

Contents

Foreword	7
I. The Country and the People	9
II. Brief Historical Outline: 43 AD — 1975	22
III. Landscape, Towns, Climate	40
Geography and Landscape	40
Mountains, Rivers, Forests, Coasts	41
Towns and Villages	43
Climate	47
IV. Language and Customs	50
English Dialect Variations	50
Other Languages	52
Social Customs	53
Festivals, Public Holidays and Other Commemorations	56
Sport and Sporting Events	58
V. The Political System	65
The Constitution	65
The Crown	67
The Central Government	68
The Legislature: Parliament	68
The Executive: The Cabinet	72
The Ministries	73
Public Corporations	74
The Privy Council	74
The Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration	75
Local Government. Reorganisation 1974.....	76
The Political Parties	79
The Trade Unions	82
The Commonwealth	84
Relations with Europe	85
VI. The Social Structure	88
Population: Some Vital Statistics	88
Class Relations	89
Race Relations	90
The Welfare State	91

VII. The Legal System	94
General Characteristics	94
The Sources of English Law	95
Law Courts and Judges	96
The Legal Profession: Barristers and Solicitors	99
Legal Aid	100
The Police	101
Delegated and Emergency Legislation	102
Scottish Law: Some Variants	103
VIII. Education and Science	107
General Educational Aims	107
Historical Survey	108
The Universities: English, Welsh, Scottish, Irish	110
Advanced Technical Education	115
Further Education	116
The Schools	117
Some General Aspects of the English Educational System	120
Youth Organisations and Services	123
The Sciences in Britain Today	123
IX. Religion and the Churches	125
The General Situation	125
Historical Outline	125
The Church of England and the Anglican Communion	128
The Nonconformist Churches	132
The Roman Church	133
X. The Economy	135
The General Situation	135
Geographical Influences	137
Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries	137
Industry	138
The Ports	141
XI. Press, Radio, Television	142
XII. The Arts and Cultural Life	147
Architecture	147
Painting	150
Sculpture	152
Music	154
Theatre	156
Opera	158
The Film	159
Promotion of the Arts	161
Festivals of the Arts	161
Books for Further Reading	163
Index	167