

Life in the UK Test: Practice Questions and Answers

651 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 values and principles of the UK

1. Which of these is one of the fundamental principles of life in Britain?

- A The rule of law
- B Leaders chosen without elections
- C Government by a single party
- D One official faith for everyone

2. Which TWO of these are fundamental principles of life in Britain?

Choose two answers.

- A Obedience to one official religion
- B Loyalty to one political party
- C Individual liberty
- D Participation in community life

3. True or false: Tolerance of people with different faiths and beliefs is one of the fundamental principles of life in Britain.

- A True
- B False

4. True or false: Extremism and intolerance have no place in British society.

- A True
- B False

5. At which event do new citizens pledge to uphold the values of the UK?

- A A citizenship ceremony
- B Registering with a doctor
- C Their first general election
- D Applying for a visa

6. Which TWO promises are part of the citizenship pledge?

Choose two answers.

- A To observe the UK's laws faithfully
- B To join a political party
- C To uphold the UK's democratic values
- D To vote in every general election

7. In the citizenship pledge, new citizens promise to give their loyalty to:

- A The Commonwealth
- B The Church of England
- C Their local council
- D The United Kingdom

8. According to the handbook, how are the fundamental values of British society protected?

- A By law, customs and expectations
- B By the monarch's personal orders
- C By the armed forces alone
- D By religious law alone

9. True or false: The fundamental values of British society come from the country's history and

traditions.

- A True
- B False

10. Which TWO are responsibilities of a person who wants to become a UK citizen or permanent resident?

Choose two answers.

- A Ignore the opinions of others
- B Treat others fairly
- C Leave your family to fend for itself
- D Look after the area you live in

11. Which of these is a responsibility shared by everyone living in the UK?

- A To agree with the government's opinions
- B To attend a place of worship
- C To respect and obey the law
- D To vote for the governing party

12. Which of these freedoms does the UK offer to people who live here?

- A Freedom to treat others unfairly
- B Freedom from unfair discrimination
- C Freedom from having to obey the law
- D Freedom to choose which laws to follow

13. True or false: The responsibilities and freedoms that come from the UK's fundamental principles apply only to British citizens, not to other residents.

- A True
- B False

14. Which of these statements is correct?

- A Everyone in the UK must follow the same religion
- B Freedom of belief and religion is offered in the UK

15. Which of these rights does the UK offer to the people who live here?

- A A right to silence other people's opinions
- B A right to be tried fairly
- C A right to treat others unfairly
- D A right to ignore laws you disagree with

What is the UK?

16. Which countries make up the United Kingdom?

- A England, Scotland, Wales and the whole of Ireland
- B England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
- C England, Scotland and Wales
- D England, Wales and Northern Ireland

17. What is the country's official name?

- A The United Kingdom of England, Scotland and Wales
- B The United Kingdom of Great Britain and the Channel Islands
- C The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- D The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland

18. Which countries does the name 'Great Britain' refer to?

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

D England, Scotland, Wales and the Isle of Man

19. True or false: Northern Ireland is part of Great Britain.

- A True
- B False

20. True or false: Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom.

- A True
- B False

21. What is the status of the rest of Ireland, outside Northern Ireland?

- A Part of Great Britain
- B A British overseas territory
- C A Crown dependency
- D An independent country

22. Which TWO of these are Crown dependencies?

Choose two answers.

- A The Isle of Man
- B The Falkland Islands
- C St Helena
- D The Channel Islands

23. True or false: The Isle of Man is part of the United Kingdom.

- A True
- B False

24. What are the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man called?

- A Counties of England
- B British overseas territories
- C Devolved nations
- D Crown dependencies

25. Which of these statements is correct?

- A The Crown dependencies are governed only from Westminster
- B The Crown dependencies have their own governments

26. Which TWO statements about British overseas territories are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A They are linked to the UK
- B They are not part of the UK
- C They are all in the seas close to the UK
- D They are part of Great Britain

27. Which of these is a British overseas territory?

- A St Helena
- B Northern Ireland
- C The Isle of Man
- D The Channel Islands

28. Where does the parliament that governs the UK sit?

- A Westminster
- B Belfast
- C Edinburgh
- D Cardiff

29. True or false: As well as the UK Parliament, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland each have a parliament or assembly with devolved powers in certain areas.

- A True
- B False

30. Which TWO of these are part of Great Britain?

Choose two answers.

- A The Isle of Man
- B Wales
- C Northern Ireland
- D Scotland

Early Britain

31. Roughly how long ago did the Channel finally cut Britain off from the continent for good?

- A About 6,000 years ago
- B About 4,000 years ago
- C About 2,000 years ago
- D About 10,000 years ago

32. True or false: Through much of the Stone Age, people could walk between Britain and the continent over a land bridge.

- A True
- B False

33. When did the first farmers arrive in Britain?

- A About 10,000 years ago
- B About 1,000 years ago
- C About 4,000 years ago
- D About 6,000 years ago

34. In which English county does Stonehenge stand?

- A Kent
- B Dorset
- C Suffolk
- D Wiltshire

35. Where is Skara Brae, northern Europe's best-preserved village from prehistoric times?

- A Iona
- B Dorset
- C Orkney
- D Wiltshire

36. In the Bronze Age, what were the tombs used to bury the dead called?

- A Round barrows
- B Ship burials
- C Hill forts
- D Roundhouses

37. Maiden Castle, an impressive Iron Age hill fort that can still be visited, is in which English county?

- A Kent
- B Wiltshire
- C Suffolk
- D Dorset

38. Which TWO statements describe people in Britain during the Iron Age?

Choose two answers.

- A They built Stonehenge

- B They formed the first Christian communities in Britain
- C They spoke a language from the Celtic family
- D Some lived in defended sites called hill forts

39. True or false: The first coins made in Britain were minted during the Bronze Age.

- A True
- B False

40. In which year did Emperor Claudius lead the Roman invasion that succeeded in occupying most of Britain?

- A 55 BC
- B AD 43
- C AD 410
- D AD 789

41. Boudicca, a tribal leader who resisted the Romans, was queen of which tribe?

- A The Picts
- B The Jutes
- C The Angles
- D The Iceni

42. Which people was Hadrian's Wall, in northern England, built to keep out?

- A The Saxons
- B The Picts
- C The Vikings
- D The Normans

43. Which TWO forts on Hadrian's Wall can still be seen today?

Choose two answers.

- A Vindolanda
- B Maiden Castle
- C Housesteads
- D Skara Brae

44. Which TWO of these did the Romans do during their time in Britain?

Choose two answers.

- A Compiled the Domesday Book
- B Founded the monastery on Iona
- C Introduced new plants and animals
- D Built roads and public buildings

45. True or false: Christian communities first formed in Britain in the 3rd and 4th centuries, during Roman rule.

- A True
- B False

46. In which year did the Roman army leave Britain, never to come back?

- A AD 600
- B AD 43
- C AD 789
- D AD 410

47. Which TWO of these tribes from northern Europe invaded Britain after the Romans left?

Choose two answers.

- A The Iceni
- B The Picts
- C The Angles

D The Saxons

48. Sutton Hoo, where an Anglo-Saxon king was buried in a ship with treasure and armour, is in which modern county?

- A Kent
- B Dorset
- C Suffolk
- D Wiltshire

49. True or false: St Patrick, one of the missionaries from Ireland, became the patron saint of Scotland.

- A True
- B False

50. Who was the first person to hold the post of Archbishop of Canterbury?

- A St Columba
- B King Alfred the Great
- C St Patrick
- D St Augustine

51. In which year did the Vikings first come to Britain to raid coastal towns?

- A AD 1066
- B AD 600
- C AD 410
- D AD 789

52. Which king united England's Anglo-Saxon kingdoms and defeated the Vikings?

- A Kenneth MacAlpin
- B Harold
- C Cnut
- D Alfred the Great

53. Which of these statements is correct?

- A Many Vikings settled in south-west England, in the area called the Pale.
- B Many Vikings settled in northern and eastern England, in the area called the Danelaw.

54. True or false: Fear of Viking attacks led people in the north to join together under King Kenneth MacAlpin.

- A True
- B False

55. At the Battle of Hastings in 1066, William, Duke of Normandy, defeated which Saxon king?

- A Harold
- B Alfred
- C Kenneth MacAlpin
- D Cnut

56. Which TWO statements about the Norman Conquest are true?

Choose two answers.

- A William came from what is now northern Germany
- B William was the Saxon king of England before 1066
- C The Welsh slowly won back land from the Normans
- D Norman French influenced the English language

57. True or false: After 1066 the Normans invaded and conquered Scotland.

- A True
- B False

58. True or false: William's survey listing England's towns, villages, landowners and animals was called the Bayeux Tapestry.

- A True
- B False

The Middle Ages

59. The Middle Ages run from the Norman Conquest up to about which year?

- A 1485
- B 1348
- C 1415
- D 1215

60. Which king introduced the Statute of Rhuddlan in 1284, which annexed Wales to the English Crown?

- A John
- B Henry V
- C Edward I
- D Richard III

61. Which TWO huge castles were built in Wales to keep English power there?

Choose two answers.

- A Windsor
- B Caernarvon
- C Edinburgh
- D Conwy

62. Who led the Scots to victory over the English at Bannockburn in 1314?

- A Robert the Bruce
- B John Barbour
- C Kenneth MacAlpin
- D Henry Tudor

63. By 1200 the English controlled the Pale, an area of Ireland. Which city was it around?

- A Canterbury
- B York
- C Dublin
- D Edinburgh

64. Many knights joined the Crusades. What were European Christians fighting to control in these wars?

- A The Holy Land
- B Normandy
- C Wales
- D The Pale

65. True or false: The Hundred Years War between England and France lasted exactly 100 years.

- A True
- B False

66. Which king led the heavily outnumbered English army that beat the French at Agincourt in 1415?

- A Richard III
- B Edward I
- C Henry VII
- D Henry V

67. What was the system of land ownership used by the Normans called?

- A Feudalism
- B Precedence
- C Codification
- D Common law

68. True or false: Under feudalism, serfs were free to leave their lord's land whenever they wished.

- A True
- B False

69. In which year did the Black Death come to Britain?

- A 1348
- B 1284
- C 1455
- D 1314

70. About what share of England's population died in the Black Death?

- A One quarter
- B One third
- C One tenth
- D One half

71. Which TWO changes followed the Black Death?

Choose two answers.

