

# GCSE

# CITIZENSHIP



# REVISION GUIDE

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## **Identity and Community**

### **Describe the cultural traditions that contribute to being British**

School uniforms, remembrance Sunday, Mothers' Day and the English pub. These traditions are often linked to the official Protestant religion or to the country's history

People are passionate about certain sports including rugby, football and cricket. Horse racing, show jumping, motor racing, boxing, rowing and sailing are seen as British specialities.

The UK is well known for the quality of its education, music, theatre, film and television

The UK is also a multicultural society as people from all over the world have brought their cultural traditions with them. Some of these traditions have been widely accepted by everyone. These include the Notting Hill Carnival (from the Caribbean) and hot and spicy Indian food

### **Describe the main values that contribute to being British**

The rule of Law: the law applies to everyone

Personal Freedom: People should be free to benefit from their hard work, travel freely and say and write what they like so long as it does not harm others. Everyone can criticise the government and put forward new ideas

Tolerance: Accepting people of different religious faiths and cultural traditions

Equal opportunity: Everyone should have the same chances to achieve their ambition as everybody else

Representative Democracy: Everyone has the right to a say in how the country is run



## **Describe the nations of the UK**

Northern Ireland: This used to be divided between loyalists (people who wanted to remain part of the UK) and republicans (people who wanted NI to leave the UK). Now they share power in the Northern Ireland Assembly. They can pass their own laws on education and public safety

Wales: This became part of the UK in 1943. It now has its own Assembly which is responsible for environment, culture, sport, education, health and transport. It cannot pass its own laws but can change the way UK laws apply to Wales

Scotland: This became part of the UK in 1707. It now has its own parliament with the power to pass its own laws. In 2009 the Scottish nationalist Party came to power and many predict that it might break away from the rest of the UK

England: It does not have its own assembly. Everything is decided by the UK parliament



## **Describe the different regions of England**

There are different regions (such as East Anglia and North Wales) with their own type of occupation and culture. They used to have different time zones! These regions are divided into counties that act as areas of local government. Many people are intensely proud about which part of England or Wales they come from and celebrate the differences in food, drink and allegiance to a particular football, rugby or cricket team

## **Describe the main ethnic groups in the UK**

An ethnic group is a group of people who identify with one another through a shared cultural heritage based on their upbringing, country of origin or religion. 16% of the population belong to an ethnic minority group. They include Asian, White Irish, Black Caribbean, Black African and Chinese. Most are born in Britain with their parents or grandparents born overseas



**Describe the main religious groups in England and Wales**

All people from the same ethnic group do not follow the same religion

71.6% - Christian

2.8% - Muslim

1% - Hindu

0.6% - Sikh.

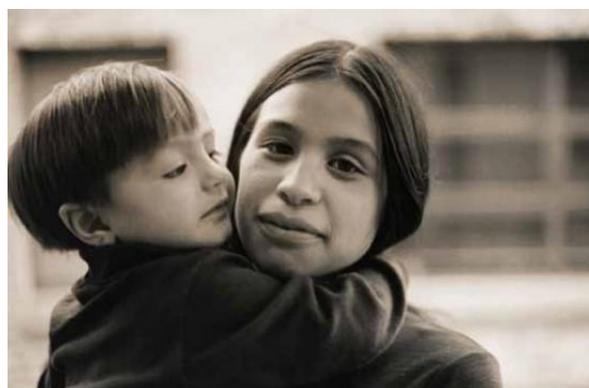
0.5%- Jewish

0.3% - Buddhist

15.1% - No religion

**Explain why people migrate from one place to another**

<b>PUSH FACTORS (Reasons why people leave places)</b>	<b>PULL FACTORS (Reasons why people are attracted to places)</b>
Fear for their lives (Terrorism/Natural Disasters)	Peaceful
Discrimination	Good record on human rights
No work	Employment available
Disease	High standard of living
Lack of educational opportunities	Other members of family live their
High cost of living	Good health care and education



