



How is your privacy ensured when you vote in a polling station?

- a) Ballot papers are anonymous and polling booths are designed to give you privacy.
- b) You are required to wear a hat and sunglasses when entering the polling station.
- c) You whisper who you want to vote for in the ear of an electoral officer.

a) Ballot papers are anonymous and polling booths are designed to give you privacy.

If you are registered to vote you will be sent a polling card telling you where the nearest polling station is located.

Polling stations are usually in schools, church halls or community halls.



What colour are the seats on which MPs sit in the House of Commons?

- a) Red.
- b) Green.
- c) Blue.

b) Green

There is not enough room for all 646 MPs in the UK to sit in the House of Commons. This is why you often see them crowded in for important votes!



If you decide to cast your vote 'in person' where do you go?

- a) Polling station.
- b) Train station.
- c) Supermarket.

a) Polling station.



What colour are the seats in the House of Lords?

- a) Red.
- b) Blue.
- c) Black.

a) Red.

The seats in the House of Lords are red. This is because the colour red has always been connected with Royalty. The King and his nobles used to meet in the original chamber.





Where are the House of Parliament located?

- a) Liverpool.
- b) London.
- c) Birmingham.

b) London.

Members of the public can go to visit the House of Commons and House of Lords. You can sit and watch proceedings when Parliament is sitting in a place called 'The public gallery'.



Who was the first female Prime Minister in the UK?

- a) Margaret Thatcher
- b) Cherie Blair
- c) Katie Price

a) Margaret Thatcher

Margaret Thatcher was elected aged 53 and she became the longest serving Prime Minister in 150 years. She was in office for almost 12 years.



When protesting for women's right to vote what did Emily Wilding-Davison throw herself under?

- a) A horse
- b) A tractor
- c) A steamroller

a) A horse

On 4 June 1913, Emily Wilding-Davison threw herself under the King's horse at the Derby horse race. She was demonstrating for the right to vote for women. Emily Davison died from her injuries but her memory lives on as a key figure in political history.



If you decide to vote in person, what do you place your vote in?

- a) A tin can.
- b) A ballot box.
- c) An envelope.

b) A ballot box

All ballot boxes are sealed after polls have closed and transported to a central point where the votes are counted.





At what age can you cast your vote in the United Kingdom?

- a) 16.
- b) 17.
- c) 18.

c) 18.

In 2004, The Electoral Commission recommended maintaining the voting age at 18. Some people campaigned for it to be lowered to 16. Do you think it should be lowered or remain as it is?



What is the piece of paper that you cast your vote on called?

- a) Ballot paper.
- b) A make your choice paper.
- c) A vote here paper.

a) Ballot paper

To vote you need to place a cross (x) in the box next to your chosen candidate. Candidates name are placed in alphabetical order on the piece of paper. The cross (x) is traditional and means that you can still vote if you cannot write.



What happens at a MP's surgery?

- a) The MP answer questions from people that live in their constituency.
- b) The MP goes to speak to the leader of their party.
- c) The MP checks that people have washed behind their ears.

a) The MP answer questions from people that live in their constituency.

Most MPs have regular surgeries. To find out when they are happening in your area visit your MP's website. Many MPs hold special surgeries for young people.



What does the term 'public money' mean?

- a) Money raised from taxes.
- b) Money raised from MPs.
- c) Money raised from donations to political parties.

a) Money raised from taxes.

There are many different types of taxes. You pay tax on your income and most things that you buy including food, cars and adult clothes.

Taxes are used for running the government and providing public services.





What do political parties produce to outline their policies before an election?

- a) A novel.
- c) A manifesto.
- d) A pop video.

c) A manifesto

Manifestos are a great way to find out if you agree with a particular party's policies. You can compare the differences between the parties and choose who you want to vote for.



What, in politics, is a 'ward'?

- a) Somewhere that sick politicians go.
- b) A geographic area represented by your local councillor.
- c) Something that you give to successful actors.

b) A geographic area represented by your local councillor.

To find out which ward you live in and who your local councillor is go to www.aboutmyvote.co.uk



What term is given to someone who does not strongly identify with one party?

- a) Floating voter.
- b) An undecided voter.
- c) A can't make up your mind about anything voter.

a) Floating voter.

If you believe strongly in the views of a particular party you can become a member of that party. Visit the different party websites to find out what it means to be a party member.



What does a Select Committee do?

- a) Looks in detail at things that the Government has done.
- b) Chooses which MPs get to be Ministers.
- c) Chooses what MPs have for lunch when they are at Westminster.

a) Looks in detail at things that the Government has done.