- A New social classes appeared, including the gentry
- B People left the towns to live in the countryside
- C Workers were scarce and peasants asked for higher wages
- D Far more cereal crops had to be grown

72. True or false: Because the Black Death caused many deaths in the Pale, the part of Ireland under English control shrank for a time.

- A True
- B False

73. Which king was forced by his noblemen in 1215 to agree to the Magna Carta?

- A Henry V
- B John
- C Edward I
- D Richard III

74. True or false: The Magna Carta set out the principle that the king, too, had to obey the law.

- A True
- B False

75. Which TWO groups had seats in the House of Lords of the medieval English Parliament?

Choose two answers.

- A Wealthy people from towns
- B Bishops
- C Great landowners
- D Knights

76. True or false: Like the English Parliament, the medieval Scottish Parliament had two Houses.

- A True
- B False

77. How did judges in medieval England develop 'common law'?

- A By asking the House of Lords to vote
- B By taking orders from the king
- C By following earlier decisions and tradition
- D By writing every law down in a code

78. True or false: In medieval Scotland, the legal system developed so that laws were codified, or written down.

- A True
- B False

79. Which TWO of these modern English words come from Anglo-Saxon?

Choose two answers.

- A Apple
- B Cow
- C Park
- D Beauty

80. True or false: By 1400, official documents in England were still written only in Norman French.

- A True
- B False

81. Who wrote The Canterbury Tales, poems in English about pilgrims telling stories on their way to Canterbury?

- A St Augustine
- B John Barbour
- C Geoffrey Chaucer
- D William Caxton

82. What is William Caxton known for?

- A He wrote The Bruce, a poem about Bannockburn
- B He was the first to print books on a press in England
- C He built Lincoln Cathedral
- D He led the Scots at Bannockburn

83. John Barbour wrote The Bruce in the Scots language. Which event is it about?

- A The Battle of Bosworth Field
- B The Battle of Bannockburn
- C The Battle of Hastings
- D The Battle of Agincourt

84. Which building is a famous example of medieval stained glass telling stories of the Bible and Christian saints?

- A Edinburgh Castle
- B York Minster
- C Windsor Castle
- D Conwy Castle

85. Which product became a very important English export in the Middle Ages?

- A Gold
- B Wool
- C Iron
- D Glass

86. Which TWO correctly match skilled workers who came to medieval England with the country they came from?

Choose two answers.

- A Engineers from Germany

- B Canal builders from Italy
- C Glass manufacturers from Holland
- D Weavers from France

87. In which year did the Wars of the Roses begin?

- A 1485
- B 1415
- C 1455
- D 1348

88. Which of these statements is correct?

- A Lancaster's symbol was a white rose and York's symbol was a red rose.
- B Lancaster's symbol was a red rose and York's symbol was a white rose.

89. Which king died at Bosworth Field in 1485?

- A Edward I
- B Henry VII
- C Henry V
- D Richard III

90. Which TWO statements about Henry VII are true?

Choose two answers.

- A He was killed at the Battle of Bosworth Field
- B He was the first Tudor king
- C He married Elizabeth of York
- D He led the York side

The Tudors and Stuarts

91. After winning the Wars of the Roses, what did Henry VII do to keep his throne safe?

- A Broke away from the Church of Rome to rule the Church
- B Built up central government and cut the power of the nobles
- C Handed more land and power to the great noble families
- D Spent the monarchy's savings on long wars abroad

92. Which wife of Henry VIII was a Spanish princess?

- A Anne of Cleves
- B Catherine of Aragon
- C Jane Seymour
- D Catherine Parr

93. Which of Henry VIII's wives was the mother of Elizabeth?

- A Anne Boleyn
- B Catherine of Aragon
- C Catherine Howard
- D Jane Seymour

94. Why did Henry VIII set up the Church of England?

- A The Pope wanted to crown a Spanish king
- B He wanted church services held only in Latin
- C Parliament ordered him to leave the Catholic Church
- D The Pope would not approve his divorce

95. What was the Reformation?

- A A Europe-wide movement against the Pope's authority
- B A plan to bring England back to Catholicism
- C A reform of the legal system in Wales

D A rebellion of Irish chieftains against English law

96. In whose reign did the Act for the Government of Wales formally join Wales to England?

- A Henry VII
- B Henry VIII
- C James I
- D Edward VI

97. In which monarch's reign was the Book of Common Prayer written for the Church of England?

- A Edward VI
- B Elizabeth I
- C Henry VII
- D Mary I

98. Why did Queen Mary, Henry VIII's daughter, become known as 'Bloody Mary'?

- A She persecuted Roman Catholics
- B She led the fight against the Spanish Armada
- C She persecuted Protestants
- D She started a civil war against Parliament

99. In which year did the English defeat the Spanish Armada?

- A 1603
- B 1642
- C 1588
- D 1560

100. What was the name of Sir Francis Drake's ship, one of the first ships to go all the way round the world?

- A The Mary Rose
- B The Golden Hind
- C The Mayflower
- D The Armada

101. What is the Globe Theatre in London?

- A A theatre designed by Sir Christopher Wren
- B A modern copy of an early Shakespeare theatre
- C The original theatre where Hamlet was first staged
- D The house where Shakespeare was born

102. Who inherited the English throne when Elizabeth I died in 1603?

- A Mary, Queen of Scots
- B James VI of Scotland
- C Edward VI
- D Charles I

103. What is the 'Authorised Version'?

- A The first Bible ever written in English
- B The English Bible translated in James I's reign
- C The revised Prayer Book of Charles I
- D The prayer book written in Edward VI's reign

104. What were the 'plantations' in Ireland?

- A Settlements of Scottish and English Protestants on land taken from Catholic landholders
- B Lands handed back to Catholic families after the rebellions had ended
- C Camps built around Dublin to hold Irish rebels captured in the rebellions
- D Farms given to Irish Catholic chieftains as a reward for their loyalty to the king

105. What was the 'Divine Right of Kings'?

- A The belief that God directly chose the king to rule
- B The right of the Pope to appoint bishops
- C The belief that Parliament should choose the king
- D The right of every prisoner to a court hearing

106. In which year did civil war break out between Charles I and Parliament?

- A 1646
- B 1640
- C 1642
- D 1649

107. In which year was Charles I executed?

- A 1649
- B 1646
- C 1660
- D 1642

108. What was England called when it became a republic after Charles I's death?

- A The Restoration
- B The Plantation
- C The Glorious Revolution
- D The Commonwealth

109. What title was Oliver Cromwell given as leader of the new republic?

- A Prince of Wales
- B King of England
- C Archbishop of Canterbury
- D Lord Protector

110. In May 1660 Parliament asked Charles II to come back. Where had he been living in exile?

- A The Netherlands
- B Scotland
- C Ireland
- D Spain

111. Who designed the new St Paul's Cathedral after the great fire of London?

- A Sir Christopher Wren
- B Sir Edmund Halley
- C Sir Isaac Newton
- D Samuel Pepys

112. In which year did the Habeas Corpus Act become law?

- A 1660
- B 1679
- C 1688
- D 1665

113. What did Isaac Newton's famous book Principia Mathematica show?

- A How the plague spread in London
- B How to sail right around the world
- C How gravity works throughout the universe
- D How to translate the Bible into English

114. In which year did leading English Protestants invite William of Orange to invade England?

- A 1690
- B 1679

- C 1660
- D 1688

115. At which battle in Ireland did William III defeat James II in 1690?

- A The Battle of Marston Moor
- B The Battle of the Boyne
- C The Battle of Naseby
- D The Battle of Worcester

116. What were the supporters of James II, who still saw him as the rightful king, called?

- A Puritans
- B Jacobites
- C Roundheads
- D Cavaliers

117. Which of these statements is correct?

- A Like the Church of England, the Protestant Church of Scotland was a state Church
- B Unlike the Church of England, the Protestant Church of Scotland was not a state Church

118. Which of these statements is correct?

- A Shakespeare was one of the first writers to show ordinary English men and women
- B Shakespeare wrote only about kings and queens

119. Which of these statements is correct?

- A When James VI of Scotland became King of England, Scotland stayed a separate country
- B When James VI of Scotland became King of England, Scotland and England became one country

120. True or false: Anne Boleyn was put to death at the Tower of London.

- A True
- B False

121. True or false: Catherine Howard, one of Henry VIII's wives, was a cousin of Jane Seymour.

- A True
- B False

122. True or false: In Henry VIII's new Church of England, the Pope still had the power to appoint bishops.

- A True
- B False

123. True or false: Edward VI died when he was only 15 years old.

- A True
- B False

124. True or false: Elizabeth I did not question people about what they really believed in religion.

- A True
- B False

125. True or false: Mary, Queen of Scots became queen at just one week old.

- A True
- B False

126. True or false: Sir Francis Drake was one of the commanders when the Spanish Armada was defeated.

- A True
- B False

127. True or false: Henry VIII took the title 'King of Ireland'.

- A True

B False

128. True or false: In the civil war, the Roundheads were the supporters of the king.

A True

B False

129. True or false: After the Battle of Worcester, Charles II escaped and once hid in an oak tree.

A True

B False

130. True or false: Richard Cromwell, who followed his father as Lord Protector, kept firm control of the army and the government.

A True

B False

131. True or false: 'Habeas corpus' is Latin meaning that the person must be brought before a court.

A True

B False

132. True or false: Isaac Newton discovered that white light consists of all the colours of the rainbow.

A True

B False

133. True or false: The MacDonalds of Glencoe were killed because they took the oath accepting William as king too late.

A True

B False

134. Which TWO wives of Henry VIII were executed?

Choose two answers.

A Catherine Howard

B Anne Boleyn

C Catherine Parr

D Jane Seymour

135. Which TWO describe what Protestants believed or did during the Reformation?

Choose two answers.