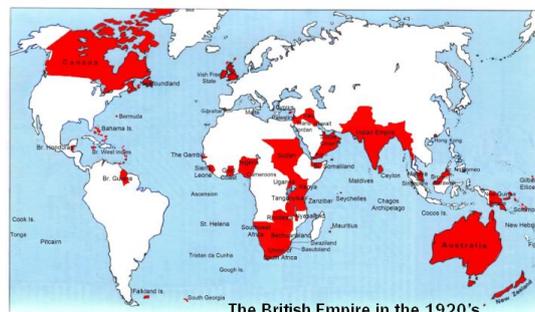
### **Explain why people seek asylum in the UK**

Seeking asylum is asking permission to stay in the country you have moved to because it is not safe in your own country

1. A good record on human rights
2. English is a familiar language
3. Other people from their ethnic group may already live in the UK
4. The UK is a wealthy country that can afford to support them
5. Between 1996 and 2007 many unskilled jobs were available
6. People who live in the UK have a right to housing, education and health care

### **Explain why the UK is a country with wide cultural diversity**

1. In the 1700s and 1800s refugees came from Europe to the UK (people that had to flee their countries)
2. Also at this time the UK was colonising (taking control) of land all across the world. This included India, large parts of Africa, most of the Caribbean and parts of Asia. Many people in these countries were given a UK passport and the right to live in the UK
3. During the 1900s many of these countries gained their independence. When additional workers were needed in the UK after WWII it was natural to recruit workers from these countries. Large numbers of immigrants arrived between 1950 and 1990
4. More recently more people have asked for asylum in the UK than ever before
5. Finally free movement of workers within the European Union has meant that many (particularly from eastern Europe and France) have settled in the UK
6. Unemployment increased in Britain in 2009 and so the government made it harder for immigrants to arrive



### **Explain why people's sense of identity is often complex**

Our sense of identity come from a mixture of family traditions, school, friends, work colleagues, the media, British values, from an ethnic group we may be a member of and from religion

### **Explain what is meant by the term community cohesion**

People sharing a sense of belonging and community identity. They share values and goals and live together well.

Where there is a high level of community cohesion people go out on the streets without fear, mix freely and experience low levels of discrimination and racism. Where there are low levels of community cohesion people are afraid to leave their homes, there is vandalism, graffiti and litter and there are high levels of discrimination and racism.



### **Revision Activities:**

1. Make a spider diagram showing the traditions and values associated with being British
2. Describe the individual powers that each of the nations of the UK has. In your opinion which nation has the greatest power and why?
3. Define the term 'ethnic group' and give some example of groups in the UK
4. Make a graph showing the different religious groups in England and Wales
5. Pick three push factors and three pull factors as to why people migrate from one place to another. Make a rhyme or saying that will help you remember them
6. Define the term 'asylum seeker'
7. Pick what you believe to be the three most important reasons why people have sought asylum in the UK
8. Explain two reasons why the UK has a wide cultural diversity
9. Decide on the level of community cohesion in your neighbourhood. Give examples to support your answer

## Fairness and justice in decision-making and the law

### Describe how criminals are dealt with

1. Police can **ARREST** anyone suspected of committing a crime
2. Anyone arrested is entitled to receive **ADVICE** from a solicitor
3. This suspect can be **CHARGED** with the offence if the police feel that there is enough evidence
4. The police then pass the file to the **CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE** who decide if there is enough evidence for the case to proceed to court
5. A court then issue a **SUMMONS** requiring them to appear in court on a certain date
6. The suspect then attends a **MAGISTRATES COURT** where the magistrate listens to the evidence and decides on the verdict and a sentence
7. More serious cases are passed onto a **CROWN COURT** where the verdict is reached by the **JURY**



### Explain how crime can threaten human rights

1. Emotionally – Victims of crime feel upset, unsettled and confused
2. Health – Victims may develop long term problems such as depression or anxiety
3. Economically – The victim may have to replace many possessions

## Describe how human rights are protected

Human rights belong to us because we are human. The basis of all human rights is respect for each individual human life.

