

Life in the UK Test: Chapter 5, The UK government, the law and your role

199 questions written in our own words from the facts in the handbook "Life in the United Kingdom: A Guide for New Residents", 3rd edition. The answers and explanations are at the end. The same questions, with timed mock exams, are free at britmock.com. BritMock is an independent practice site, not affiliated with the Home Office or GOV.UK.

The development of British democracy

1. What is a democracy?

- A A system of government in which only property owners have a say
- B A system of government in which the whole adult population has a say
- C A system of government in which the monarch alone makes decisions
- D A system of government in which judges choose the leaders

2. Which TWO statements about voting in Britain at the start of the 19th century are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A Women over 30 could vote
- B Every man over 21 could vote
- C Voters had to own a certain amount of property
- D Only men could vote

3. When did the Chartists campaign for political reform?

- A In the 1830s and 1840s
- B In the 1880s and 1890s
- C In the 1910s and 1920s
- D In the 1790s and 1800s

4. Which TWO of these were among the Chartists' demands?

Choose two answers.

- A General Elections every five years
- B Secret ballots
- C Payment for MPs
- D Votes for women over 30

5. True or false: The Chartists wanted elections to be held every five years.

- A True
- B False

6. True or false: At the time, the Chartist campaign was widely seen as a success.

- A True
- B False

7. By which year had most of the reforms the Chartists asked for been adopted?

- A 1928
- B 1832
- C 1969
- D 1918

8. By 1918 the right to vote had been given to women over what age?

- A 18
- B 25
- C 21
- D 30

9. In which year did men and women over 21 gain the right to vote?

- A 1928
- B 1918
- C 1969
- D 1945

10. True or false: In 1969 the voting age for men and women was lowered to 18.

- A True
- B False

The British constitution

11. What is a constitution?

- A A court that hears serious criminal cases
- B The speech that opens each session of Parliament
- C A list of all members of Parliament
- D The set of principles that decide how a country is run

12. True or false: The British constitution is set out in one single written document.

- A True
- B False

13. True or false: Unlike America and France, the UK has never had a revolution that permanently replaced its whole system of government.

- A True
- B False

14. Which of these statements is correct?

- A Everyone in the UK agrees that the constitution should stay unwritten
- B People disagree about whether the UK should have a single written constitution

15. Which TWO are listed in the handbook among the main parts of government in the UK?

Choose two answers.

- A Local government
- B The civil service
- C National newspapers
- D The Commonwealth

16. Which parts of the UK have devolved governments with the power to make laws on certain issues?

- A Northern Ireland only
- B Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
- C England, Scotland and Wales
- D England and Wales only

17. The UK is a constitutional monarchy. What does the king or queen do in this system?

- A Chairs Commons debates
- B Appoints the government that the people have chosen in an election
- C Rules the country and makes government policy
- D Chooses the MP for each constituency

18. Who does the monarch invite to become Prime Minister?

- A The Speaker of the House of Commons
- B The MP who has served the longest
- C The person chosen by the House of Lords
- D The head of the largest party in the Commons, or of a coalition

19. When the monarch meets the Prime Minister regularly, what can he or she do?

- A Advise, warn and encourage
- B Decide the government's policies
- C Pass new laws alone
- D Dismiss MPs from Parliament

20. In which year did Elizabeth II become queen, after the death of her father?

- A 1952
- B 1966
- C 1945
- D 1936

21. True or false: In 2012 Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her Diamond Jubilee, marking 60 years as queen.

- A True
- B False

22. Who was Queen Elizabeth II married to?

- A Prince Rupert
- B Prince Albert
- C William of Orange
- D Prince Philip

23. Which ceremonial duty does the monarch carry out each year?

- A Counting votes at General Elections
- B Chairing Commons debates
- C Opening the new session of Parliament
- D Choosing the Speaker

24. What does the monarch's speech at the opening of a new parliamentary session summarise?

- A The government's policies for the coming year
- B The results of the last General Election
- C The monarch's personal political views
- D The history of Parliament

25. True or false: Every Act of Parliament is made in the monarch's name.

- A True
- B False

26. Which TWO are ways in which the monarch acts for the UK in its dealings with other countries?

Choose two answers.

- A Leading debates on foreign affairs in the House of Commons
- B Making state visits to other countries
- C Deciding the government's foreign policy
- D Receiving foreign ambassadors and high commissioners

27. Which TWO statements about the monarch's role are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A The monarch is a focal point for national pride and identity
- B The monarch makes the decisions on government policy
- C The monarch changes after every General Election
- D The monarch remains head of state when Prime Ministers and governments change

28. True or false: At the citizenship ceremony, new citizens make an oath or affirmation of loyalty to the monarch.

- A True
- B False

29. What do all the MPs elected in a General Election together form?

- A The civil service
- B The cabinet
- C The House of Lords
- D The House of Commons

30. In the UK's parliamentary democracy, which party forms the government?

- A The party with a majority of MPs
- B The oldest political party
- C The party chosen by the Speaker
- D The party with the most members in the House of Lords

31. Why is the House of Commons regarded as more important than the House of Lords?

- A It is older than the House of Lords
- B Its members are democratically elected
- C Its members are appointed for life
- D It is chaired by the monarch

32. True or false: The Prime Minister and nearly all cabinet ministers sit in the House of Lords.

- A True
- B False

33. Which TWO of these are responsibilities of MPs?

Choose two answers.

- A Opening each new session of Parliament
- B Examining and commenting on what the government does
- C Helping to create new laws
- D Appointing life peers

34. Which TWO statements about the people who sit in the House of Lords are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A They are known as peers
- B They include the Prime Minister and nearly all cabinet ministers
- C Voters choose them at a General Election
- D They do not represent a constituency

35. Which TWO kinds of people could be peers in the House of Lords before 1958?

Choose two answers.

- A Church of England bishops
- B Life peers nominated by the Prime Minister
- C Senior judges
- D Non-party peers chosen by an independent Appointments Commission

36. Since which year has the Prime Minister been able to nominate life peers?

- A 1969
- B 1958
- C 1918
- D 1999

37. Who formally appoints life peers?

- A The monarch, advised by the Prime Minister
- B Voters at a General Election
- C The Speaker, after a secret ballot
- D The House of Commons

38. True or false: Life peers have usually built a notable career, for example in law, business or politics.

- A True
- B False

39. Who nominates non-party life peers?

- A The Church of England
- B Voters in each constituency
- C The Speaker of the House of Commons
- D An independent Appointments Commission

40. In which year did hereditary peers lose their automatic right to sit in the House of Lords?

- A 2012
- B 1999
- C 1958
- D 1969

41. Which TWO are roles of the House of Lords?

Choose two answers.

