

UK unhappy in world happiness ranking

Vocabulary Match

embroiled ● faring ● destinations ● wealthy ● pandemic ● stresses ● citizens ●
● involved ● disease ● doing ● places ● worries ● rich ● people

A new study named the "Mental State of the World" report has ranked countries based on the happiness of their citizens. The report spoke with people from 71 countries about how they handle life's normal stresses.

The findings might be surprising for some in the UK because the UK was almost at the bottom of the list, only faring better than Uzbekistan. Even Yemen and Ukraine, which are both embroiled in war, had higher scores than the UK.

The report also discovered that being a wealthy country does not necessarily mean its people are happier. Many wealthy countries were at the bottom of the list. According to the report, people's happiness around the world is at a low point following the Coronavirus pandemic, especially for those under 35 years old.

The country with the happiest citizens was the Dominican Republic. This Caribbean country, known for its beautiful beaches and holiday destinations, scored higher than Sri Lanka and Tanzania. The happiest European country was Italy, but it ranked only 11th on the list. Ireland and Australia were also near the bottom, similar to the UK.

Quiz

1. What does the "Mental State of the World" report show?
2. Did the UK score higher or lower than Yemen and Ukraine?
3. What does the report say about wealthy countries?

Conversation

A: Did you hear we're the second most miserable country?

B: Really? Show me. Ha. Typical. Only beating Uzbekistan!

A: Even Yemen's cheerier. Imagine that!

B: It's got to be the weather, and the long queues.

A: Don't forget the trains. They're always late.

B: Listen to us complain. Ha! We really are unhappy!

Discussion

1. Do you think people in your country are happy?
2. What makes you happy?
3. Does money bring happiness?
4. How do you handle everyday stress?
5. Would you rather live in a happy, but dangerous country, or an unhappy, but safe country?