**Topic: Cities of Great Britain***.* ***Date 2/04/2020***

**Group: AC- 84**

**Task 1. Read the texts and answer the questions.**

**Stratford-Upon- Avon.**

Stratford-Upon-Avon lies at the very heart of England. It attracts people not only by its history and **connection** with William Shakespeare, but also by its wonderful nature and **typical** English character.

Stratford stands on the river Avon and is one of the oldest market towns. It has still preserves its own character and atmosphere, as you will not see **modern** buildings there. The houses are small and a lot of them are very old. Some of them **date back** **to** Shakespeare’s time.

Here you can visit Shakespeare’s birthplace, the foundations of the New Place, where Shakespeare lived when he **retired** and died in 1616. Just round the corner there is Grammar school that the writer used to attend.

Here in Stratford there is **Holy Trinity Church** where William Shakespeare was buried. Thousands of people from all parts of England and foreign visitors come here on Shakespeare’s birthday (23rd April) to pay tribute to the great poet.

Among other sight connected with the name of Shakespeare there is an interesting monument with the statue of the great poet on top and with characters from his plays round it. And you should visit the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, a red-brick building standing on the banks of the Avon. It was opened in 1932 as a **living memorial** to the poet’s work.

**Questions.**

1.Why does Stratford attract visitors?

2.How does it differ from many other English towns?

3.On what occasion do thousands of people come to Stratford every year?

Connection—связь

Typical—типичный

Modern—современный

To date back to—уходить в прошлое

To retire—уйти в отставку

Holy Trinity School—церковь Святой Троицы

Living memorial—живой памятник

**The historic city of York.**

In old times York was the capital of a **Viking kingdom**. In **medieval** times, York was the second city of England, then the social centre of the North, and in **Victorian times**, an important railway centre. Today York is the home of world-famous chocolate and one of the beautiful cities in the world. There are a lot of historic things in York**: battlements**, **glorious** churches, ancient narrow streets, old houses and cosy pubs where stories of ghosts are told around the fire.

The magnificent Minster is the largest Gothic cathedral in northern Europe and the most important church in the North of England. It is famous for its medieval **stained glass windows** and the interior full of colour and light. You can climb to the top of the tower and take a trip into history below ground. Where you can see **the Roman remains**.

In today’s York there is a festival of music and the arts every summer, which include the famous miracle plays(the religious plays performed in the streets in medieval York).

Viking kingdom—королевство викингов

Medieval—средневековый

In Victorian times—во времена королевы Виктории (1837-1901)

Battlements—зубчатые стены, укрепления

Glorious—великолепный

Stained glass windows—витражи

the Roman remains—остатки римской цивилизации

**Questions.**

1.Why is York considered a unique city?

2.How is it connected with English history?

3.What interesting events take place in today’s York?

**Cardiff.**

Cardiff the largest city of Wales became its **capital** in 1956. More than three hundred people live in this city. In is situated near the mouth of the river Taff, which flows into the British Channel. The site was first occupied by a Roman **fort**, built there about 75 A.D. By the 3th and 4th centuries there had been built a massive **stone wall** around the fort. The Castle now standing at the site of the Roman fort and the old fortress walls around it give a special flavor to the city.

Cardiff is an administrative and educational centre. The main streets of the city are spacious and well-planned.

Cardiff is an important industrial city and a port. Industries are concentrated in the south of the city and near the port. The port played a great role in the growth of Cardiff in the 19th and early 20th centuries, when most of the Welsh **coal** exports were handled by it. **Light industry** is also widely developed there.

Capital—столица

Fort—крепость

Stone wall—каменная стена

Coal—уголь

Light industry—лёгкая промышленность

Questions.

1.When did Cardiff become the capital of Wales?

2.What is the population of the city?

3.Where are industries concentrated in Cardiff?