- A Suggesting amendments or proposing new laws
- B Checking laws that the House of Commons has passed
- C Electing the Speaker
- D Choosing the Prime Minister

42. True or false: The House of Lords has the power to overrule the House of Commons.

- A True
- B False

43. Which of these statements is correct?

- A The House of Lords is usually freer from government control than the House of Commons
- B The House of Lords is usually less free from government control than the House of Commons

44. Who chairs debates in the Commons?

- A The monarch
- B The Speaker
- C The leader of the opposition
- D The Prime Minister

45. How is the Speaker of the House of Commons chosen?

- A By the House of Lords
- B By a secret ballot of MPs
- C By the Prime Minister
- D By the monarch

46. Which TWO statements about the Speaker are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A The Speaker is neutral and stands for no political party
- B The Speaker is a member of the House of Lords
- C The Speaker is an MP who still represents a constituency
- D The Speaker is appointed by the monarch

47. Besides keeping order in debates, what does the Speaker make sure of?

- A That the opposition is guaranteed time to debate issues of its own choosing
- B That the monarch is told the result of every debate
- C That every debate is first approved by the House of Lords
- D That only government ministers may speak in debates on new laws

48. True or false: On ceremonial occasions, Parliament is represented by the Speaker.

- A True

B False

49. How often must a General Election be held in the UK?

- A At least every seven years
- B At least every ten years
- C Every year
- D At least every five years

50. What is a by-election?

- A A new election in one constituency after its MP dies or resigns
- B An election for a new Speaker
- C A vote held when the Prime Minister changes
- D An election held every two years for the House of Lords

51. What is the name of the system used to elect MPs?

- A Alternative vote
- B Single transferable vote
- C First past the post
- D Proportional representation

52. True or false: Under first past the post, the candidate with the largest number of votes in a constituency wins the seat.

- A True
- B False

53. Which TWO are ways the handbook gives for getting in touch with your MP?

Choose two answers.

- A Writing to them at their office in the House of Lords
- B Going in person to one of their local surgeries
- C Writing to them at Buckingham Palace
- D Writing to their constituency office

The government

54. Where is the Prime Minister's official home?

- A Holyrood
- B Buckingham Palace
- C Stormont
- D 10 Downing Street

55. What is the name of the Prime Minister's country house outside London?

- A Holyrood
- B Stormont
- C The Senedd
- D Chequers

56. True or false: A Prime Minister usually resigns when his or her party is defeated in a General Election.

- A True
- B False

57. Roughly how many senior MPs does the Prime Minister appoint to run government departments?

- A About 50
- B About 5
- C About 100
- D About 20

58. Which minister is responsible for the economy?

- A Foreign Secretary
- B Chancellor of the Exchequer
- C Home Secretary
- D Leader of the opposition

59. Which minister looks after crime, policing and immigration?

- A Leader of the opposition
- B Chancellor of the Exchequer
- C Foreign Secretary
- D Home Secretary

60. True or false: The Foreign Secretary is responsible for managing the UK's relationships with foreign countries.

- A True
- B False

61. Which TWO titles are given to the other ministers in a government department, below the minister in charge?

Choose two answers.

- A Ministers of State
- B Shadow ministers
- C Secretaries of State
- D Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State

62. What name is given to the party with the second highest number of MPs in the House of Commons?

- A The cabinet
- B The opposition
- C The civil service
- D The independents

63. True or false: If the opposition wins a General Election, its leader usually becomes Prime Minister.

- A True
- B False

64. How often does Prime Minister's Questions take place while Parliament is sitting?

- A Every day
- B Every week
- C Once a month
- D Once a year

65. Who appoints the shadow ministers who form the shadow cabinet?

- A The leader of the opposition
- B The Chancellor of the Exchequer
- C The Prime Minister
- D The Home Secretary

66. Which TWO are named in the handbook as major political parties in the UK?

Choose two answers.

- A The Liberal Democrats
- B Greenpeace
- C The Conservative Party
- D Liberty

67. Which TWO are examples of pressure groups that campaign on particular topics?

Choose two answers.

- A The Greater London Authority
- B Greenpeace
- C Liberty
- D The Labour Party

68. Which organisation speaks for British business?

- A Greenpeace
- B The CBI
- C The Greater London Authority
- D Liberty

69. True or false: Civil servants are political appointees chosen by the party in power.

- A True
- B False

70. Which TWO are among the core values of the civil service?

Choose two answers.

- A Ambition
- B Integrity
- C Objectivity
- D Efficiency

71. How many local authorities does London have?

- A 12
- B 20
- C 60
- D 33

72. Which of these statements is correct?

- A In many local authorities, the mayor is a ceremonial leader appointed by the council.
- B Every local authority must elect a mayor to run its administration.

73. Since which year has there been a Scottish Parliament?

- A 1972
- B 1922
- C 1999
- D 2011

74. Which TWO policy areas are not devolved and stay under the control of the central UK government?

Choose two answers.

- A Health
- B Immigration
- C Education
- D Defence

75. True or false: Each of the devolved administrations has its own civil service.

- A True
- B False

76. In which languages can elected members of the devolved legislature in Wales speak?

- A English or Gaelic
- B English only
- C Welsh only
- D Welsh or English

77. Which TWO are areas where the Scottish Parliament is able to legislate?

Choose two answers.

- A Civil and criminal law
- B Foreign affairs
- C Planning
- D Defence

78. In which year was the Northern Ireland Parliament abolished?

- A 1922
- B 1998
- C 1969
- D 1972

79. Which TWO issues can the Northern Ireland Assembly make decisions on?

Choose two answers.

- A Immigration
- B Agriculture
- C Defence
- D The environment

80. True or false: The UK government is able to suspend any of the devolved assemblies.

- A True
- B False

81. What are the official published reports of proceedings in Parliament called?

- A Hansard
- B Poll cards
- C Charters
- D The electoral register

82. True or false: In the UK, the government controls what newspapers are allowed to write.

- A True
- B False

83. Since which year has the UK's voting system been fully democratic?

- A 1969
- B 1918
- C 1928
- D 1999

84. What must your name be on before you can vote in a parliamentary or local election?

- A The local library's membership list
- B The electoral register
- C Hansard
- D A political party's membership list

85. True or false: By law, anyone may look at the electoral register, but this has to be supervised.

- A True
- B False

86. On election day, during which hours is a polling station open?

- A 9.00 am to 5.00 pm
- B 7.00 am to 10.00 pm
- C 6.00 am to midnight
- D 8.00 am to 8.00 pm

87. True or false: Other people have the right to tell you which candidate you must vote for.

- A True
- B False

88. If you find it difficult to reach a polling station, what can you register for?

- A A poll card
- B A polling booth
- C A by-election
- D A postal ballot

89. Which TWO groups are among the exceptions who cannot stand for public office?

Choose two answers.

- A Commonwealth citizens aged 18 or over
- B Members of the armed forces
- C Civil servants
- D Irish citizens aged 18 or over

90. True or false: Someone who sits in the House of Lords may stand as a candidate for the House of Commons.

- A True
- B False

91. Where do the elected members of the Northern Ireland Assembly (MLAs) meet?

- A Holyrood, in Edinburgh
- B The Senedd, in Cardiff Bay
- C Chequers, outside London
- D Stormont, in Belfast

The UK and international institutions

92. What is the Commonwealth?

- A A group of countries that help each other and cooperate on shared goals
- B A body that makes laws for its member states
- C A military alliance of countries in Europe and North America
- D A group founded by six countries through the Treaty of Rome

93. Most member states of the Commonwealth were once part of what?

- A The European Economic Community
- B The British Empire
- C NATO
- D The Council of Europe

94. True or false: Membership of the Commonwealth is voluntary.

- A True
- B False

95. True or false: The Commonwealth can make laws that its member states must obey.

- A True
- B False

96. Which TWO are core values on which the Commonwealth is based?

Choose two answers.