A They held that the Pope should appoint all bishops

B They used Bibles in their own languages, not Latin

C They put each person's own bond with God above obeying the Church

D They prayed to saints and at shrines

136. Which TWO statements about Edward VI are correct?

Choose two answers.

A The Book of Common Prayer dates from his reign

B He was the son of Anne Boleyn

C He ruled for more than 20 years

D He was strongly Protestant

137. Which TWO statements about William Shakespeare are correct?

Choose two answers.

A His birthplace was Stratford-upon-Avon

B He wrote a diary about the great fire of London

C He was both a playwright and an actor

D London's Globe Theatre is the original building where he worked

138. Which TWO battles saw Charles I's army defeated in the civil war?

Choose two answers.

- A Marston Moor
- B The Boyne
- C Naseby
- D Killiecrankie

139. Which TWO battles did Cromwell win against the Scottish army led by Charles II?

Choose two answers.

- A Dunbar
- B The Boyne
- C Killiecrankie
- D Worcester

140. Which TWO events took place in London during the reign of Charles II?

Choose two answers.

- A A great fire that destroyed much of the city
- B The Battle of the Boyne
- C England's victory over the Spanish Armada
- D A major outbreak of plague

141. Which TWO people were among the early members of the Royal Society?

Choose two answers.

- A Sir Francis Drake
- B Sir Isaac Newton
- C Sir Edmund Halley
- D William Shakespeare

142. Which TWO things did James II do that worried people in England?

Choose two answers.

- A He let Roman Catholics become army officers
- B He arrested some Church of England bishops
- C He made the Church of England the official Church again
- D He passed the Habeas Corpus Act

143. Which TWO reasons explain why the events of 1688 were called the 'Glorious Revolution'?

Choose two answers.

- A It brought a Catholic king to the throne
- B England saw no fighting
- C It made England a republic
- D It secured Parliament's power

144. Which TWO actions of Charles I helped lead to the civil war?

Choose two answers.

- A He tried to force a revised Prayer Book on Scotland's Presbyterian Church
- B He entered the House of Commons to arrest five parliamentary leaders
- C He agreed to hand Parliament control of the English army
- D He gave the Puritans the simple style of worship they wanted

A global power

145. In which year was the Bill of Rights passed, setting out Parliament's rights and the limits on the king's power?

- A 1689
- B 1745
- C 1714

D 1707

146. True or false: Under the Bill of Rights, the king or queen had to be a Protestant.

- A True
- B False

147. Which TWO rules about Parliament and the monarch were set after William and Mary came to the throne?

Choose two answers.

- A Funding for the army and navy needed Parliament's approval every year
- B Elections for a new Parliament were required at least every three years
- C Elections for a new Parliament were required at least every ten years
- D Taxes could be raised by the monarch without Parliament's agreement

148. What were the two main groups in Parliament called after the Glorious Revolution, at the beginning of party politics?

- A The Jacobites and the Huguenots
- B The Chartists and the Fenians
- C The Whigs and the Tories
- D The Quakers and the Boers

149. From which year were newspapers allowed to be published without a licence from the government?

- A 1707
- B 1689
- C 1721
- D 1695

150. True or false: After the Glorious Revolution, women who owned enough property were allowed to vote.

- A True
- B False

151. What was a 'pocket borough'?

- A A constituency in the hands of one rich family
- B A small farm in the Scottish Highlands
- C A constituency with hardly any voters
- D A new parliamentary seat given to a growing town

152. In which year did Jewish people settle in London, the first to arrive in Britain since the Middle Ages?

- A 1689
- B 1745
- C 1656
- D 1707

153. Which TWO statements about the Huguenots are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A They were Protestants who had suffered persecution because of their faith
- B They arrived in Britain between 1870 and 1914
- C Many were skilled and worked in science, banking or weaving
- D They came to Britain from the Netherlands

154. In which year was the Act of Union agreed, joining Scotland with England and Wales to form the Kingdom of Great Britain?

- A 1707
- B 1801

- C 1714
- D 1689

155. True or false: After the Act of Union in 1707, Scotland kept its own legal system and its own education system.

- A True
- B False

156. Why did Parliament pick George I as king after the death of Queen Anne in 1714?

- A He spoke excellent English
- B He had won the Battle of Culloden
- C He was the eldest son of Anne
- D He was the closest Protestant relative of Anne

157. Who was the first person to be called Prime Minister?

- A Charles Stuart Parnell
- B Sir Robert Walpole
- C William Wilberforce
- D The Duke of Wellington

158. In which year did George II's army beat Bonnie Prince Charlie at the Battle of Culloden?

- A 1805
- B 1707
- C 1714
- D 1746

159. Which TWO statements about the rebellion led by Bonnie Prince Charlie are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A He won the Battle of Culloden
- B Clansmen from the Scottish highlands supported him
- C He tried to take the throne from Queen Anne
- D After his defeat he escaped back to Europe

160. During the Highland Clearances, many landlords destroyed small farms. What were these farms called?

- A Crofts
- B Pocket boroughs
- C Clans
- D Cottage industries

161. Which TWO statements about Robert Burns are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A He was a Scottish poet, called 'The Bard' in Scotland
- B He wrote The Jungle Book
- C He changed or added lyrics to many traditional folk songs
- D He won the Nobel Prize in Literature

162. Which of these statements about thinkers of the Enlightenment is correct?

- A David Hume worked out ideas about steam power
- B Adam Smith worked out ideas about economics

163. True or false: Many of the leading thinkers of the 18th-century Enlightenment came from Scotland.

- A True
- B False

164. True or false: Britain was the first country where industry developed on a large scale.

- A True
- B False

165. What did the Bessemer process make possible?

- A Mapping the coast of Australia
- B Powering horse-driven spinning mills
- C Carding fibres for spinning
- D The mass production of steel

166. What did Richard Arkwright first train and work as?

- A A barber
- B An engineer
- C A banker
- D A sailor

167. Which TWO statements about Richard Arkwright are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A He developed the Bessemer process
- B He improved the original carding machine
- C He built the Great Western Railway
- D He created spinning mills powered by horses, using a single machine

168. True or false: Richard Arkwright is mainly remembered for building canals.

- A True
- B False

169. True or false: During the Industrial Revolution, the law gave workers and children protection from long hours in dangerous places.

- A True
- B False

170. Captain James Cook mapped the coast of which land, where a few British colonies were then set up?

- A Australia
- B Southern Africa
- C India
- D Canada

171. Which TWO goods did Britain import from India and the area now called Indonesia?

Choose two answers.

- A Tea
- B Spices
- C Tobacco
- D Sugar

172. What did Sake Dean Mahomet open in George Street, London, in 1810?

- A The first nursing school in Britain
- B The first railway station in Britain
- C The first curry house in Britain
- D The first newspaper in Britain

173. True or false: In the 18th century, slavery was legal within Britain itself.

- A True
- B False

174. Where did most of the slaves carried on British ships come from?

- A East Africa

- B India
- C Southern Africa
- D West Africa

175. True or false: The Quakers formed the earliest formal groups opposing slavery.

- A True
- B False

176. Which evangelical Christian and member of Parliament helped change the law and win public support against the slave trade?

- A Sir Robert Walpole
- B Charles Stuart Parnell
- C William Wilberforce
- D Isambard Kingdom Brunel

177. In which year did the Emancipation Act abolish slavery throughout the British Empire?

- A 1776
- B 1807
- C 1833
- D 1846

178. What did the American colonists say when Britain tried to tax them?

- A Home Rule for the colonies
- B No taxation without representation
- C Votes for women
- D Free trade for all

179. In which year did 13 American colonies declare their independence?

- A 1783
- B 1776
- C 1789
- D 1760

180. True or false: Admiral Nelson was in command of Britain's ships at Trafalgar and died during the battle.

- A True
- B False

181. Which TWO statements about the Duke of Wellington are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A He was killed at the Battle of Trafalgar
- B He was the first person to be called Prime Minister
- C He later became Prime Minister
- D He defeated Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815

182. In which year did Ireland join England, Scotland and Wales in a single United Kingdom?

- A 1606
- B 1801
- C 1837
- D 1707

183. Which TWO crosses on the Union Flag are red on a white background?

Choose two answers.

- A The cross of St George
- B The cross of St Andrew
- C The cross of St David
- D The cross of St Patrick

184. True or false: The Welsh dragon appears on the Union Flag.

- A True
- B False

185. In which year was the first Union Flag made, combining the English and Scottish flags?

- A 1606
- B 1689
- C 1707
- D 1801

186. True or false: Queen Victoria came to the throne in 1837 and reigned until 1901.

- A True
- B False

187. In which year were the Corn Laws repealed?

- A 1847
- B 1832
- C 1867
- D 1846

188. True or false: The Corn Laws had stopped cheap grain from being imported into Britain.

- A True
- B False

189. Which TWO statements about Isambard Kingdom Brunel are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A He was born in Italy
- B He mapped the coast of Australia
- C He was originally from Portsmouth
- D He built the Great Western Railway

190. In which year did the Great Exhibition open in the Crystal Palace in Hyde Park?

- A 1846
- B 1854
- C 1860
- D 1851

191. In the Crimean War (1853-1856), Britain was on the side of Turkey and France. Which country did they fight?

- A Germany
- B The Netherlands
- C Spain
- D Russia

192. True or false: The Crimean War was the first war that the media covered widely with news reports and photographs.

- A True
- B False

193. Where did Florence Nightingale set up her training school for nurses in 1860?

- A St Thomas' Hospital in London
- B A military hospital in Turkey
- C A hospital in Germany
- D A hospital in Italy

194. Which crop failed in Ireland in the middle of the 19th century, causing a famine?

- A Oats

- B Wheat
- C Barley
- D Potatoes

195. Which of these statements is correct?

- A Charles Stuart Parnell wanted Ireland to leave the UK completely
- B Charles Stuart Parnell wanted Ireland to remain part of the UK with a parliament of its own

196. Which of these statements about the Reform Act of 1832 is correct?

- A It gave working-class men without property the vote
- B It got rid of pocket and rotten boroughs

197. What were the campaigners called who presented petitions to Parliament asking for working-class people to be given the vote?