The **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** was drawn up by the United Nations. It sets out the basic human rights and responsibilities that everyone should enjoy. The main rights listed are: everyone has the right to a fair trial, all are equal before the law, everyone has the right to freedom of thought and religion and everyone has the right to education

European citizens can appeal to the **European Court of Human Rights** if they feel the laws in their own country have not protected their rights

The rights of people living in the UK are also protected by the **Human Rights Act**. All public bodies such as the police, schools, hospitals and armed forces must make sure that they respect all the human rights. They can be taken to court if they do not

**International humanitarian law** is a set of rules that aims to protect people's rights in times of war. It says that people who are not fighting should have their lives protected, an enemy who surrenders should not be injured, wounded people should be cared for by whichever side finds them and weapons that cause un-necessary death should not be used

## Describe how rights can compete and conflict

Security v Privacy: People have the right to respect for their letters, phone calls and emails. However in 2009 the UK government decided that all emails and records of phone conversations should be made available to the police in order to improve our security from terrorism

Freedom of expression v encouraging hatred: You have a right to say and write what you think in a responsible way. However this leaves a lot to a person's own judgement. He or she may speak out in a way that encourages hatred of a particular religious or cultural group. This would take away the rights of those groups as they have a right not to experience hatred or discrimination

Press freedom v privacy: There are often conflicts over whether the media have a right to write stories that may cause embarrassment to individuals and their families. The press are allowed to do this if the story is true and if they can show that the news is 'in the public interest'





**Describe the rights a citizen has if stopped or arrested by the police**

1. To be treated fairly and without discrimination
2. To be given an explanation before any search is carried out
3. To be given a reason for an arrest
4. To inform someone of your arrest
5. To remain silent or refuse to answer questions
6. To not be detained for more than 24 hours without charge

**Describe how a Bill passes through the UK Parliament to become an Act and new law**

1. The political party with the most MPs will form the government. People voted for those MPs because they liked what they promised in their **party manifesto**
2. The government decides what is urgent and what needs doing first. These ideas are put into the **Queen's speech** at the official opening of a new parliament
3. The government consults experts and the public on what should be included in the new law. These are called **Green Papers and White Papers**
4. The government uses the comments gained to draw up a proposal for the new law. This is called a **Bill**. MPs vote for or against it
5. A smaller group of MPs look at the Bill in more detail to see if the law is fair and thus suggest changes. This is called the **committee stage**
6. The committee take the Bill back to Parliament to report on any changes that have been made. MPs vote on the final version. This is called the **Third Reading**
7. The Bill then goes to the **House of Lords** where they may suggest further changes for the MPs to consider. The MPs can ignore the changes suggested
8. The Queen gives her approval and it becomes an **Act of Parliament**



### **Describe how legal advice and support may be obtained**

1. Solicitors provide legal advice and support. Some will offer to work on a 'no win, no fee' basis where their fees are taken out of any damages awarded
2. Trade Unions provide advice to their members who have problems at work
3. The Citizens Advice Bureau is run by volunteers. They provide free advice

### **Revision Activities:**

1. Make a flow diagram showing how criminals are dealt with
2. Draw a stick man or woman. Label him/her with how crime can threaten his/her human rights
3. Explain three ways in which our human rights are protected
4. Explain, with reasons, whether you agree that the UK government should have allowed our emails and phone conversations to be made available to the police
5. Think of an example of how freedom of expression can conflict with encouraging hatred
6. Explain, with reasons, whether you think the press should have freedom over what they publish
7. Describe how the data Protection Act might help you
8. List three responsibilities that you have to obey the law and support the justice system
9. List three rights you have if arrested by the police
10. Make a flow diagram explaining how a Bill becomes an Act
11. State one way in which you could obtain legal advice



## Democracy and Voting

### Explain the operation of power and authority in democratic and non-democratic forms of government

In a democracy **power** is in the hands of all citizens as everyone has the right to vote. Power is making decisions that affect others.