- A Military cooperation
- B Free trade
- C Democracy
- D The rule of law

97. What was the European Union originally called?

- A The Commonwealth
- B The Council of Europe
- C The European Economic Community
- D The North Atlantic Treaty Organization

98. In which year was the Treaty of Rome signed, setting up the European Economic Community?

- A 1999
- B 1957
- C 1973
- D 1945

99. Which TWO countries were among the six that founded the European Economic Community?

Choose two answers.

- A Italy
- B United Kingdom
- C Ireland
- D France

100. In which year did the UK become a member of the European Economic Community?

- A 1957
- B 1973
- C 1997
- D 1969

101. True or false: The Council of Europe can pass laws for its member countries.

- A True
- B False

102. Which TWO statements about the United Nations are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A It has fewer than 50 member countries
- B It was created after the Second World War
- C It aims to stop wars and promote peace between nations
- D It was set up by the Treaty of Rome

103. How many members sit on the UN Security Council?

- A 10
- B 20
- C 5
- D 15

104. True or false: The UK is one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

- A True
- B False

105. What have the member countries of NATO agreed to do?

- A Share a single currency
- B Help one another if any of them is attacked
- C Accept the monarch as their ceremonial head
- D Hold elections on the same day

Respecting the law

106. True or false: In the UK, the law treats everyone equally, whatever their background or where they come from.

- A True

B False

107. What is civil law used for?

- A Electing Police and Crime Commissioners
- B Settling disputes between individuals or groups
- C Collecting income tax
- D Punishing crimes investigated by the police

108. Which of these is an example of a civil law case?

- A A shop selling cigarettes to a 15-year-old
- B Someone selling cannabis
- C A landlord and a tenant disagreeing about repairs
- D Someone carrying a knife in the street

109. Which of these statements is correct?

- A Carrying a knife is legal in the UK if it is only for self-defence.
- B Carrying a knife is a criminal offence in the UK even if it is only for self-defence.

110. True or false: Buying or selling cannabis is legal in the UK.

- A True
- B False

111. True or false: Causing someone harassment, alarm or distress because of their ethnic origin or religion is a crime in the UK.

- A True
- B False

112. True or false: Smoking tobacco is illegal in almost all enclosed public places in the UK.

- A True
- B False

113. What is the youngest age at which a person may have an alcoholic drink with a meal at a restaurant or hotel?

- A 14
- B 18
- C 16
- D 17

114. Which TWO are jobs of the UK police?

Choose two answers.

- A Deciding the verdict in Crown Court trials
- B Collecting income tax
- C Protecting life and property
- D Preventing and detecting crime

115. Who heads each of the separate police forces in the UK?

- A A sheriff
- B A Police and Crime Commissioner
- C A Chief Constable
- D A magistrate

116. True or false: Police forces in the UK are controlled by the government.

- A True
- B False

117. In which year did the public in England and Wales elect Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs)?

- A 2012

- B 1998
- C 2008
- D 2011

118. In England and Wales, who appoints the Chief Constable of a police force?

- A The Prime Minister
- B The local council
- C The local magistrates
- D The Police and Crime Commissioner

119. Who usually patrols the streets and helps police officers at major events and crime scenes?

- A Justices of the Peace
- B Jurors
- C Police community support officers
- D Solicitors

120. Which TWO things are police officers in the UK NOT allowed to do?

Choose two answers.

- A Make a false statement
- B Help people from every background
- C Tell an arrested person why they are being arrested
- D Be rude or abusive

121. Which TWO are ways to complain about the police?

Choose two answers.

- A Apply to a Youth Court
- B Write to HM Revenue & Customs
- C Write a letter to the force's Chief Constable
- D Go to a police station

122. What does the handbook mean by extremism?

- A Starting a civil claim in court
- B Making a complaint about the police
- C Speaking or acting against fundamental British values
- D Voting for a party that loses an election

123. Someone is trying to draw you into an extremist or terrorist cause. Who should you tell?

- A Your local County Court
- B Your local police force
- C HM Revenue & Customs
- D The DVLA

124. Which TWO statements about judges in the UK are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A The government can tell judges how to run a trial
- B Judges can rule that an action of the government is illegal
- C Judges can order a public body to pay compensation
- D Judges never decide disputes between members of the public

125. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, where are most minor criminal cases dealt with?

- A The Court of Session
- B A County Court
- C A Crown Court
- D A Magistrates' Court

126. In Scotland, which court deals with minor criminal offences?

- A The Justice of the Peace Court

- B The Crown Court
- C The Court of Session
- D The County Court

127. True or false: In England, Wales and Scotland, Justices of the Peace and magistrates are usually paid and must have legal qualifications.

- A True
- B False

128. How are members of a jury chosen?

- A At random from the local electoral register
- B By a public vote in the local area
- C From a list of trained magistrates
- D By the judge from local volunteers

129. How many members does a jury have in Scotland?

- A 9
- B 15
- C 10
- D 12

130. Which TWO statements about juries are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A A criminal conviction never affects whether you can serve
- B If summoned, you must serve unless you are not eligible or have a good reason
- C Juries in Scotland have 12 members
- D Juries in England, Wales and Northern Ireland have 12 members

131. True or false: When a jury finds a defendant guilty, the jury also decides the penalty.

- A True
- B False

132. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, accused people of which ages usually have their case heard in a Youth Court?

- A 8 to 16
- B 10 to 17
- C 12 to 18
- D 14 to 21

133. True or false: Members of the public are allowed to watch hearings in a Youth Court.

- A True
- B False

134. In Scotland, which system deals with young people and children who commit offences?

- A Youth conferencing
- B The Children's Hearings System
- C The Court of Session
- D The Youth Court

135. In Scotland, which court deals with more serious civil cases, such as claims for large amounts of compensation?

- A The Justice of the Peace Court
- B The County Court
- C The Court of Session
- D The Crown Court

136. Which TWO statements about the small claims procedure are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A Claims can be issued online through Money Claims Online
- B Both sides must be represented by a lawyer
- C The case is decided by a jury of 12
- D A judge hears the case in an ordinary room

137. Which of these statements about solicitors is correct?

- A Their charges usually depend on the amount of time the case takes them.
- B They all charge one fixed fee, whatever the case.

Fundamental principles

138. The UK was one of the first countries to sign the European Convention on Human Rights. In which year did it sign?

- A 1689
- B 1998
- C 1950
- D 2007

139. Which law made the European Convention on Human Rights part of UK law?

- A The Bill of Rights of 1689
- B The Habeas Corpus Act
- C The Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007
- D The Human Rights Act 1998

140. Which of these statements is correct?

- A The UK refused to sign the European Convention on Human Rights until 1998.
- B British diplomats and lawyers helped to write the European Convention on Human Rights.

141. True or false: The European Convention on Human Rights includes a ban on torture.

- A True
- B False

142. Which TWO documents are named as roots of the rights and freedoms people have in Britain?

Choose two answers.

- A The Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007
- B Magna Carta
- C The Human Rights Act 1998
- D The Bill of Rights of 1689

143. Which TWO are rights or freedoms protected by the European Convention on Human Rights?

Choose two answers.