- A The Chartists
- B The Suffragettes
- C The Fenians
- D The Quakers

198. Which TWO years saw Acts of Parliament that let married women keep the money they earned and their own property?

Choose two answers.

- A 1832
- B 1882
- C 1870
- D 1867

199. In 1903 Emmeline Pankhurst helped to found a group whose members were the first to be called 'suffragettes'. What was it called?

- A The Chartists
- B The Women's Social and Political Union
- C The Women's Franchise League
- D The Fenians

200. In 1918, women over what age won the vote and could also become candidates for Parliament?

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

201. True or false: Just before Emmeline Pankhurst's death in 1928, women won the vote at 21, the same age as men.

- A True
- B False

202. Which TWO views about the future of the British Empire were held in the late 19th century?

Choose two answers.

- A Most British people believed the Empire did more harm than good
- B Supporters said its frequent conflicts were a drain on resources
- C Critics said it was over-expanded and its conflicts wasted resources
- D Supporters said it benefited Britain through more trade

203. Which of these statements about the Boer War (1899-1902) is correct?

- A The British fought settlers from the Netherlands in South Africa
- B The British fought settlers from France in India

204. Which TWO statements about Rudyard Kipling are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A His birthplace was Manchester, in 1858
- B In 1907 he received the Nobel Prize in Literature
- C His birthplace was India, in 1865
- D He wrote the song Auld Lang Syne

The 20th century

205. True or false: In the early 20th century, members of Parliament began to be paid a salary for the first time.

- A True
- B False

206. Which TWO factors helped create the conditions for the First World War?

Choose two answers.

- A The Great Depression
- B Increasing militarism
- C Growing nationalism in many European states
- D Hitler's invasion of Poland

207. Whose assassination on 28 June 1914 started the chain of events that led to the First World War?

- A Ernest Rutherford
- B Adolf Hitler
- C Winston Churchill
- D Archduke Franz Ferdinand

208. Which TWO countries were among the Allied Powers fighting alongside Britain in the First World War?

Choose two answers.

- A France
- B Japan
- C Germany
- D The Ottoman Empire

209. Which TWO of these were Central Powers, fighting against Britain in the First World War?

Choose two answers.

- A The Austro-Hungarian Empire
- B Bulgaria
- C Russia
- D Serbia

210. Which of these statements is correct?

- A Fewer than 50,000 Indian soldiers fought for Britain in the First World War
- B More than a million Indian soldiers fought for Britain in the First World War

211. Roughly how many British casualties were there on the first day of the British attack at the Somme in July 1916?

- A About 60,000
- B About 6,000
- C About 2 million
- D About 300,000

212. On which date did the First World War end, at 11 o'clock in the morning?

- A 6 June 1944

- B 28 June 1914
- C 11 November 1916
- D 11 November 1918

213. In which year did the British government promise 'Home Rule' for Ireland?

- A 1913
- B 1921
- C 1916
- D 1949

214. True or false: Under the Home Rule proposal, Ireland would have left the UK completely.

- A True
- B False

215. What was the 1916 uprising against the British in Dublin called?

- A The Easter Rising
- B The Blitz
- C The Troubles
- D The Battle of Britain

216. True or false: After the Easter Rising, its leaders were pardoned and set free.

- A True
- B False

217. In which year was Ireland divided into two countries?

- A 1916
- B 1913
- C 1922
- D 1949

218. In which year did the Irish Free State become a republic?

- A 1921
- B 1949
- C 1922
- D 1936

219. What name is often given to the conflict between those who wanted full Irish independence and those loyal to the British government?

- A Home Rule
- B The Troubles
- C The Easter Rising
- D The Great Depression

220. True or false: The 'Great Depression' began around the world in 1929.

- A True
- B False

221. How did car ownership in Britain change between 1930 and 1939?

- A It rose tenfold, reaching 1 million from 100,000
- B It doubled, reaching 2 million from 1 million
- C It halved, falling to 1 million from 2 million
- D It doubled, reaching 4 million from 2 million

222. Which TWO writers were prominent in Britain in the period between the two world wars?

Choose two answers.

- A Ernest Rutherford
- B Evelyn Waugh

- C Graham Greene
- D Alexander Fleming

223. Which economist became known for important new economic theories in the inter-war period?

- A Howard Florey
- B Graham Greene
- C Ernest Rutherford
- D John Maynard Keynes

224. True or false: In 1922 the BBC started the first regular TV service in the world.

- A True
- B False

225. In which year did Adolf Hitler come to power in Germany?

- A 1929
- B 1933
- C 1939
- D 1914

226. Which country did Hitler invade in 1939, leading Britain and France to declare war?

- A Belgium
- B Austria
- C The Soviet Union
- D Poland

227. Which TWO were Axis powers, on Germany's side in the Second World War?

Choose two answers.

- A Canada
- B Italy
- C Poland
- D The Empire of Japan

228. In which year, as German forces advanced through France, did Winston Churchill become Prime Minister and lead Britain in the war?

- A 1945
- B 1951
- C 1900
- D 1940

229. About how many men were rescued from the beaches around Dunkirk in 1940?

- A More than 300,000
- B More than 30,000
- C More than 1 million
- D More than 60,000

230. True or false: From late June 1940 until June 1941, when Germany attacked the Soviet Union, Britain and its Empire faced Nazi Germany nearly alone.

- A True
- B False

231. What was 'the Battle of Britain', fought in summer 1940?

- A The rescue of soldiers from Dunkirk
- B An air battle the RAF won against the Germans
- C The German night bombing of British cities
- D The allied landings in Normandy

232. True or false: In the Battle of Britain, the RAF's key fighter planes, the Spitfire and the Hurricane, were British designs made in Britain.

- A True
- B False

233. During the Blitz, which city was almost totally destroyed by German bombing?

- A Cambridge
- B Coventry
- C Manchester
- D Edinburgh

234. The United States joined the Second World War in December 1941 after Japan bombed which of its naval bases?

- A Singapore
- B Pearl Harbour
- C Dunkirk
- D Normandy

235. On which date did allied forces land in Normandy, an event known as 'D-Day'?

- A 11 November 1918
- B 8 May 1945
- C 6 August 1945
- D 6 June 1944

236. Which TWO Japanese cities did the United States hit with atom bombs in August 1945?

Choose two answers.

- A Hiroshima
- B Nagasaki
- C Osaka
- D Tokyo

237. Who led the scientists, working at Manchester and later Cambridge University, who first managed to 'split the atom'?

- A John Maynard Keynes
- B Howard Florey
- C Alexander Fleming
- D Ernest Rutherford

238. True or false: In a 2002 public vote, Winston Churchill was named the greatest Briton ever.

- A True
- B False

239. True or false: Alexander Fleming, who discovered penicillin, was born in Wales.

- A True
- B False

240. In which year did Alexander Fleming discover penicillin?

- A 1936
- B 1922
- C 1945
- D 1928

241. Which of these statements is correct?

- A Fleming discovered penicillin while he was researching malaria
- B Fleming discovered penicillin while he was researching influenza

242. Which TWO scientists developed penicillin into a drug that could be used?

Choose two answers.

- A Ernst Chain
- B John Maynard Keynes
- C Howard Florey
- D Ernest Rutherford

Britain since 1945

243. Who became Prime Minister when Labour won the general election of 1945?

- A Aneurin Bevan
- B Winston Churchill
- C Harold Macmillan
- D Clement Attlee

244. Which Minister for Health led the setting up of the National Health Service in 1948?

- A William Beveridge
- B Clement Attlee
- C Aneurin (Nye) Bevan
- D R A Butler

245. True or false: The NHS was set up in 1948 and patients did not pay for treatment when they used it.

- A True
- B False

246. In 1947 a group of countries became independent, among them India, Pakistan and Ceylon. How many countries were in this group?

- A Three
- B Five
- C Twelve
- D Nine

247. Why was the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which the UK joined after the war, set up?

- A To defend member nations against a possible Soviet attack
- B To manage independence for the colonies of the Empire
- C To organise trade between the countries of Western Europe
- D To pay for rebuilding British cities after the bombing

248. Which Prime Minister gave the famous 'wind of change' speech on decolonisation?

- A John Major
- B Margaret Thatcher
- C Harold Macmillan
- D Clement Attlee

249. Which TWO statements about Clement Attlee are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A He led the government between 1945 and 1951
- B He led the Labour Party for 10 years
- C He trained as a chemist before entering politics
- D He was Deputy Prime Minister to Winston Churchill during the war

250. In which year was the Beveridge Report, 'Social Insurance and Allied Services', published?

- A 1942
- B 1941
- C 1945

D 1948

251. Which TWO were among the five 'Giant Evils' that the Beveridge Report said the government should fight?

Choose two answers.

