

THE EUROPEAN UNION: PAST AND PRESENT

Read the text and check your quiz answers, which answer is not given?

1

After World War II, European Governments wanted to form a United States of Europe, to help the people of Europe live in peace. In 1957 France, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and West Germany formed the European Economic Community (EEC). The United Kingdom joined this in 1973. The EEC changed its name to the European Union (EU) after the Maastricht Treaty in 1993.

2

The European Union (EU) is a political body which has a single market, and common policies for trade, agriculture and fisheries between member states. Euro coins and banknotes have replaced national currencies in 17 of the member states. These countries are called the Euro Zone.



3

European Union citizens can live, travel, and work in other member states (with some temporary restrictions on new member states). The Schengen Agreement abolished passport control and customs checks between some member states. Twenty four languages are spoken in the European Union. English is the most spoken foreign language followed by German and French.

4

Important EU institutions and bodies include the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, the European Council, the European Central Bank, the European Court of Justice and the European Parliament. Citizens of EU member states are also EU citizens.