- A Torture
- B Liberty and security
- C Slavery and forced labour
- D Freedom of thought and religion

144. True or false: UK law protects people from being treated unfairly at work because of their age.

- A True
- B False

145. Someone in Northern Ireland faces discrimination. Which of these organisations can give them information?

- A The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

- B The Scottish Human Rights Commission
- C HM Revenue & Customs
- D The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

146. True or false: In the UK, a husband cannot be charged with rape if he forces his wife to have sex.

- A True
- B False

147. In some areas, people escaping domestic violence can go and stay in safe places. What are these called?

- A Refuges or shelters
- B Youth Courts
- C Job centres
- D Citizens Advice Bureaux

148. Which TWO statements about domestic violence in the UK are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A Citizens Advice or a solicitor can explain what options there are
- B A violent partner can be prosecuted even if not married
- C Violence at home is a private family matter and not a crime
- D Only married partners can be prosecuted for violence at home

149. True or false: It is legal to take a girl from the UK to another country so that female genital mutilation can be carried out there.

- A True
- B False

150. Which of these statements is correct?

- A An arranged marriage is acceptable in the UK if both people agree to it.
- B All arranged marriages are illegal in the UK.

151. True or false: It is a crime in the UK to make someone marry against their will.

- A True
- B False

152. In which year were Forced Marriage Protection Orders introduced in England, Wales and Northern Ireland?

- A 2008
- B 2007
- C 1998
- D 2011

153. True or false: In the UK, income tax is paid on money earned from savings, dividends and property.

- A True
- B False

154. What is the system called in which employers take income tax from wages and pay it straight to the tax office?

- A Pay As You Earn (PAYE)
- B Self-assessment
- C Small claims procedure
- D National Insurance

155. What is HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC)?

- A An independent body that deals with police complaints

- B The agency where vehicles are registered
- C A court that hears small claims
- D The government department that collects taxes

156. True or false: Self-employed people pay their own tax through self-assessment, which includes filling in a tax return.

- A True
- B False

157. Which TWO statements about National Insurance Contributions are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A Employers take them from their employees' pay
- B People who do not pay enough can still always get a full state pension
- C Almost everyone in paid work, including the self-employed, must pay them
- D Only self-employed people have to pay them

158. When are young people in the UK sent their National Insurance number?

- A Just before their 21st birthday
- B Just before their 18th birthday
- C Just before their 17th birthday
- D Just before their 16th birthday

159. True or false: Showing an employer your National Insurance number is enough on its own to prove you are allowed to work in the UK.

- A True
- B False

160. What is the minimum age to drive a car in the UK?

- A 17
- B 16
- C 21
- D 18

161. True or false: You must be at least 18 years old to ride a moped in the UK.

- A True
- B False

162. Up to what age can a driver use their UK driving licence before it must be renewed every three years?

- A 75
- B 65
- C 60
- D 70

163. You live in the UK. Your driving licence is from a country outside the EU that is not Iceland, Liechtenstein or Norway. For how long can you use it?

- A Up to 3 years
- B Up to 12 months
- C As long as the licence is valid
- D Up to 3 months

164. Which TWO things does the UK driving test check?

Choose two answers.

- A The condition of your car
- B Your knowledge
- C Your National Insurance record
- D Your practical skills

165. A vehicle needs a yearly Ministry of Transport (MOT) test once it is older than how many years?

- A Three years
- B One year
- C Ten years
- D Five years

166. Which TWO are legal requirements for a UK resident who drives their own car?

Choose two answers.

- A The driver must retake the driving test every year
- B The car must be registered with the DVLA
- C The car must have valid motor insurance
- D The car needs an MOT test every year from when it is new

Your role in the community

167. True or false: Obeying and respecting the law is one of the shared values and responsibilities of people in Britain.

- A True
- B False

168. Which TWO are listed among the shared values and responsibilities of people living in Britain?

Choose two answers.

- A To vote in elections
- B To join a political party
- C To become a school governor
- D To treat others with fairness

169. What does the handbook suggest you do after moving into a new home?

- A Register for jury service
- B Ask your MP to visit you
- C Put your bins on the street straight away
- D Introduce yourself to your neighbours

170. True or false: Neighbours may help you, for example by feeding your pets while you are away.

- A True
- B False

171. Which TWO things help to prevent problems with your neighbours?

Choose two answers.

- A Letting your garden become untidy
- B Leaving rubbish bags on the street at any time
- C Respecting their privacy
- D Keeping noise down

172. When should you leave rubbish bags and bins out in the street or shared areas?

- A Whenever they are full
- B Every evening
- C Only on the day they will be collected
- D Once a month on any day

173. Which TWO are given as ways parents can help at their children's schools?

Choose two answers.

- A Canvassing for a political party

- B Serving on a jury
- C Helping at fundraising events
- D Listening to children read

174. What does PTA stand for?

- A Public transport authority
- B Primary teaching award
- C Parent-teacher association
- D Parliamentary town assembly

175. What is the minimum age for becoming a school governor?

- A 18
- B 21
- C 16
- D 25

176. True or false: School governors must be under the age of 70.

- A True
- B False

177. In Scotland, people who do the job of school governors are members of what?

- A The local police
- B The parent-teacher association
- C The Scottish Parliament
- D The school board

178. Which TWO are among the three key roles of school governors and school boards?

Choose two answers.

- A Monitoring and evaluating school performance
- B Collecting local taxes
- C Choosing who sits on a jury
- D Setting the school's strategic direction

179. True or false: In England, parents may apply to set up a free school in their area.

- A True
- B False

180. What is it called when party members knock on doors or hand out leaflets to ask people for their support?

- A Canvassing
- B Volunteering
- C Lobbying
- D Mentoring

181. True or false: You must tell a canvasser how you plan to vote.

- A True
- B False

182. When are political parties especially busy?

- A When Parliament is not sitting
- B During school holidays
- C At election times
- D At Christmas

183. Which TWO roles can you volunteer for with the police?

Choose two answers.

- A Special constable

- B Civil servant
- C Lay (non-police) representative
- D Shadow minister

184. Roughly how long does it take to give blood?

- A About half a day
- B A whole day
- C About ten minutes
- D About an hour

185. True or false: A living person can donate a kidney.

- A True
- B False

186. What is volunteering?

- A Doing work for good causes without being paid
- B Paid work for a charity
- C Working for the civil service
- D Serving on a jury

187. True or false: Some volunteering can help you practise your English and build skills that help you find a job.

- A True
- B False

188. Which TWO are given as examples of volunteering activities?

Choose two answers.

- A Working as a paid civil servant
- B Sitting as an MP in Parliament
- C Caring for animals at a rescue shelter
- D Helping older people in a care home

189. Which charity is given as an example of a British branch of an international organisation?

- A Crisis
- B The PDSA
- C Age UK
- D The British Red Cross

190. Which charity works with older people?

- A NSPCC
- B PDSA
- C Age UK
- D Friends of the Earth

191. Which charity works with children?

- A The NSPCC
- B Age UK
- C Crisis
- D Cancer Research UK

192. True or false: Crisis and Shelter are charities that work mainly with animals.

- A True
- B False

193. What kind of charity is the PDSA?

- A An environmental charity
- B A charity working with animals

- C A charity for homeless people
- D A medical research charity

194. True or false: Cancer Research UK is an example of a medical research charity.

- A True
- B False

195. Which TWO are environmental charities?

Choose two answers.