- A Crime
- B Squalor
- C Idleness
- D Greed

252. What did the Education Act 1944 (also known as 'The Butler Act') introduce?

- A Free university education across the UK
- B Secondary schooling at no cost in England and Wales
- C Compulsory schooling for children in Scotland only
- D Free school meals in Northern Ireland

253. Where was the Welsh poet Dylan Thomas born, a place that now has a statue of him and a centre named after him?

- A Swansea
- B Bangor
- C New York
- D Cardiff

254. True or false: Under Milk Wood by Dylan Thomas is a radio play.

- A True
- B False

255. Which TWO statements about Dylan Thomas are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A He died in Swansea at the age of 39
- B Under Milk Wood was first performed after his death
- C He wrote Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night for his dying mother
- D He often read his work aloud to audiences, for example on the BBC

256. In the 1950s, which job in Britain were West Indian recruitment centres looking to fill?

- A Building ships
- B Working in textile mills
- C Mining coal
- D Driving buses

257. True or false: After the Second World War, the UK invited people from the West Indies to come and work in 1948.

- A True
- B False

258. In which decade were The Beatles and The Rolling Stones two well-known British pop groups?

- A The 1950s
- B The 1960s
- C The 1970s
- D The 1980s

259. Which TWO statements about Britain in the 1960s are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A Migration from the West Indies and India rose sharply in the late 1960s
- B Northern Ireland's Parliament was suspended
- C Laws on abortion were made less strict

D Laws on divorce were made less strict

260. Which of these statements is correct?

- A Migration from the West Indies, India and Pakistan went down in the late 1960s because British industry no longer needed workers
- B Migration from the West Indies, India and Pakistan went down in the late 1960s because new laws restricted immigration

261. How many people of Indian origin expelled from Uganda did Britain admit in the early 1970s?

- A 50,000
- B 3,000
- C 9,000
- D 28,000

262. Which TWO statements about Concorde are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A It stopped flying in 2003
- B It first flew in 1969
- C It began carrying passengers in 1969
- D It was developed by Britain and Germany

263. Which Scotsman developed the television in the 1920s?

- A John Logie Baird
- B Bernard Lovell
- C Robert Watson-Watt
- D Frank Whittle

264. True or false: Radar was first tested successfully in 1935.

- A True
- B False

265. Where did Sir Bernard Lovell build his radio telescope, for many years the largest in the world?

- A Oldham in Lancashire
- B Enfield in north London
- C Jodrell Bank in Cheshire
- D Cambridge in Cambridgeshire

266. What is the Turing machine, invented by the mathematician Alan Turing in the 1930s?

- A A theoretical mathematical device
- B The first cash machine
- C An early jet engine
- D A radar receiver for detecting aircraft

267. In which year was the structure of DNA discovered through work at universities in London and Cambridge?

- A 1953
- B 1978
- C 1935
- D 1969

268. Sir Frank Whittle, a Royal Air Force engineer officer, developed which invention in the 1930s?

- A The jet engine
- B Radar
- C The Harrier jump jet
- D The hovercraft

- 269. True or false: James Goodfellow invented the cash machine (ATM) in the 1980s.**
A True
B False
- 270. True or false: Oldham in Lancashire was the birthplace, in 1978, of the first 'test-tube baby' in the world.**
A True
B False
- 271. Which TWO statements about British scientific achievements are correct?**
Choose two answers.
A Alan Turing helped to discover insulin
B Dolly the sheep was the first mammal to be cloned
C Dolly the sheep was cloned in 1978
D Sir Peter Mansfield co-invented the MRI scanner
- 272. On what date was information first successfully sent over the World Wide Web, invented by Sir Tim Berners-Lee?**
A 4 July 1976
B 1 January 1985
C 25 December 1990
D 25 December 1996
- 273. Which of these statements is correct?**
A The Harrier jump jet, which can take off vertically, was developed jointly by Britain and France
B The Harrier jump jet, which can take off vertically, was designed and built in the UK
- 274. In the late 1970s Britain faced difficulties with its 'balance of payments'. What did this mean?**
A Wages rose faster than the price of goods
B The government spent more on the NHS than on defence
C Imports were worth more than the money earned from exports
D Exports were worth more than the money spent on imports
- 275. In which year was the Northern Ireland Parliament suspended and direct rule from the UK government introduced?**
A 1985
B 1972
C 1998
D 1969
- 276. In which event did Mary Peters win an Olympic gold medal in 1972?**
A Rowing
B Swimming
C Pentathlon
D Marathon
- 277. True or false: The athlete Mary Peters was born in Northern Ireland.**
A True
B False
- 278. Which of these countries was NOT one of the six countries that founded the EEC in 1957?**
A Italy
B France
C The United Kingdom
D Belgium
- 279. True or false: The UK joined the European Economic Community (EEC) when it was formed**

in 1957.

- A True
- B False

280. Which TWO statements about Margaret Thatcher are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A She became Leader of the Conservative Party in 1970
- B She remained Prime Minister until 1997
- C Her father was a grocer in Grantham, Lincolnshire
- D She became the UK's first woman Prime Minister in 1979

281. True or false: Margaret Thatcher served as Prime Minister for longer than anyone else in the 20th century.

- A True
- B False

282. Which TWO changes were made by Margaret Thatcher's government?

Choose two answers.

- A Creation of the National Health Service
- B Taking the railways into public ownership
- C Legal controls on the powers of trade unions
- D Privatisation of nationalised industries

283. In 1982, which country invaded the Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic, a British overseas territory?

- A Iraq
- B Spain
- C Argentina
- D Uganda

284. Which Prime Minister followed Margaret Thatcher and helped to start the peace process in Northern Ireland?

- A Tony Blair
- B Gordon Brown
- C John Major
- D Harold Macmillan

285. True or false: Roald Dahl served in the Royal Navy during the Second World War.

- A True
- B False

286. Which TWO did Tony Blair's Labour government introduce?

Choose two answers.

- A Direct rule of Northern Ireland from London
- B A Welsh Assembly
- C UK membership of the European Economic Community
- D A Scottish Parliament

287. Which TWO statements about Northern Ireland are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A The Northern Ireland Assembly was suspended in 2002 and not restored until 2007
- B The Good Friday Agreement was signed in 1998
- C The Northern Ireland Assembly was first elected in 1972
- D The Good Friday Agreement was signed under Margaret Thatcher

288. In which year did Gordon Brown take over from Tony Blair as Prime Minister?

- A 1997

- B 2007
- C 2010
- D 2002

289. During the 1990s, Britain had a leading part in freeing which country after it was invaded by Iraq in 1990?

- A Afghanistan
- B Yugoslavia
- C The Falkland Islands
- D Kuwait

290. True or false: British combat troops withdrew from Iraq in 2003.

- A True
- B False

291. After the May 2010 general election, which two parties formed a coalition government?

- A Labour and the Liberal Democrats
- B Labour and the Scottish National Party
- C The Conservatives and Labour
- D The Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats

292. True or false: The 2010 general election was the first since February 1974 in which no party won an overall majority.

- A True
- B False

The UK today

293. In which part of Europe is the UK located?

- A The south west
- B The south east
- C The north east
- D The north west

294. About how far is it from John O'Groats in Scotland to Land's End in England?

- A About 2,870 miles
- B About 370 miles
- C About 870 miles
- D About 1,870 miles

295. True or false: Most people in the UK live in the countryside.

- A True
- B False

296. What is the capital city of Scotland?

- A Edinburgh
- B Glasgow
- C Dundee
- D Aberdeen

297. What is the capital city of Wales?

- A Cardiff
- B Swansea
- C Newport
- D Belfast

298. Which TWO of these cities are in Wales?

Choose two answers.

- A Newport
- B Dundee
- C Swansea
- D Plymouth

299. How many pence are there in one pound sterling?

- A 240
- B 50
- C 10
- D 100

300. Which TWO of these values are UK coins?

Choose two answers.

- A 20p
- B 30p
- C £3
- D £2

301. True or false: Shops in the UK must accept banknotes issued in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

- A True
- B False

302. True or false: Welsh is a dialect of English.

- A True
- B False

303. Which language, different from English, do some people in the Highlands and Islands speak?

- A Manx
- B Cornish
- C Welsh
- D Gaelic

304. Why are people in the UK living longer than ever before?

- A More people living in the countryside
- B Better living standards and health care
- C Smaller families than in the past
- D Shorter working hours for most people

305. True or false: When a man and a woman are married, both have the same responsibility for their children.

- A True
- B False

306. Which of these statements is correct?

- A On average, girls finish school with higher qualifications than boys
- B More men than women study at university

307. Roughly what share of the workforce in Britain is made up of women?

- A About half
- B About three quarters
- C About a tenth
- D About a quarter

Religion

308. What is a Sikh place of worship called?

- A A church
- B A synagogue
- C A mosque
- D A gurdwara

309. Which of these statements is correct?

- A By law, every person in the UK may choose a religion or choose to have none.
- B By law, everyone in England must belong to the Church of England.

310. Since which decade has the Church of England existed?

- A The 1430s
- B The 1730s
- C The 1630s
- D The 1530s

311. True or false: The Church of England has the monarch as its head.

- A True
- B False

312. Who leads the Church of England spiritually?

- A The Moderator of the General Assembly
- B The Speaker of the House of Commons
- C The Archbishop of Canterbury
- D The Prime Minister

313. In practice, who usually chooses the Archbishop of Canterbury and other senior officials of the Church of England?

- A The Speaker and a Commons committee
- B The Moderator and the General Assembly
- C The Prime Minister and a Church committee
- D The House of Lords and the bishops

314. True or false: Several Church of England bishops are members of the House of Lords.

- A True
- B False

315. The Church of Scotland belongs to which type of Church?

- A Presbyterian
- B Roman Catholic
- C Anglican
- D Baptist

316. How long does a Moderator of the Church of Scotland's General Assembly serve?

- A For life
- B Four years
- C Five years
- D One year

317. True or false: Wales has the Church of England as its established Church.

- A True
- B False

318. Which TWO names are used for the Church of England outside England?

Choose two answers.

- A The Methodist Church
- B The Anglican Church

- C The Presbyterian Church
- D The Episcopal Church

319. Which TWO of these are Protestant Christian groups?

Choose two answers.

- A Quakers
- B Buddhists
- C Roman Catholics
- D Methodists

320. Which patron saint's day falls on 30 November?

- A St George's Day
- B St Andrew's Day
- C St Patrick's Day
- D St David's Day

321. Which TWO parts of the UK give people an official holiday on their patron saint's day?

Choose two answers.

- A Scotland
- B Northern Ireland
- C England
- D Wales

322. True or false: St Patrick's Day, on 17 March, is the patron saint's day of Wales.

- A True
- B False

Customs and traditions

323. What is the public holiday on the day after Christmas Day called?

- A Shrove Tuesday
- B Boxing Day
- C Hogmanay
- D Easter Monday

324. Which TWO foods are often part of the special meal eaten on Christmas Day?

Choose two answers.

- A Roast turkey
- B Pancakes
- C Mince pies
- D Chocolate eggs

325. Lent is the period before Easter when Christians reflect and prepare. How many days does it last?

- A 30
- B 40
- C 5
- D 8

326. Why were pancakes traditionally made on Shrove Tuesday?

- A To celebrate the birth of Jesus
- B To use up food before fasting
- C To be a symbol of new life
- D To mark the start of winter

327. True or false: Lent begins on Shrove Tuesday.

- A True

B False

328. Which festival, lasting five days in October or November, is widely known as the Festival of Lights?

- A Diwali
- B Eid al-Fitr
- C Vaisakhi
- D Eid ul Adha

329. Which TWO religious groups celebrate Diwali?

Choose two answers.