A departmental select committee is the parliamentary body responsible for scrutiny of each government department. Most of the 18 committees have 11 members of Parliament





What does a standing committee do?

- a) Looks in detail at draft laws that are passing through Parliament.
- b) Where MPs can go to stretch their legs.
- c) Decides who gets to be the Prime Minister.

a) Looks in detail at draft laws that are passing through Parliament.

When a law is looked at in Parliament it is called a bill. When it becomes an official law it is called an act.



What is the party with the second highest number of seats or MPs in the UK Parliament called?

- a) Her Majesty's Opposition.
- b) The Right Honourable Gentlemen.
- c) Those ones that don't agree with us.

a) Her Majesty's Opposition.

The party with the highest number of seats or MPs gets to form government and run the UK.



What is 'first past the post'?

- a) The place where MPs pick up their letters.
- b) A racing club established by MPs.
- c) The system used in the UK general election to elect members to Parliament.

c) The system used in the UK general election to elect members to Parliament

First past the post means that the candidate with the most votes in their constituency becomes the MP and the party that has the most MPs becomes the Government.



On what day are elections traditionally held?

- a) Monday.
- b) Sunday.
- c) Thursday.

c) Thursday.

It is customary for an election to be held on a Thursday. The last UK general election held on a day other than a Thursday was Tuesday 27 October 1931.





What does it mean if a MP has 'crossed the floor'?

- a) They have been booed in the House of Commons during a debate.
- b) They have walked to the other side of the chamber for a chat.
- c) They have joined another party.

c) They have joined another party.

In the House of Commons the party in government sits on one side and the opposition parties on the other.

There are lines on the floor in front of the benches that MPs are not meant to cross. This is because MPs used to carry swords! It is also where the term 'toeing the line' came from.



What is another name for the House of Lords?

- a) The Red Room.
- b) The Upper House.
- c) The falling asleep chamber.

a) The Upper House.

Even though the House of Lords is called the Upper House, it has less power than the directly elected House of Commons



When does Prime Minister's question time happen?

- a) Whenever he's not busy.
- b) Wednesdays at midday.
- c) Every second Tuesday.

b) Wednesdays at midday.

You can watch Prime Minister's Question Time live on television. It can get quite heated!



How many laws were passed by Parliament in 2003?

- a) 20-30.
- b) 40-50.
- c) 1,000-1,500.

b) 40-50

Laws govern the way we can behave in the UK. Can you name any laws?





What is the name given to the chairperson of the House of Commons?

- a) The Speaker.
- b) Your Highness.
- c) The Right Honourable.

a) The Speaker.

The Speaker keeps order in Parliament and can tell off MPs when they are getting too rowdy.

In times past the Speaker's chair had a curtain around it so the Speaker did not have to leave to go to the toilet during a debate and risk missing something important!



What is the politician who heads a government department called?

- a) Junior Minister
- b) Head Honcho
- c) The Secretary of State

c) The Secretary of State

The Secretary of State also has a number of Junior Ministers in their department to look after specific policy areas.



The government minister who looks after the UK's finances is called?

- a) The Lord of All Money.
- b) The Finance Minister.
- c) The Chancellor of the Exchequer.

c) The Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The Chancellor traditionally lives at 11 Downing St while the Prime Minister live at 10 Downing St.



What is the area an MP represents called?

- a) Ward.
- b) Constituency.
- c) Region.

b) Constituency.

Each constituency comprises of a defined geographical area and an MP represents all citizens living in that area, even if you did not vote for them!





What are the television adverts that parties make at election times called?

- a) Party Political Broadcast.
- b) Party Animal Broadcast.
- c) Party Pleasantry Broadcast.

a) Party Political Broadcast.

The number of party political broadcasts a party can have is determined by the number of seats they are contesting in an election.



What percentage of the population voted in the 2001 General Election?

- a) 59%.
- b) 75%.
- c) 23%.

a) 59%.

This is the lowest level of turnout since men and women got the vote on equal terms in 1928. This is worrying for politicians and the general public. Why do you think it might be important to vote?



Who were the Suffragettes?

- a) An organisation, which fights to ensure that the vote should be extended to those under 18.
- b) Women who campaigned for the right to vote in the early 20th century.
- c) An organisation that fought for the votes for poor people the 16th century.

b) Women who campaigned for the right to vote in the early 20th century.