- A Friends of the Earth
- B The National Trust
- C Age UK
- D The NSPCC

196. True or false: Recycling means less rubbish is created, so less goes into landfill.

- A True
- B False

197. Which of these statements is correct?

- A Making new products from recycled materials means taking more raw materials out of the ground.
- B Making new products from recycled materials uses less energy.

198. Why does buying products made locally reduce your carbon footprint?

- A The products are cheaper
- B The products are made by volunteers
- C The products have not travelled as far
- D The products use no packaging

199. Why is walking or using public transport good for the environment?

- A It reduces the amount of rubbish in landfill
- B It helps local farmers
- C It saves raw materials from the earth
- D It creates less pollution than using a car

Answers

1. B: A system of government in which the whole adult population has a say

In a democracy all adults have a say, either by voting directly or by electing representatives who decide for them.

2. C and D: Voters had to own a certain amount of property; Only men could vote

Around 1800 only a small group could vote: men aged over 21 who held a certain amount of property. Britain was not yet a democracy in today's sense.

3. A: In the 1830s and 1840s

The Chartists were active in the 1830s and 1840s and pressed for six changes to the electoral system, such as a vote for every man.

4. B and C: Secret ballots; Payment for MPs

The Chartists wanted secret ballots and paid MPs, along with a vote for every man, yearly elections, equal regions and the right of any man to become an MP.

5. B: False

False. One of the six Chartist demands was for elections to take place every year.

6. B: False

False. People generally thought the campaign had failed, yet most of its reforms had been put in place by 1918.

7. D: 1918

Although the Chartists seemed to have failed, most of their demands had become law by 1918.

8. D: 30

By 1918 women aged over 30 could vote. Ten years later the vote was extended to all men and women over 21.

9. A: 1928

In 1928 men and women aged over 21 were given the vote, after women over 30 had already gained it.

10. A: True

True. The voting age, which had been 21 since 1928, came down to 18 for both men and women in 1969.

11. D: The set of principles that decide how a country is run

A constitution sets out the principles of government. It covers the institutions that run the country, how their power is limited, and laws and conventions.

12. B: False

False. No single document contains the British constitution, which is why it is called 'unwritten'.

13. A: True

True. This is the main reason the UK has no single constitutional document: its key institutions grew over hundreds of years instead.

14. B: People disagree about whether the UK should have a single written constitution

Opinion is divided. Some would like one written document; others say an unwritten constitution gives more flexibility and better government.

15. A and B: Local government; The civil service

The handbook's list covers the monarchy, Parliament, the Prime Minister and cabinet, the courts (judiciary), the police, the civil service and local government.

16. B: Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

Besides the main UK institutions, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland each have a devolved government that can legislate in some areas.

17. B: Appoints the government that the people have chosen in an election

In a constitutional monarchy the monarch does not rule. The king or queen appoints the government that voters picked in a democratic election.

18. D: The head of the largest party in the Commons, or of a coalition

The monarch asks the head of the largest party in the Commons, or whoever leads a coalition of parties, to become Prime Minister.

19. A: Advise, warn and encourage

The monarch may advise, warn and encourage the Prime Minister, but it is the Prime Minister and cabinet who

decide government policy.

20. A: 1952

Elizabeth II's reign began in 1952 when her father died. Sixty years later, in 2012, she marked her Diamond Jubilee.

21. A: True

True. Her reign began in 1952, so 2012 marked 60 years on the throne, celebrated as the Diamond Jubilee.

22. D: Prince Philip

Elizabeth II, who became queen in 1952 after her father died, was married to Prince Philip.

23. C: Opening the new session of Parliament

Every year the monarch opens the new parliamentary session with a speech. Debates are chaired by the Speaker, whom MPs choose themselves.

24. A: The government's policies for the coming year

At the opening of each parliamentary session, the monarch gives a speech setting out what the government plans to do in the year ahead.

25. A: True

True. The monarch's name stands on all Acts of Parliament, which is part of the monarch's ceremonial role.

26. B and D: Making state visits to other countries; Receiving foreign ambassadors and high commissioners

The monarch welcomes ambassadors, high commissioners and visiting heads of state, and travels on state visits to support diplomatic and economic ties. Policy is decided by the government.

27. A and D: The monarch is a focal point for national pride and identity; The monarch remains head of state when Prime Ministers and governments change

The monarch gives stability and continuity by remaining head of state as governments come and go, and is a focus for national pride, as the Jubilee celebrations showed.

28. A: True

True. Swearing or affirming loyalty to the monarch is part of the ceremony at which people become British citizens.

29. D: The House of Commons

Voters in each constituency elect an MP at a General Election, and all of these elected MPs make up the House of Commons.

30. A: The party with a majority of MPs

The government is formed by whichever party has a majority of MPs. If no party has one, two parties can join to form a coalition.

31. B: Its members are democratically elected

MPs are chosen by voters, which gives the House of Commons more weight than the House of Lords, whose members are not elected.

32. B: False

False. The Prime Minister and nearly every cabinet member sit in the House of Commons as MPs.

33. B and C: Examining and commenting on what the government does; Helping to create new laws

MPs act for everyone in their constituency, help make laws, scrutinise the government and debate national issues. The monarch appoints life peers and opens Parliament.

34. A and D: They are known as peers; They do not represent a constituency

People who sit in the House of Lords are called peers. The people do not elect them and they have no constituency.

35. A and C: Church of England bishops; Senior judges

Until 1958 every peer was either hereditary, a senior judge or a Church of England bishop. Life peers nominated by the Prime Minister came in only from 1958.

36. B: 1958

From 1958 the Prime Minister could put forward people to be peers for their own lifetime only. These are called life peers.

37. A: The monarch, advised by the Prime Minister

The monarch makes the appointment, acting on the Prime Minister's advice.

38. A: True

True. Most life peers have had a significant career in a field such as politics, business or law.

39. D: An independent Appointments Commission

Life peers can be put forward by the Prime Minister or by leaders of the other main parties, while peers who belong to no party are nominated by an independent Appointments Commission.

40. B: 1999

Until 1999 hereditary peers sat in the House of Lords by right of birth. That year they lost their automatic place.

41. A and B: Suggesting amendments or proposing new laws; Checking laws that the House of Commons has passed

The Lords review laws passed by the Commons, can suggest changes or new laws, and hold the government to account. MPs elect the Speaker, and the monarch invites the Prime Minister.

42. B: False

False. It is the other way round: the House of Commons can overrule the House of Lords, although it does not often use these powers.

43. A: The House of Lords is usually freer from government control than the House of Commons

The Lords usually act more independently of the government than the Commons, and peers with specialist knowledge help in making and checking laws.

44. B: The Speaker

Commons debates are chaired by the Speaker, who is the Commons' chief officer.

45. B: By a secret ballot of MPs

MPs pick the Speaker from among themselves by secret ballot.

46. A and C: The Speaker is neutral and stands for no political party; The Speaker is an MP who still represents a constituency

The Speaker stays neutral between the parties, but is still an MP who represents a constituency and helps local people with their problems.