- A Jews
- B Hindus
- C Sikhs
- D Muslims

330. For how many days is the Jewish festival of Hannukah celebrated?

- A 3
- B 8
- C 5
- D 40

331. What does Eid al-Fitr celebrate?

- A The end of Ramadan
- B The founding of the Khalsa
- C The Jewish struggle for religious freedom
- D The prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son

332. True or false: In Britain, an animal sacrificed for Eid ul Adha must be killed in a slaughterhouse.

- A True
- B False

333. On which date is the Sikh festival of Vaisakhi celebrated each year?

- A 14 February
- B 14 April
- C 1 April
- D 11 November

334. In Scotland, what is 31 December called?

- A Shrove Tuesday
- B Hogmanay
- C Boxing Day
- D Ash Wednesday

335. True or false: In Scotland, 2 January is a public holiday as well as 1 January.

- A True
- B False

336. On April Fool's Day, 1 April, until what time do people traditionally play jokes on each other?

- A Midday
- B 6.00 pm
- C 11.00 am
- D Midnight

337. Which of these statements is correct?

- A Mothering Sunday is the Sunday three weeks after Easter

B Father's Day falls on the third Sunday of June

338. Which TWO are Halloween traditions?

Choose two answers.

- A Dressing up in frightening costumes for 'trick or treat'
- B Wearing red poppies
- C Carving lanterns from pumpkins
- D Sending anonymous cards to someone you secretly admire

339. Bonfire Night on 5 November has its origin in a failed plot to blow up Parliament in which year?

- A 1642
- B 1605
- C 1688
- D 1588

340. True or false: On Remembrance Day, 11 November, a two-minute silence is held at 11.00 am.

- A True
- B False

341. Which TWO are times of year when the UK has bank holidays without religious meaning?

Choose two answers.

- A Early March
- B Late October
- C The beginning of May
- D August

Sport

342. Where was the main site of the 2012 Olympic Games?

- A Aintree, near Liverpool
- B Newmarket, Suffolk
- C Wembley, London
- D Stratford, East London

343. Which TWO of these years are years when the UK hosted the Olympic Games?

Choose two answers.

- A 1984
- B 1966
- C 1948
- D 1908

344. True or false: At the 2012 Olympic Games, the British team finished third in the medal table.

- A True
- B False

345. Whose work at Stoke Mandeville hospital in Buckinghamshire is the origin of the Paralympic Games?

- A Sir Roger Bannister
- B Sir Steve Redgrave
- C Sir Francis Chichester
- D Sir Ludwig Guttman

346. In which year did Sir Roger Bannister become the first man to run a mile in less than four minutes?

- A 1948
- B 1984

- C 1954
- D 1966

347. Who captained England's football team to victory in the 1966 World Cup?

- A Sir Ian Botham
- B Bobby Moore
- C Sir Steve Redgrave
- D Sir Roger Bannister

348. True or false: Sir Ian Botham was captain of the English football team.

- A True
- B False

349. In which sport did Sir Steve Redgrave win gold medals at five Olympic Games in a row?

- A Cycling
- B Rowing
- C Sailing
- D Swimming

350. Which TWO of these are achievements of Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson?

Choose two answers.

- A She sailed alone around the world
- B She was first in the London Marathon six times
- C She won Olympic gold for ice dancing
- D She won 11 Paralympic gold medals

351. In 2012, who became the first British winner of the Tour de France?

- A Bradley Wiggins
- B Mo Farah
- C Sir Chris Hoy
- D Andy Murray

352. Which TWO of these statements about Mo Farah are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A He was born in Somalia
- B He won Olympic gold in the heptathlon in 2012
- C He won Olympic gold in the 10,000 metres in 2012
- D He won the Tour de France in 2012

353. Andy Murray won the US Open in 2012. No British man had taken a Grand Slam singles title since which year?

- A 1936
- B 1966
- C 1908
- D 1948

354. True or false: Ellie Simmonds won her Paralympic gold medals in cycling.

- A True
- B False

355. The Ashes is a series of cricket Test matches between England and which country?

- A India
- B Australia
- C New Zealand
- D South Africa

356. Rugby has two different types with different rules. Which TWO are they?

Choose two answers.

- A Union
- B League
- C Grand Slam
- D Premier

357. Which is the best-known rugby union competition?

- A The Super League
- B The Open Championship
- C The Ashes
- D The Six Nations Championship

358. Where is the National Horseracing Museum?

- A Aintree, near Liverpool
- B Ayr, Scotland
- C Newmarket, Suffolk
- D Ascot, Berkshire

359. Which Scottish town is called the home of golf?

- A Ayr
- B Glasgow
- C St Andrews
- D Edinburgh

360. True or false: The Open Championship is played on the same golf course every year.

- A True
- B False

361. Where was the first tennis club founded, in 1872?

- A Leamington Spa
- B Cowes
- C St Andrews
- D Wimbledon

362. True or false: Wimbledon is the only 'Grand Slam' tennis event that is played on grass.

- A True
- B False

363. Which of these statements is correct?

- A In 1966/67 Sir Robin Knox-Johnston was the first to sail alone round the world
- B In 1966/67 Sir Francis Chichester became the first to sail alone round the world

364. On which river do Oxford and Cambridge Universities hold a popular rowing race every year?

- A The Clyde
- B The Severn
- C The Tyne
- D The Thames

365. Which TWO of these people have been Formula 1 world champion?

Choose two answers.

- A Sir Jackie Stewart
- B Bradley Wiggins
- C Sir Chris Hoy
- D Lewis Hamilton

366. Europe's longest dry ski slope is near which city?

- A Belfast
- B Cardiff
- C Manchester
- D Edinburgh

Arts and culture

367. Since which year has the BBC organised the Proms, the summer season of orchestral classical concerts?

- A 1952
- B 1968
- C 1984
- D 1927

368. Henry Purcell, who developed a distinctly British style of music, was the organist at which church?

- A Durham Cathedral
- B St Paul's Cathedral
- C Canterbury Cathedral
- D Westminster Abbey

369. Which TWO pieces did George Frederick Handel write for British kings?

Choose two answers.

- A Façade
- B The Planets
- C Water Music
- D Music for the Royal Fireworks

370. True or false: The composer Handel was born in Germany and gained British citizenship in 1727.

- A True
- B False

371. The popular hymn I vow to thee my country uses a tune adapted from which piece?

- A Holst's Jupiter
- B Handel's Water Music
- C Walton's Façade
- D Elgar's Land of Hope and Glory

372. True or false: The Pomp and Circumstance Marches were written by Benjamin Britten.

- A True
- B False

373. Which composer, who wrote for orchestras and choirs, was deeply shaped by the old folk music of England?

- A Ralph Vaughan Williams
- B Henry Purcell
- C George Frederick Handel
- D Sir William Walton

374. Which TWO are among the best-known works of Sir William Walton?

Choose two answers.

- A Messiah
- B Peter Grimes
- C Balthazar's Feast
- D Façade

375. Which music festival, still an event of international importance, was founded by Benjamin Britten?

- A The National Eisteddfod
- B The Aldeburgh festival
- C The Edinburgh Festival
- D The Glastonbury festival

376. Which of these statements is correct?

- A Sir William Walton composed coronation marches for George VI and Elizabeth II
- B Handel composed the Water Music for George II

377. The National Eisteddfod, a yearly festival of music, dance, art and poetry competitions, is held in which country?

- A Northern Ireland
- B Wales
- C Scotland
- D England

378. True or false: Boy and girl bands became a trend in British pop in the 1960s.

- A True
- B False

379. Who wrote The Mousetrap, the murder-mystery play running in London's West End since 1952?

- A Dame Agatha Christie
- B Harold Pinter
- C Evelyn Waugh
- D Graham Greene

380. Which TWO are comic operas by Gilbert and Sullivan?

Choose two answers.

- A HMS Pinafore
- B Evita
- C The Mikado
- D Cats

381. In a British pantomime, what is the Dame?

- A The theatre's director
- B A male character played by a woman
- C An animal played by two actors in one costume
- D A female character played by a man

382. True or false: Many British theatres put on a pantomime in the summer.

- A True
- B False

383. The Edinburgh Festival Fringe is mainly a showcase of what?

- A Classical orchestral music
- B Contemporary painting
- C Garden design
- D Theatre and comedy

384. True or false: Sir Laurence Olivier, after whom the yearly London theatre awards are named, was best known for roles in Shakespeare plays.

- A True
- B False

385. Hans Holbein and Sir Anthony Van Dyck came from abroad to paint in Britain. In which centuries did they work there?

- A 14th and 15th
- B 16th and 17th
- C 19th and 20th
- D 18th and 19th

386. True or false: In the Middle Ages, most art in Britain had a religious theme.

- A True
- B False

387. In which year was the Turner Prize for contemporary art established?

- A 1984
- B 1927
- C 1952
- D 1968

388. Which TWO people are past winners of the Turner Prize?

Choose two answers.

- A Richard Wright
- B Damien Hirst
- C Ian McEwan
- D Hilary Mantel

389. Which landscape painter is most famous for his pictures of Dedham Vale, where Suffolk meets Essex?

- A Sir John Lavery
- B John Constable
- C Thomas Gainsborough
- D David Allan

390. True or false: David Allan, painter of The Origin of Painting, was a Welsh artist.

- A True
- B False

391. Which TWO artists belonged to the Pre-Raphaelites?

Choose two answers.