In a democracy **authority** is held by the elected politicians. Authority is having the right to use power

In a dictatorship power and authority are in the hands of one person or a small group of people. Countries include China and North Korea



### Explain why non-democratic forms of government are likely to infringe on human rights

You lose the right to not vote for a government that is not doing a good job or which is treating you badly. These type of governments use the police and army to stop you protesting against them

### Explain the term 'representative democracy'

Citizens choose representatives (in the UK these are MPs) to vote on issues for them



### **Explain Parliament's role in making the Government accountable**

In elections people vote for the **MP** that they want to be in charge of their local area. An MP will belong to a political party. The party with the most MPs becomes the party in charge of the country. The leader of the party becomes the **Prime Minister**. The Prime Minister chooses which MPs he wants to be part of his **Cabinet**. The Prime Minister and the Cabinet form the **government** and run the country. The rest of the MPs (including those from other parties) attend parliament

The MPs in parliament vote on new laws suggested by the government and can ask the Prime Minister questions. The PM must attend parliament once a week to answer them. This is called **Prime Minister's Questions**



### **Describe how citizens can play an active part in local and national elections**

Everyone aged 18 or over (except prisoners) can vote in elections to choose your local MP to attend parliament. To vote you must register to be on the **Register of Electors**

You will be asked to vote by post or by going to a polling station. Voting is secret and you mark a cross next to the name of the person that you wish to vote for

### **Describe how citizens can influence decision making by joining political parties**

Anyone can join a political party or even start their own political party. A political party is a group of people with similar ideas and viewpoints who organise themselves to fight elections. By gaining power they can make changes to the country so that it fits with their viewpoints.

The three main political parties are the Conservative party, Labour Party and Liberal Democrat Party. The Conservatives want to cut taxes but expect people to pay something for the school and health services they use. The Labour party want to use taxes from wealthier people to support poorer people and to improve health and education services. The Liberal Democrats want to cut taxes for low and middle earners but also improve health and education services by making them more efficient under local control

**Describe how citizens can influence decision making by joining pressure groups or religious organisations**

A pressure group is a group of people with similar views; anyone can join them. It does not aim to form a government but aims to influence politicians to take a particular form of action. Examples include Amnesty, Greenpeace and the RSPCA



**Describe how the media influences decision-making**

Keeping up to date with the news helps citizens form opinions on issues such as whether it is right for the British army to be fighting in Afghanistan or whether university tuition fees should be increased

The UK is unusual because the media organisation with the biggest influence is funded by the UK government from money paid by the public through an annual licence fee. This is the BBC and because of this they have to remain impartial. This means that they are not allowed to promote a particular viewpoint or support a particular political party

Other news organisations are owned privately. For example The Sun and The Times are largely owned by the Murdoch family and they like to have some control over the viewpoints expressed. For example in the UK 1997 election, The Sun newspaper supported Labour and urged its 3 million voters to vote Labour. Labour won this election. In the 2010 election The Sun is supporting the Conservative Party.

Privately owned media also run campaigns to pressurise the government into taking action. In 2009 the Daily Telegraph newspaper ran a campaign called 'Justice for Pensioners'. This was aimed at persuading the government to cut taxes for retired people. In the same year the Daily Mirror ran a campaign to persuade the government to spend more money on inspecting buildings to see if they contained asbestos.



### **Describe how citizens and politicians can make use of the media**

1. Newspapers and websites have a letters page where citizens can express their own views
2. Citizens can use and set up personal blogs and websites to persuade others
3. Citizens running a campaign can use newspapers, radio and TV to gain publicity and encourage support from other people. Most pressure groups have a press officer whose job it is to release press releases.
4. Politicians are also keen to have a positive image in the media and sometimes hire media consultants to help them achieve this. These consultants help politicians adjust their hairstyles, style of dress or even the way they speak.

