suffer from.

6. Taylor was shocked to find that neighbours didn't lock their doors.

BY Neighbours \_\_\_\_\_ their doors unlocked.

**F – Write about it**

*Write about a well-known tourist location in your country. Mention:*

- where it's located;
- how to get there;
- what you can do and see there;
- the best time to go.

## **Answers**

### **B – Listen and answer**

1. b 2. a 3. b 4. c 5. c 6. a.

### **C – Read and answer**

1. It is said King Arthur was buried on the islands. 2. Because they are the highest points of an area that was once above sea level. 3. Because many churches were submerged when the sea rose and flooded parts of the area. The pieces of doors and windows probably came from these churches. 4. You should visit Tresco, which has an Abbey Garden containing 20,000 plants. 5. It obtained them from the hundreds of shipwrecks around the islands. 6. They were able to send their flowers to England early and beat mainland growers, because flowers bloom early on the islands. 7. They are attracted by the good weather, the beaches and watersports, the wildlife and gardens and the tranquillity. 8. They are low compared with mainland England.

### **D – Learn it! Use it!**

1. flooded 2. short-sighted 3. bird-watching 4. hilltop 5. buried 6. landmarks

### **E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?**

1. is thought to be 2. has risen four metres in/over 3. rent their homes 4. gives its name to  
5. on the other hand 6. shocked Taylor by leaving