A Letter from Scotland

Nancy writes to her friend Marilyn back in Louisiana and tells her about her experiences in Scotland.

The Loch Fyne Inn
Inveraray
Scotland

Dear Marilyn,

Scotland! Wow!!! What a fantastic place. I'm having a great time. I'm afraid that I started off badly by making a fool of myself. I was standing in the awesome old Bell Tower that dominates the town looking across the loch at the hills on the other side. This rather gorgeous guy happened to be standing next to me, so I casually said, “It's really beautiful here in England.” Do you know what he replied? “Well, why don't you go there then?” Then he laughed and explained that he was used to foreigners making mistakes about that. After that bad start we got on really great, though.

Fergus told me lots about Scotland. I’d already noticed the unusual names: Fergus, Angus, Hamish for the guys and Ina, Gillian and Aileen for girls. They also typically have surnames that begin with Mac or Mc – Mackay, McDonald and the like. The Mc or Mac stands for “son of”.

Anyway, Fergus is a Campbell. That's another typical Scottish name and he is from an old Scottish clan. You know that the Scots have their own traditions with kilts and all that. Fergus showed me his family's tartan. That's the special plaid pattern on the cloth his family’s kilts are made from. No, I don't know what the men wear under their kilts, so don't ask!

I tried some really strange food today. When we had lunch together, Fergus practically forced me to taste something ghastly called haggis. I shudder to think of it. That was the first and the last time for me, I can tell you. I have no idea what it is made of and I don't think I want to.

Everybody here is very friendly, not just Fergus. By the way, all that talk about the Scots being stingy is rubbish. Fergis is certainly the opposite. He says the jokes about the Scots have all been thought up by the English, their traditional enemy.

Tomorrow Fergis is taking me to Glasgow. Can your believe it! I thought he would just say goodbye and walk off into the mist. But he really seems interested. Anyway, I’m looking forward to seeing some bright lights and discos after all this peace and quiet. I love it here but there are more sheep than people. I hope I’ll have some other aspects of life in Scotland to report after tomorrow. Keep your fingers crossed.
I’ll keep you posted.

Love,
Nancy
Multiple choice:

A. Nancy was mistaken in thinking that Scotland is
   - a. a British colony
   - b. part of England
   - c. part of the United Kingdom
   - d. an independent state

B. Fergus seems to be
   - a. angry about Nancy's mistake
   - b. stingy
   - c. fun to be with
   - d. uninterested in Nancy

C. Nancy seems to like
   - a. Fergus
   - b. being in Scotland
   - c. learning about the Scots
   - d. all of the above

D. Since Fergus’s surname is Campbell
   - a. his family history probably goes way back
   - b. he isn’t anyone’s son
   - c. he may not really be Scottish
   - d. he can wear any tartan he wants

E. A loch is a
   - a. bell tower
   - b. lake
   - c. hill
   - d. town

F. Find the “odd man out”:
   - a. fantastic
   - b. awesome
   - c. ghastly
   - d. gorgeous

G. A clan is a
   - a. family
   - b. tradition
   - c. kilt
   - d. Scottish dish

H. A tartan is a
   - a. piece of cloth
   - b. kilt
   - c. Scottish dish
   - d. specific pattern