### **Explain why a free press is important in a democracy**

Free Press refers to newspapers, TV, radio and other media that are not controlled by the government. They can publish anything as long as it does not hurt anyone

A free press helps citizens make up their minds before voting in an election or in a referendum. A referendum is when citizens vote on a single issue. For example in 2008 in Manchester citizens voted on whether motorists travelling into the centre of the city should pay a congestion charge.

A free press is important because it:

1. Provides facts to help citizens form opinions
2. Interviews people with different opinions
3. Promotes different opinions
4. Investigates injustices and lets citizens know about them
5. Exposes any wrong doing by politicians
6. Reminds citizens about the promises made by politicians

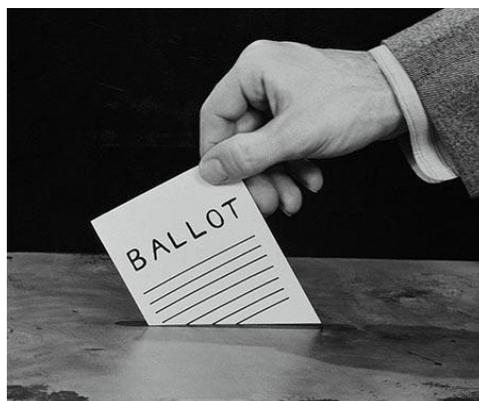


### Evaluate how far citizens are able to hold decision-makers to account

1. If they want something to change they can write letters, make petitions and protest. Campaigns are effective if they are run by pressure groups and if they gain publicity for their cause
2. When the media exposes politicians for doing something wrong, they are under great pressure to resign. In 2009 Home Secretary Jacqui Smith was criticised for her expenses claims but she refused to resign saying that they were just small mistakes.
3. Sometimes the UK government ignores public opinion, for example the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan were unpopular but were pursued anyway
4. A referendum gives citizens real power to make a decision on a major issue. There are only a few of these in a representative democracy because politicians feel that, once elected, that it is their job to make these on the people's behalf. The last national referendum in the UK was in 1975 when people voted in favour of joining the EU

### Revision Activities:

1. Write a definition of 'Power' and a definition of 'Authority'
2. State one problem with non-democratic forms of government
3. Define 'representative democracy'
4. Make a flow diagram showing how a government is formed
5. Write one aim of the Labour Party, the Conservative Party and the Liberal Democrat Party
6. Define a 'Pressure Group'
7. Explain two ways in which the media can influence the decisions we make
8. Define what is meant by a 'Free Press'



## **The UK's relationships with Europe and the World**

### **Describe the UK's cultural relationships with Europe**

Cultural and sporting links have helped to bring the people of mainland Europe and the UK together in friendship. This has helped promote understanding between countries that were enemies and rivals for hundreds of years.

Most UK towns and cities have twinned links with similar communities in Europe. The people visit and get to know each other

Links between schools and museums have enabled expertise to be shared

The most prominent links are connected with sport. A European golf team contests the Ryder cup with America each year, while the Champions League brings together the best European soccer teams.



### **Describe the UK's economic relationships with Europe**

The wealth of people in the UK depends on trade with the rest of the world, especially Europe. Being a member of the EU makes trade with Europe easier. In 2008 the value of the UK's exports was £207 billion; 67% of these goods went to countries in the EU

### **Describe the UK's political relationships with Europe**

The EU is a collection of 27 countries with many others waiting to join. Representatives in the EU parliament help decide treaties and laws, some of which have to be adopted by the UK government. The aims of the EU are:

1. To prevent war
2. To take joint action to solve problems around the world
3. To promote human rights in its member countries

4. To make it easier for member countries to trade
5. To promote the use of a single currency in all member countries – the Euro. The UK has decided not to introduce the Euro



**Describe how European Union decisions have an impact upon citizens of the UK**

1. Two of the UK's biggest car makers were given large loans to help them design and build a more environmentally friendly car
2. UK patients are now allowed to shop around Europe for the best and quickest medical treatment

**Evaluate the benefits and costs of the UK's membership of the EU**

Benefits:

1. Citizens can live, work, study and retire in any EU country
2. Citizens can travel without a passport
3. Citizens can shop in any EU country without paying extra taxes
4. Member countries have taken joint action to cut pollution
5. Trade is easier
6. War between EU countries is unthinkable

COSTS:

1. The UK will lose important powers to the EU
2. It is not good for democracy for the UK to remain part of the EU when 65% of people are against it
3. Membership is expensive

4. Membership might limit trade with the rest of the world
5. The EU imposes thousands of regulations each year

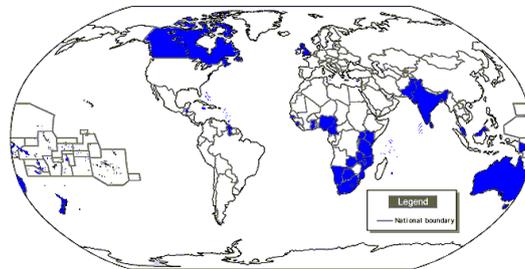
### **Explain the role of the British Commonwealth**

Around 150 years ago the UK was the most powerful country in the world with a huge empire that included large parts of the Americas, Africa, Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

These colonies gradually gained independence and broke away from UK control; this was mainly done peacefully. Many wanted to keep the cultural and trading links that they had with one another and thus the British Commonwealth was set up.

At first it had important trade links but these have declined now that the UK has joined the EU.

It now encourages links between people, shares ideas, encourages democracy and promotes economic development (building up a country's ability to produce things that people want to buy)



### **Describe the role of the United Nations**

There are 200 countries who are members of the United Nations and members agree to accept an international treaty, called the International Charter. Its purposes are:

1. To maintain international peace and security (for example solving disputes between countries). When countries are at risk of violence the UN may send a peace keeping mission. If this fails they may apply sanctions to a national government. This means, for example, that other governments refuse to supply weapons to or trade with the government judged to be in the wrong. In 1990 sanctions were applied to Iraq when they invaded Kuwait in 1990
2. To develop friendly relations among nations (for example by limiting the spread of nuclear weapons)
3. To co-operate in solving international problems. These disputes are often about land or resources. In 2009 the courts dealt with several disputes including one between Ukraine and Romania about claims to parts of the Black Sea
4. To promote respect for human rights

### **Explain why the UK has agreed to follow the agreements of the UN**

The UK is one of five important members of the UN's Security Council. This means that they can make important strategic decisions about global security

**Describe the role or effectiveness of the UN in one international issue**

In 2003 a Civil war started in Liberia claiming the lives of thousands of people. It was between government forces and a group who wanted to overthrow the government. The UN established a peacekeeping mission. They organised a ceasefire agreement, protected civilians caught up in the war and promoted human rights. They also set out to prevent further conflict. They carried out police training and organised a new national army. They helped supply fresh water as well as renovating schools and health centres.



**Revision Activities:**

1. Explain how being a member of the EU has benefitted the UK's economy
2. State three aims of the EU
3. State three ways in which the EU has benefitted the UK
4. Explain two arguments that may be given as to why the UK should leave the EU
5. Explain what the British Commonwealth is
6. State two aims of the United nations



## **How to answer the exam questions:**

### **SECTION A:**

There are five multiple choice questions worth one mark each. You should ring the correct answer

There are five questions that require a one sentence response. They are worth a mark each

There are two 4 mark questions which will ask you to explain reasons why. You should provide three reasons

There are two questions that will ask you to work out information from tables, charts or maps. You should ring the correct answer.

### **SECTION B:**

This contains two questions. For each one you will need to read a short story and decide between three alternatives. You must explain why you have chosen this alternative; you should provide three reasons for your choice.

### **SECTION C:**

This contains one essay question.

You will be given a statement. You must write a paragraph (with evidence and examples) FOR the statement. You must write a paragraph (with evidence and examples) AGAINST the statement. You must write a conclusion with your viewpoint.