- A Lucian Freud
- B Dante Gabriel Rossetti
- C David Hockney
- D Holman Hunt

392. David Hockney was an important contributor to which art movement of the 1960s?

- A The gothic revival
- B Art Deco
- C Pop art
- D The Pre-Raphaelites

393. True or false: Joseph Turner is credited with making portrait painting more highly regarded.

- A True
- B False

394. The White Tower, part of the Tower of London, is a Norman castle keep. Who ordered it to be built?

- A William the Conqueror
- B Henry VIII
- C Elizabeth I

D Alfred the Great

395. Which 17th-century architect designed the Queen's House at Greenwich and the Banqueting House in Whitehall?

- A Robert Adam
- B Sir Edwin Lutyens
- C Sir Christopher Wren
- D Inigo Jones

396. The Scottish architect Robert Adam designed both the building and the interior of which great house?

- A The Banqueting House
- B Hardwick Hall
- C The Queen's House
- D Dumfries House

397. Which of these statements is correct?

- A The Houses of Parliament and St Pancras Station date from the 19th century and are in the gothic style
- B The Houses of Parliament and St Pancras Station date from the 18th century and are in a simple style

398. True or false: Sir Edwin Lutyens was responsible for the Cenotaph in Whitehall.

- A True
- B False

399. What did Lancelot 'Capability' Brown design in the 18th century?

- A Art Deco ceramics for homes
- B Furniture for great houses
- C Stained glass for churches
- D Natural-looking grounds for country houses

400. True or false: Gertrude Jekyll often worked with Sir Christopher Wren, designing gardens around his buildings.

- A True
- B False

401. Which TWO are leading British fashion designers of recent years?

Choose two answers.

- A Vivienne Westwood
- B Clarice Cliff
- C Gertrude Jekyll
- D Mary Quant

402. Who wrote The Lord of the Rings, chosen in a 2003 vote as the UK's favourite novel?

- A J K Rowling
- B Jane Austen
- C Charles Dickens
- D JRR Tolkien

403. Which English novelist wrote Pride and Prejudice and Sense and Sensibility?

- A Jane Austen
- B Agatha Christie
- C Thomas Hardy
- D Evelyn Waugh

404. True or false: In everyday speech, calling someone 'a Mr Micawber', after the Dickens

character, means they are mean with money.

- A True
- B False

405. Which TWO books were written by Robert Louis Stevenson?

Choose two answers.

- A Kidnapped
- B Jude the Obscure
- C Lucky Jim
- D Treasure Island

406. Which author and poet wrote Far from the Madding Crowd, a novel about rural society?

- A Charles Dickens
- B Sir Kingsley Amis
- C Thomas Hardy
- D Graham Greene

407. Which fictional character did the Scottish doctor and writer Sir Arthur Conan Doyle create?

- A Harry Potter
- B Sherlock Holmes
- C Mr Micawber
- D James Bond

408. True or false: The most famous novel of Evelyn Waugh, a satirical writer, is probably Brideshead Revisited.

- A True
- B False

409. Which TWO novels were written by Graham Greene?

Choose two answers.

- A Our Man in Havana
- B Decline and Fall
- C Scoop
- D Brighton Rock

410. Which Anglo-Saxon poem tells of a hero who fights monsters?

- A Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
- B The Canterbury Tales
- C Beowulf
- D Paradise Lost

411. Which TWO poems have survived from the Middle Ages?

Choose two answers.

- A Paradise Lost
- B The Tyger
- C The Canterbury Tales
- D Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

412. True or false: A sonnet, a type of poem Shakespeare wrote many of, must be 14 lines long.

- A True
- B False

413. Which poet, inspired by his religious views as Protestant ideas spread, wrote Paradise Lost?

- A William Wordsworth
- B Ted Hughes
- C John Milton
- D John Keats

414. What mainly inspired the poems of Sir Walter Scott?

- A The beauty of nature
- B His Protestant religious views
- C Scotland and the songs of the border area
- D His time fighting in the First World War

415. Which of these statements is correct?

- A Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon based poems on what they lived through in the First World War
- B Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon were 19th-century poets inspired mainly by nature

416. Which TWO were poets of the 19th century, when poetry was very popular?

Choose two answers.

- A Sir John Betjeman
- B Lord Byron
- C Ted Hughes
- D John Keats

Leisure

417. Some people in the UK rent an extra piece of land to grow fruit and vegetables. What is this land called?

- A A garden centre
- B A biome
- C A national park
- D An allotment

418. Which TWO of these famous gardens are in Scotland?

Choose two answers.

- A Sissinghurst
- B Crathes Castle
- C Mount Stewart
- D Inveraray Castle

419. True or false: Most shops in the UK open every day of the week, but often for a shorter time on Sundays and on public holidays.

- A True
- B False

420. Haggis is a traditional food of which part of the UK?

- A Wales
- B Scotland
- C England
- D Northern Ireland

421. Which TWO foods are traditionally associated with England?

Choose two answers.

- A Roast beef
- B Fish and chips
- C Ulster fry
- D Haggis

422. In which year were films first shown to the public in the UK?

- A 1926
- B 1856
- C 1946

D 1896

423. Which British actor became famous in silent films for playing a tramp?

- A David Niven
- B Richard Burton
- C Colin Firth
- D Charlie Chaplin

424. Which of these statements is correct?

- A Sir Alfred Hitchcock never worked outside Britain and stopped making films in the 1930s.
- B Sir Alfred Hitchcock moved to Hollywood and was still a major director when he died in 1980.

425. Which British film helped to raise people's spirits during the Second World War?

- A Lawrence of Arabia
- B Chariots of Fire
- C Passport to Pimlico
- D In Which We Serve

426. Which TWO films were British comedies from the 1950s and 1960s?

Choose two answers.

- A Touching the Void
- B The Killing Fields
- C Passport to Pimlico
- D The Ladykillers

427. True or false: Ealing Studios can claim to be the world's oldest film studio facility that has never stopped working.

- A True
- B False

428. Nick Park has won Oscars for animated films. Which characters appear in several of them?

- A Wallace and Gromit
- B Morecambe and Wise
- C Harry Potter
- D James Bond

429. Which yearly film awards are the UK's equivalent of the Oscars?

- A The Ealing Studios Awards
- B The London Cinema Prizes
- C The Royal Film Medals
- D The British Academy Film Awards

430. Which TWO of these famous British films were directed by David Lean?

Choose two answers.

- A Lawrence of Arabia
- B The Third Man
- C Chariots of Fire
- D Brief Encounter

431. True or false: The Third Man (1949) was directed by Alfred Hitchcock.

- A True
- B False

432. When was the satirical magazine Punch first published?

- A In the 1740s
- B In the 1900s
- C In the 1840s

D In the 1960s

433. Which TWO of these are satirical magazines?

Choose two answers.

- A Punch
- B Private Eye
- C Coronation Street
- D Spitting Image

434. True or false: Music hall, a kind of variety theatre, was widespread in the UK until TV took over as the main entertainment.

- A True
- B False

435. In which year did Monty Python's Flying Circus bring a new, progressive kind of comedy to British television?

- A 1989
- B 1969
- C 1949
- D 1999

436. People rent separate rooms in a shared house, each with their own tenancy agreement. How many TV licences are needed?

- A One for each tenant
- B One for the whole house
- C None, if the landlord has one
- D One for each TV set

437. How is the BBC paid for?

- A Mainly by advertisements
- B Mainly by subscriptions
- C By the National Lottery
- D By money from TV licences

438. What is the minimum age for buying alcohol at a pub or night club in the UK?

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

439. True or false: A 16-year-old may drink beer or wine alongside a meal in a restaurant if a person aged over 18 is with them.

- A True
- B False

440. What is the minimum age for going into a betting shop or gambling club?

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

441. True or false: In public places, every dog must wear a collar showing its owner's name and address.

- A True
- B False

Places of interest

442. What is Big Ben strictly the nickname of?

- A The Ferris wheel on the River Thames
- B The tower that holds the Parliament clock
- C The great bell of the Parliament clock
- D The main gate of the Tower of London

443. True or false: The clock tower at the Houses of Parliament was named Elizabeth Tower to mark the 2012 Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

- A True
- B False

444. Where is the Eden Project?

- A The Lake District
- B Edinburgh
- C Cornwall
- D North Wales

445. Where is the Giant's Causeway?

- A On Northern Ireland's north-east coast
- B In North Wales
- C In the west of Scotland
- D In south-west England

446. Which is the biggest body of fresh water on mainland Britain?

- A Windermere
- B Ullswater
- C Loch Lomond
- D Wastwater

447. The London Eye was first built as part of which celebration?

- A The coronation of 1953
- B The new millennium
- C The founding of the National Trust
- D The 2012 Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II

448. Which of these statements is correct?

- A Henry VIII built the first Tower of London after he became king.
- B William the Conqueror built the first Tower of London after he became king.

449. Which TWO things can visitors do at the Tower of London?

Choose two answers.

- A Ride a Ferris wheel over the Thames
- B Take a tour with the Yeoman Warders
- C See the great bell called Big Ben
- D See the Crown Jewels

450. True or false: Three volunteers set up the National Trust in 1895.

- A True
- B False

451. True or false: Edinburgh Castle's long history begins in the early Middle Ages.

- A True
- B False

452. Which TWO statements about the Lake District are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A Loch Lomond lies inside it

- B Windermere is its biggest stretch of water
- C It is England's largest national park
- D Snowdon is its best-known landmark

The development of British democracy

453. 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

454. 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

455. 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

456. 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

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

- A True
- B False

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

- A True
- B False

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- A True
- B False

The British constitution

463. 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

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

- A True
- B False

465. 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

466. 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

467. 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

468. 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

469. 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

470. 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

471. 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

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

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

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

- A True
- B False

474. Who was Queen Elizabeth II married to?

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

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

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

476. 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

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

- A True
- B False

478. 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

479. 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

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

- A True
- B False

481. 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

482. 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

483. 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

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

- A True
- B False

485. 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

486. 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

487. 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

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

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

489. 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

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

- A True
- B False

491. 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

492. 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

493. 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

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

- A True
- B False

495. 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

496. Who chairs debates in the Commons?

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

497. 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

498. 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

499. 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

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

- A True
- B False

501. 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

502. 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

503. 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

504. 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

505. 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

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

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

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

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

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

- A True
- B False

509. 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

510. Which minister is responsible for the economy?

- A Foreign Secretary

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

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

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

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

- A True
- B False

513. 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

514. 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

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

- A True
- B False

516. 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

517. 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

518. 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

519. 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

520. Which organisation speaks for British business?

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

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

- A True
- B False

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

Choose two answers.