47. A: That the opposition is guaranteed time to debate issues of its own choosing

The Speaker makes sure the rules are kept, which includes protecting the time the opposition is promised for debating subjects it selects.

48. A: True

True. As well as chairing debates in the Commons, the Speaker acts for Parliament at ceremonial events.

49. D: At least every five years

MPs are chosen at a General Election, and one must take place at least once every five years.

50. A: A new election in one constituency after its MP dies or resigns

When an MP dies or steps down, a fresh election called a by-election is held in that MP's constituency.

51. C: First past the post

MPs are elected by 'first past the post': the candidate with the highest number of votes in a constituency wins.

52. A: True

True. The winning candidate in each constituency is simply the one with the most votes, and the party that wins a majority of constituencies usually forms the government.

53. B and D: Going in person to one of their local surgeries; Writing to their constituency office

You can write to or phone an MP at their constituency office or House of Commons office, and many MPs hold local surgeries, often advertised in the local paper.

54. D: 10 Downing Street

The PM lives officially at 10 Downing Street in central London, close to the Houses of Parliament. Chequers, outside London, is the PM's country house.

55. D: Chequers

As well as the official home at 10 Downing Street, the Prime Minister has a house in the countryside outside London called Chequers.

56. A: True

Losing a General Election normally leads the PM to resign. A PM can also be replaced by MPs of the governing party or can choose to step down.

57. D: About 20

The PM picks around 20 senior MPs to head departments. Together these ministers make up the cabinet.

58. B: Chancellor of the Exchequer

The Chancellor of the Exchequer looks after the economy. The Home Secretary deals with crime, policing and immigration, and the Foreign Secretary with other countries.

59. D: Home Secretary

Crime, policing and immigration are the Home Secretary's area. The Chancellor handles the economy and the Foreign Secretary relations with foreign countries.

60. A: True

True. The Foreign Secretary deals with the UK's relations with other countries, while the economy is the job of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

61. A and D: Ministers of State; Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State

Besides the head of the department, there are Ministers of State and Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State. Secretaries of State are the cabinet ministers who head departments, and shadow ministers belong to the opposition.

62. B: The opposition

The party with the second highest number of MPs is known as the opposition. Its leader challenges the government's record.

63. A: True

The leader of the opposition normally takes over as Prime Minister when that party wins a General Election.

64. B: Every week

Prime Minister's Questions happens weekly when Parliament sits. It is a key chance for the leader of the opposition to point out the government's weaknesses.

65. A: The leader of the opposition

The leader of the opposition chooses senior opposition MPs as shadow ministers. They challenge the government and offer different policies.

66. A and C: The Liberal Democrats; The Conservative Party

The main parties are the Conservatives, Labour, the Liberal Democrats and parties that speak for Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. Greenpeace and Liberty are campaign groups.

67. B and C: Greenpeace; Liberty

Pressure and lobby groups try to influence government policy. Greenpeace campaigns on the environment and Liberty on human rights.

68. B: The CBI

The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) is a representative organisation for British business and is one kind of pressure or lobby group.

69. B: False

Civil servants are selected on merit and must stay politically neutral. People join through an ordinary job application process.

70. B and C: Integrity; Objectivity

The civil service has four core values: integrity, honesty, objectivity and impartiality, which includes being politically neutral. Ambition and efficiency are not on that list.

71. D: 33

London is split into 33 local authorities, with the Mayor of London and the Greater London Authority coordinating policy for the whole capital.

72. A: In many local authorities, the mayor is a ceremonial leader appointed by the council.

In many councils the mayor has a ceremonial role. Only in some towns is a mayor elected to actually lead the administration.

73. C: 1999

Powers began to be devolved in 1997, and both the Welsh Assembly and the Scottish Parliament have existed since 1999.

74. B and D: Immigration; Defence

Defence, immigration, foreign affairs, social security and taxation stay with the UK government. Many public services, such as education and health, are run by the devolved administrations.

75. A: True

Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland each have a separate civil service supporting their devolved administration.

76. D: Welsh or English

Members may use either Welsh or English, and everything they publish appears in both languages. The Welsh government is based in Cardiff.

77. A and C: Civil and criminal law; Planning

The Scottish Parliament can legislate on anything not reserved to the UK Parliament, such as planning, education, health, and civil and criminal law. Defence and foreign affairs stay with the UK government.

78. D: 1972

It was created in 1922, at the time Ireland was split, and abolished in 1972, not long after the Troubles started in 1969.

79. B and D: Agriculture; The environment

The Assembly decides on matters such as health, education, agriculture, social services and the environment. Defence and immigration remain with the UK government.

80. A: True

The UK government holds this power and has done so more than once in Northern Ireland, at times when political leaders there found it hard to cooperate.

81. A: Hansard

Parliament's proceedings are shown on television and written up in official reports called Hansard, available in large libraries and online.

82. B: False

Britain's press is free, so newspapers are not under government control. Some owners and editors even campaign to influence government policy.

83. C: 1928

In 1928 all men and women aged over 21 got the vote. From then on, every adult had an equal say in elections.

84. B: The electoral register

Only people listed on the electoral register can vote. If you are eligible, you register through your local council's electoral registration office.

85. A: True

Each local authority must let people see its register under supervision. It is kept at the local electoral registration office and can also be seen at places such as libraries.

86. B: 7.00 am to 10.00 pm

Polling stations (called polling places in Scotland) open at 7 in the morning and close at 10 at night. Your poll card tells you where yours is.

87. B: False

You fill in your ballot paper privately in a polling booth and decide for yourself. Nobody can make you choose a particular candidate.

88. D: A postal ballot

With a postal ballot, the ballot paper is posted to you ahead of polling day, and you fill it in and send it back. You can choose this when registering to vote.

89. B and C: Members of the armed forces; Civil servants

Most UK, Irish and Commonwealth citizens who are 18 or older may stand. Exceptions include the armed forces, civil servants and people convicted of certain crimes.

90. B: False

People who sit in the Lords cannot stand for the Commons, but they can stand for every other public office.

91. D: Stormont, in Belfast

MLAs meet at Stormont in Belfast. MSPs meet at Holyrood in Edinburgh, and Welsh members use the Senedd

building in Cardiff Bay.

92. A: A group of countries that help each other and cooperate on shared goals

Commonwealth countries help one another and cooperate on democracy and development. NATO is the military alliance, and the Treaty of Rome created the EEC.

93. B: The British Empire

Most Commonwealth countries used to belong to the British Empire, though a few that never did have also joined.

94. A: True

Countries choose to belong to the Commonwealth. It cannot control its members, although it is able to suspend a country's membership.

95. B: False

The Commonwealth cannot control its members; the most it can do is suspend one.

96. C and D: Democracy; The rule of law

The Commonwealth rests on three core values: democracy, the rule of law and good government. Free trade and military cooperation are not among them.

97. C: The European Economic Community

The EU started life as the European Economic Community (EEC), created by six western European countries.

98. B: 1957

On 25 March 1957 six western European countries signed the Treaty of Rome. The UK joined the community later, in 1973.

99. A and D: Italy; France

The six founders were France, Belgium, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. The UK at first chose to stay out and only joined in 1973.

100. B: 1973

The UK first decided against joining the group formed in 1957, but became a member in 1973.