Women were first given the right to vote in 1918 - although they had to be over 30! Women only got the same voting rights as men in 1928.



If an MP resigns or dies what is held?

- a) A by-election.
- b) A goodbye election.
- c) A by the way.

a) A by-election.

By-elections are frequently seen as a test of the popularity of the political party in power.





How do MPs cast their vote in the Houses of Parliament?

- a) By waving their arms in the air and shouting I do, I do!
- b) With a keypad – like in ‘Who wants to be a Millionaire’.
- c) By walking through a corridor.

c) By walking through a corridor

The House of Commons votes by dividing. Those voting Aye (yes) walk through the division lobby to the right of the Speaker and those voting No through the lobby to the left.

In each of the lobbies there are three desks occupied by clerks, who mark Members’ names off on division lists as they pass through.



Every year the Chancellor announces his review of spending and taxation plans in a speech. What is this speech called?

- a) The get your hands off my cash speech.
- b) The financial health speech.
- c) The Budget.

c) The Budget.

The Budget is delivered in a battered red suitcase. This is traditional and you will usually see a picture of the Chancellor of the Exchequer holding it up in Downing Street before going to make his or her speech.



Before you can vote you have to put your name on a register – what is this register called?

- a) The ‘I want to vote’ register.
- b) The electoral register.
- c) The politician’s poll.

b) The electoral register.

Go to www.aboutmyvote.co.uk if you want to find out more about the how to get on the electoral register.



What is a constituency where one party has overwhelming support and the other parties have very little chance of winning called?

- a) A popular seat.
- b) A soft seat.
- c) A safe seat.

c) A safe seat.

Election night can be very exciting. Results from each of the constituencies come in live on television. Constituencies race to get their results in first.





How do MPs address each other in a Parliamentary debate?

- a) By their first name.
- b) Mr or Mrs.
- c) 'The member for' and the name of their constituency.

c) 'The member for' and the name of their constituency.

During debate in the Chamber, Members refer to each other only by the name of their constituencies or by their official position, not by their actual names. The only time (apart from calling to speak) when these are used is the disciplining (or "naming") of a Member by the Speaker.



What is a pressure group?

- a) A group of stressed MPs.
- b) A group of people who try to influence Government thinking on an issue they care about.
- c) A group of angry journalists.

b) A group of people who try to influence Government thinking on an issue they care about.

A pressure group usually campaigns on an issue that they are very concerned with, for example The RSPCA will try to encourage government to pass laws that protect and make life better for animals.



What is the maximum time between general elections?

- a) Five years.
- b) Two years.
- c) As long as the Prime Minister wants it to be.

a) Five years

The Prime Minister has to call a general election within 5 years of the last election; however, they can call an election at anytime within those 5 years.



To become an MP you have to:

- a) Have been to university.
- b) Served as a local councillor.
- c) Be a member of a political party.
- d) None of the above.

d) None of the above.

An MP who is not a member of a political party is called an Independent.





If you can't make it to the polling station how can you still cast your vote?

- a) By sending a letter to the Prime Minister.
- b) By text message.
- c) By getting a postal or proxy vote form.

c) By getting a postal or proxy vote form.

This is particularly useful if it is inconvenient to get to your local polling station, for example if you have mobility difficulties or if you are going on holiday while an election is on.

Visit www.aboutmyvote.co.uk for more details.



What does it mean to vote by proxy?

- a) You vote by email.
- b) You instruct someone else to vote on your behalf.
- c) You vote by post.

b) You instruct someone else to vote on your behalf.

If you want to vote by proxy you must apply before an election at the Electoral Registration office of your local council. They will send a letter to your chosen person telling them where they can vote on your behalf.



In what decade did women get equal voting rights to men?

- a) 1980s.
- b) 1920s.
- c) 1800s.

b) 1920s

The Suffragettes fought long and hard to ensure that women had the right to vote. Many women went to prison for their part in the protests. Some of those in prison some refused to eat and died.



In what decade was the voting age reduced to 18?

- a) 1960s.
- b) 1990s.
- c) 1820s.

a) 1960s.

The voting age was reduced from twenty-one to eighteen in 1969.





What is the name of the speech made every year, that sets out what the Government wants to do?

- a) The King's Speech.
- b) The Queen's Speech.
- c) The Prime Minister's Speech.

b) The Queens Speech.

The Queen's Speech outlines the government's plans for the coming session and is normally made during the first two weeks of November. The monarch usually attends the state opening in person and reads out the speech - written by the Government - from the throne in the House of Lords.