101. B: False

The Council of Europe, which is separate from the EU, cannot make laws. It protects human rights by drawing up conventions and charters, such as the European Convention on Human Rights.

102. B and C: It was created after the Second World War; It aims to stop wars and promote peace between nations

The UN was formed after the Second World War to stop war and support international peace and security. More than 190 countries, including the UK, are members.

103. D: 15

The Security Council has 15 members and recommends action during crises around the world and threats to peace. Five of its members are permanent.

104. A: True

Of the 15 seats on the Security Council, five are permanent, and the UK holds one of them.

105. B: Help one another if any of them is attacked

NATO is made up of countries in Europe and North America that have promised mutual help if attacked. It also aims to keep peace among its members.

106. A: True

Everyone in the UK is treated equally by the law. All residents are expected to know and obey it, even where another country's legal system allows something different.

107. B: Settling disputes between individuals or groups

Civil law deals with disputes between people or groups. Criminal law covers crimes, which the police or another authority investigate and the courts punish.

108. C: A landlord and a tenant disagreeing about repairs

Housing disputes over repairs or eviction come under civil law, as do consumer, employment and debt cases. Selling drugs, carrying weapons and selling tobacco to under-18s are crimes.

109. B: Carrying a knife is a criminal offence in the UK even if it is only for self-defence.

Carrying any kind of weapon is a crime, whatever the reason. This covers guns, knives and anything made or

changed to hurt someone.

110. B: False

Buying or selling drugs, including cannabis, heroin, cocaine and ecstasy, is illegal in the UK.

111. A: True

This is known as racial crime and is a criminal offence in the UK.

112. A: True

Smoking is banned in almost all enclosed public places, and signs show where you may not smoke.

113. C: 16

Selling alcohol to under-18s, or buying it for them, is a crime. The one exception lets people aged 16 or over have an alcoholic drink with a meal at a restaurant or hotel.

114. C and D: Protecting life and property; Preventing and detecting crime

The police protect life and property, keep the peace by preventing disturbances, and prevent and detect crime. Juries decide verdicts and HMRC collects tax.

115. C: A Chief Constable

Each police force is led by a Chief Constable. In England and Wales the Chief Constable is appointed by the elected Police and Crime Commissioner.

116. B: False

The police are organised into separate forces, each led by a Chief Constable, and the government does not run them.

117. A: 2012

PCCs were elected in November 2012. They are individuals chosen directly by voters to make sure their local police force is efficient and effective.

118. D: The Police and Crime Commissioner

Police and Crime Commissioners appoint the Chief Constable. They also decide local policing priorities and the local police budget.

119. C: Police community support officers

Police community support officers back up police officers. Their roles vary by area, but they usually patrol, work with the public and help at crime scenes and big events.

120. A and D: Make a false statement; Be rude or abusive

Officers must obey the law and must not misuse their authority, lie, be rude or abusive, or discriminate on grounds of race. After an arrest, the officer tells the person the reason.

121. C and D: Write a letter to the force's Chief Constable; Go to a police station

Anyone can complain at a police station or in writing to the force's Chief Constable. Complaints can also go to an independent body, such as the Police Ombudsman in Northern Ireland.

122. C: Speaking or acting against fundamental British values

Extremism is speaking or acting against fundamental British values. Everyone should feel safe from all kinds of it, including religious and far-right extremism.

123. B: Your local police force

You should report it to your local police. Terrorist groups seek to radicalise people and win recruits, although they have very little public support.

124. B and C: Judges can rule that an action of the government is illegal; Judges can order a public body to pay compensation

If judges find a government action illegal, the government must change its policy or ask Parliament to change the law. A public body that ignores someone's legal rights can be ordered to pay compensation. Judges also settle disputes, and the government cannot interfere with trials.

125. D: A Magistrates' Court

Magistrates' Courts handle most minor crimes there. Serious crimes go to a Crown Court with a judge and jury.

126. A: The Justice of the Peace Court

Minor offences in Scotland go to a Justice of the Peace Court. Serious ones are heard in a Sheriff Court, and the most serious, such as murder, in the High Court.

127. B: False

They are local people who usually work unpaid and need no legal qualifications; they are trained and have a legal adviser. In Northern Ireland, a legally qualified, paid District Judge hears these cases.

128. A: At random from the local electoral register

Jurors are ordinary members of the public picked at random from people on the local electoral register.

129. B: 15

A Scottish jury has 15 members. Juries elsewhere in the UK have 12.

130. B and D: If summoned, you must serve unless you are not eligible or have a good reason; Juries in England, Wales and Northern Ireland have 12 members

Jury service is a duty unless you are ineligible, for example because of a criminal conviction, or are excused for a good reason. Juries have 12 members, except in Scotland, where they have 15.

131. B: False

The jury hears the evidence and decides whether the defendant is guilty or not. If the verdict is guilty, the judge sets the penalty.

132. B: 10 to 17

Accused people aged 10 to 17 usually have their case decided by a District Judge or by up to three magistrates with special training. The gravest cases go to the Crown Court.

133. B: False

Youth Courts are closed to the public, and the media may not publish the young person's name or photographs. Parents or carers are expected to attend.

134. B: The Children's Hearings System

Scotland uses the Children's Hearings System. Northern Ireland uses youth conferencing, and in England, Wales and Northern Ireland accused people aged 10 to 17 usually go to a Youth Court.

135. C: The Court of Session

Serious civil cases in Scotland go to the Court of Session in Edinburgh. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland they go to the High Court.

136. A and D: Claims can be issued online through Money Claims Online; A judge hears the case in an ordinary room

A judge hears the case in an ordinary room, with both sides sitting around a table. The procedure is meant to settle minor disputes without a lot of time or lawyers' costs, and claims can also be started online through Money Claims Online.

137. A: Their charges usually depend on the amount of time the case takes them.

Solicitors usually charge by the time a case takes, so it is important to ask early what it is likely to cost. Citizens Advice and the Law Society can name local solicitors and their specialisms.

138. C: 1950

The UK signed the Convention in 1950 and was among the first countries to do so. The Bill of Rights dates from 1689 and the Human Rights Act from 1998.

139. D: The Human Rights Act 1998

The Human Rights Act 1998 brought the Convention into UK law. Since then the government, the courts and other public bodies have to follow its principles.

140. B: British diplomats and lawyers helped to write the European Convention on Human Rights.

British diplomats and lawyers played an important part in drafting the Convention, and the UK signed it early, in 1950.

141. A: True

Prohibiting torture is one of the principles in the Convention, along with banning slavery and forced labour.

142. B and D: Magna Carta; The Bill of Rights of 1689

Rights in Britain go back to Magna Carta, the Bill of Rights of 1689 and the Habeas Corpus Act. The Human Rights Act came much later and put the European Convention into UK law.

143. B and D: Liberty and security; Freedom of thought and religion

The Convention protects liberty and security and freedom of thought and religion. Slavery, forced labour and torture are things it prohibits.

144. A: True

UK laws protect people from unfair treatment in life and work because of things like sex, race, age, disability, religion or belief, pregnancy, sexuality or marital status.

145. A: The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland, help comes from the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission. The Citizens Advice Bureau can also help.

146. B: False

A man who makes a woman have sex against her will can be charged with rape, even if he is her husband. Violence at home is treated as a serious crime.

147. A: Refuges or shelters

Some areas have refuges or shelters where people can stay safely. The police can also help someone find a safe place.

148. A and B: Citizens Advice or a solicitor can explain what options there are; A violent partner can be prosecuted even if not married

Violence at home is treated as a serious crime, and anyone violent to a partner, married or not, man or woman, can be prosecuted. Victims should get help quickly, for example from a solicitor or Citizens Advice.

149. B: False

FGM, also called cutting or female circumcision, is against the law in the UK. Performing it, or taking a woman or girl to another country for it, is a crime.

150. A: An arranged marriage is acceptable in the UK if both people agree to it.

Both people must give full and free consent to a marriage. Arranged marriages where both agree are acceptable; a forced marriage is one where consent is missing.

151. A: True

A forced marriage is one where one or both people do not or cannot consent. Making someone marry against their will is a crime.

152. A: 2008

The orders arrived in 2008 under the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007. Scotland brought in similar orders in November 2011.

153. A: True

Taxable income includes wages, self-employed profits, taxable benefits, pensions, and money from property, savings and dividends. Income tax pays for services like the armed forces, police, roads and education.

154. A: Pay As You Earn (PAYE)

Under PAYE, most employees have the correct tax taken from their pay by the employer and sent to HMRC automatically.

155. D: The government department that collects taxes

HMRC is the government department responsible for collecting taxes. Under PAYE, employers pay employees' income tax directly to it.

156. A: True

The self-employed are not covered by PAYE, so they pay tax through self-assessment. If HMRC sends anyone a tax return, it should be completed and sent back once all the information is ready.

157. A and C: Employers take them from their employees' pay; Almost everyone in paid work, including the self-employed, must pay them

Nearly all workers pay National Insurance; employees through their employer and the self-employed themselves. Not paying enough can mean losing contributory benefits such as a full state pension.

158. D: Just before their 16th birthday

Every young person gets a National Insurance number shortly before turning 16. It is a unique personal number that makes sure tax and contributions are recorded against their name.

159. B: False

A National Insurance number alone does not show that you may work in the UK. You can also start a job before you have one.

160. A: 17

You must be 17 or older to drive a car or motorcycle, and you need a driving licence to use public roads. Mopeds can be ridden from 16.

161. B: False

The minimum age for riding a moped is 16. Cars and motorcycles need you to be at least 17, and larger vehicles have their own ages and tests.

162. D: 70

A driving licence can be used until the driver is 70. From then on, it has to be renewed every three years.

163. B: Up to 12 months

Licences from those other countries can be used for up to 12 months. After that, you need a full UK driving licence to keep driving.

164. B and D: Your knowledge; Your practical skills

To get a UK driving licence you have to pass a driving test, which checks both what you know and how well you drive. The MOT is a yearly check on vehicles, not on drivers.

165. A: Three years

Vehicles over three years old must pass an MOT every year, and driving one without a valid MOT certificate is an offence.

166. B and C: The car must be registered with the DVLA; The car must have valid motor insurance

Residents' cars must be registered at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and insured; driving uninsured is a serious crime. Yearly MOTs start only once a vehicle is over three years old.

167. A: True

Britain is a very diverse society, but everyone can agree on shared responsibilities, and keeping to the law is the first of them.

168. A and D: To vote in elections; To treat others with fairness

The list includes treating people fairly and voting in local and national elections, along with obeying the law and helping others. Joining a party or becoming a school governor are opportunities, not duties.

169. D: Introduce yourself to your neighbours

Knowing your neighbours helps you settle into the community and make friends. Neighbours can also help, for example with your pets.

170. A: True

Neighbours can be a useful source of help, such as looking after pets or giving advice about local shops and services.

171. C and D: Respecting their privacy; Keeping noise down

Respect your neighbours' privacy, keep noise down, look after your garden and put rubbish out only on collection day.

172. C: Only on the day they will be collected

Putting rubbish out only for collection is one way to avoid conflict with your neighbours.

173. C and D: Helping at fundraising events; Listening to children read

Parents can support activities in classrooms, listen to children read and help at events such as book or toy sales that raise money for equipment or trips.

174. C: Parent-teacher association

Parent-teacher associations sometimes organise school events. Helping out or joining one benefits the school and helps you make friends locally.

175. A: 18

School governors must be at least 18 when they are elected or appointed. There is no maximum age.

176. B: False

Governors must be 18 or older, but the handbook sets no maximum age.

177. D: The school board

Elsewhere they are called school governors; in Scotland they are school board members. Both help raise school standards.

178. A and D: Monitoring and evaluating school performance; Setting the school's strategic direction

The three roles are setting the school's strategic direction, ensuring accountability, and monitoring and evaluating how the school performs.

179. A: True

Free schools in England can be proposed by parents and by other local community groups. The Department for Education has more details.

180. A: Canvassing

Party members canvass especially hard at election time, trying to win votes for their candidates.

181. B: False

If you prefer not to say how you will vote, you do not have to tell a canvasser.

182. C: At election times

Elections are the busiest period for parties, when members work hard to win support for their candidates.

183. A and C: Special constable; Lay (non-police) representative

Volunteers can join the police as special constables or lay representatives. You can also apply to be a magistrate.

184. D: About an hour

Giving blood takes about an hour. Hospitals use donated blood to treat many kinds of injury and illness.

185. A: True

Organ donation is not only after death: the handbook notes that living people can give a kidney. Many people in the UK need an organ transplant.

186. A: Doing work for good causes without being paid

Volunteers work for good causes and are not paid. Many people do it just to help others.

187. A: True

Besides meeting people and improving your community, volunteering can give you English practice, work skills and something to add to your CV.

188. C and D: Caring for animals at a rescue shelter; Helping older people in a care home

Volunteer work includes caring for animals, youth work, litter picks, homeless shelters, mentoring, hospital help desks and helping older people.

189. D: The British Red Cross

UK charities range from small local charities to British branches of international bodies such as the British Red Cross.

190. C: Age UK

Age UK is the handbook's example of a charity for older people. The NSPCC works with children and the PDSA with animals.

191. A: The NSPCC

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) is a charity working with children.

192. B: False

Crisis and Shelter work with homeless people. The handbook's example of an animal charity is the PDSA.

193. B: A charity working with animals

The PDSA (People's Dispensary for Sick Animals) is a charity working with animals. Cancer Research UK is the handbook's medical research example.

194. A: True

The handbook lists Cancer Research UK among medical research charities, alongside other charities for the environment, animals, children and older people.

195. A and B: Friends of the Earth; The National Trust

Friends of the Earth and the National Trust are the handbook's environmental charities. The NSPCC works with children and Age UK with older people.

196. A: True

Recycling cuts the amount of waste sent to landfill. It also saves energy and reduces the need to take new raw materials from the earth.

197. B: Making new products from recycled materials uses less energy.

Products made from recycled materials need less energy and fewer new raw materials, which is why you should

recycle as much as you can.

198. C: The products have not travelled as far

Local goods travel shorter distances, so your carbon footprint is smaller. Shopping locally also helps businesses and farmers near you.

199. D: It creates less pollution than using a car

Choosing to walk or take public transport instead of driving means you produce less pollution.