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

523. How many local authorities does London have?

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

524. 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.

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

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

526. 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

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

- A True
- B False

528. 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

529. 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

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

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

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

Choose two answers.

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

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

- A True
- B False

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

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

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

- A True
- B False

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

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

536. 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

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

- A True
- B False

538. 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

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

- A True

B False

540. 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

541. 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

542. 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

543. 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

544. 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

545. 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

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

- A True
- B False

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

- A True
- B False

548. 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

549. 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

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

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

551. 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

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

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

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

- A True
- B False

554. 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

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

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

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

- A True
- B False

557. 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

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

- A True

B False

559. 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

560. 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

561. 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.

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

- A True
- B False

563. 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

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

- A True
- B False

565. 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

566. 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

567. 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

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

- A True
- B False

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

- A 2012

- B 1998
- C 2008
- D 2011

570. 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

571. 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

572. 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

573. 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

574. 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

575. 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

576. 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

577. 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

578. 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

579. 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

580. 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

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

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

582. 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

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

- A True
- B False

584. 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

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

- A True
- B False

586. 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

587. 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

588. 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

589. 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

590. 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

591. 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

592. 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.

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

- A True
- B False

594. 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

595. 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

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

- A True
- B False

597. 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

598. 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

599. 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

600. 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

601. 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

602. 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.

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

- A True
- B False

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

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

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

- A True
- B False

606. 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

607. 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

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

- A True
- B False

609. 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

610. 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

611. 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

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

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

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

- A True
- B False

614. 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

615. 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

616. 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

617. 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

618. 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

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

- A True
- B False

620. 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

621. 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

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

- A True
- B False

623. 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

624. 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

625. 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

626. What does PTA stand for?

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

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

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

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

- A True
- B False

629. 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

630. 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

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

- A True
- B False

632. 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

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

- A True
- B False

634. When are political parties especially busy?

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

635. 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

636. 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

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

- A True
- B False

638. 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

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

- A True
- B False

640. 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

641. 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

642. Which charity works with older people?

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

643. Which charity works with children?

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

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

- A True
- B False

645. 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

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

- A True
- B False

647. Which TWO are environmental charities?

Choose two answers.

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

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

- A True
- B False

649. 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.

650. 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

651. 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. A: The rule of law

The rule of law is on the handbook's list of fundamental principles, along with democracy, individual liberty, tolerance of different faiths and beliefs, and taking part in community life.

2. C and D: Individual liberty; Participation in community life

Individual liberty and participation in community life are both on the list of fundamental principles. The list also includes democracy and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs, not loyalty to one party or one religion.

3. A: True

Tolerance towards people of other faiths and beliefs is on the list of fundamental principles, together with democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and community participation.

4. A: True

The handbook is clear that British society does not accept extremism or intolerance. Its values are based on history and tradition and protected by law.

5. A: A citizenship ceremony

The pledge is part of the citizenship ceremony. In it, new citizens promise to uphold the UK's values.

6. A and C: To observe the UK's laws faithfully; To uphold the UK's democratic values

In the pledge, new citizens promise loyalty to the UK, to uphold its democratic values, to obey its laws faithfully and to carry out their duties as citizens.

7. D: The United Kingdom

The pledge opens with a promise to be loyal to the United Kingdom and to respect its rights and freedoms.

8. A: By law, customs and expectations

The values come from history and traditions. Law, customs and expectations all protect them.

9. A: True

The UK's values have grown out of its history and traditions. They are reflected in the rights, responsibilities and privileges of citizens and permanent residents.

10. B and D: Treat others fairly; Look after the area you live in

Residents should treat others fairly and care for their local area and the environment. They should also respect other people's right to their own opinions and look after themselves and their family.

11. C: To respect and obey the law

Respecting and obeying the law is one of the responsibilities expected of all residents. In return, the UK offers freedoms such as freedom of belief and freedom of speech.

12. B: Freedom from unfair discrimination

Freedom from unfair discrimination is one of the things the UK offers in return for residents meeting their responsibilities.

13. B: False

These responsibilities and freedoms are shared by everyone living in the UK, and all residents are expected to respect them.

14. B: Freedom of belief and religion is offered in the UK

Freedom of belief and religion is one of the freedoms the UK offers. Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs is also a fundamental principle.

15. B: A right to be tried fairly

A fair trial is one of the rights the UK offers, together with the right to take part in electing a government and freedom of speech.

16. B: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

Four countries form the UK: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Ireland outside Northern Ireland is a separate, independent state.

17. C: The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The full official name is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, because the UK includes Northern Ireland as well as Great Britain.

18. A: England, Scotland and Wales

'Great Britain' means only England, Scotland and Wales. Northern Ireland is part of the UK but not of Great Britain.

19. B: False

Great Britain covers only England, Scotland and Wales. Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom, but not of Great Britain.

20. A: True

Northern Ireland is one of the four countries of the UK, with England, Scotland and Wales. The rest of the island of Ireland is a separate, independent state.

21. D: An independent country

Only Northern Ireland belongs to the UK. The rest of the island of Ireland is a separate, independent state.

22. A and D: The Isle of Man; The Channel Islands

The Channel Islands and the Isle of Man are Crown dependencies. St Helena and the Falkland Islands are British overseas territories.

23. B: False

The Isle of Man has close links with the UK but does not belong to it. Like the Channel Islands, it is a Crown dependency with its own government.

24. D: Crown dependencies

These islands are known as Crown dependencies. They have close links with the UK but do not belong to it.

25. B: The Crown dependencies have their own governments

Both the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man have a government of their own. They are linked with the UK but do not belong to it.

26. A and B: They are linked to the UK; They are not part of the UK

British overseas territories, for example St Helena and the Falkland Islands, are in other parts of the world. They have links with the UK but do not belong to it.

27. A: St Helena

St Helena is a British overseas territory, like the Falkland Islands. The Isle of Man and the Channel Islands are Crown dependencies, and Northern Ireland is part of the UK.

28. A: Westminster

The parliament at Westminster governs the UK. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland each have their own parliament or assembly as well.

29. A: True

Alongside the parliament at Westminster, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have their own parliaments or assemblies, which hold powers passed down to them in defined areas.

30. B and D: Wales; Scotland

Great Britain is England, Scotland and Wales. Northern Ireland is in the UK but not in Great Britain, and the Isle of Man is not part of the UK at all.

31. D: About 10,000 years ago

Across much of the Stone Age, land joined Britain to the continent. The Channel split them for good only about 10,000 years ago.

32. A: True

The first people in Britain were hunter-gatherers. They moved back and forth over a land bridge, following the deer and horses they hunted.

33. D: About 6,000 years ago

Farming reached Britain roughly 6,000 years back. These farmers' ancestors most likely came from south-east Europe, and they built houses, tombs and monuments.

34. D: Wiltshire

Stonehenge, built by early farmers in the Stone Age, is in Wiltshire. It was probably a meeting place for ceremonies held at certain seasons.

35. C: Orkney

Skara Brae is on Orkney, off Scotland's north coast. It has taught archaeologists a lot about how people lived late in

the Stone Age.

36. A: Round barrows

Bronze-making began roughly 4,000 years ago. Bronze Age people had roundhouses as homes and put their dead in tombs known as round barrows.

37. D: Dorset

Some Iron Age people lived in defended hill forts. A striking example, Maiden Castle, survives in Dorset.

38. C and D: They spoke a language from the Celtic family; Some lived in defended sites called hill forts

Iron Age people spoke a Celtic language and some lived in hill forts. Stonehenge dates from the Stone Age, and Christian communities first appeared in Roman times.

39. B: False

The first coins minted in Britain came from the Iron Age, and some bore the names of kings of that time. This is seen as the start of British history.

40. B: AD 43

Julius Caesar's invasion in 55 BC failed. In AD 43 Claudius invaded again and, despite resistance from some tribes, the Romans took almost all of Britain.

41. D: The Iceni

Boudicca led the Iceni, whose land lay in today's eastern England. A statue of her stands on Westminster Bridge, close to the Houses of Parliament.

42. B: The Picts

The Romans never conquered parts of what is now Scotland. Hadrian's Wall was meant to keep out the Picts, who were ancestors of the Scottish people.

43. A and C: Vindolanda; Housesteads

The wall included several forts, and Housesteads and Vindolanda survive. Hadrian's Wall is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and popular with walkers.

44. C and D: Introduced new plants and animals; Built roads and public buildings

In their 400 years in Britain the Romans built roads and public buildings, set up a structure of law and brought new plants and animals.

45. A: True

The Romans stayed in Britain for 400 years. The earliest Christian communities there appeared in the 3rd and 4th centuries, within that period.

46. D: AD 410

The Roman army left in AD 410, needed to protect other areas of the empire. Tribes from northern Europe then invaded Britain.

47. C and D: The Angles; The Saxons

The Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes invaded after AD 410, and their languages are the basis of modern English. The Picts and the Iceni were already in Britain.

48. C: Suffolk

At Sutton Hoo in Suffolk, a king was laid in a ship with his treasure and armour, and the ship was then covered with an earth mound.

49. B: False

St Patrick became the patron saint of Ireland. Another missionary from Ireland, St Columba, set up a monastery on Iona.

50. D: St Augustine

Missionaries from Rome, led by St Augustine, took Christianity to southern Britain. Augustine was the first to be Archbishop of Canterbury.

51. D: AD 789

Vikings from Denmark and Norway first raided Britain in AD 789, taking goods and slaves. Later they stayed and set up communities.

52. D: Alfred the Great

The Anglo-Saxon kingdoms joined together under Alfred the Great, who beat the Vikings. Later England briefly had Danish kings, the first being Cnut.

53. B: Many Vikings settled in northern and eastern England, in the area called the Danelaw.

Many Viking invaders stayed in the Danelaw, in England's east and north. Local place names like Grimsby and Scunthorpe have Viking origins.

54. A: True

The Viking threat pushed people in the north to join under Kenneth MacAlpin. Around then the name Scotland came into use for that country.

55. A: Harold

Harold died in the battle and William took the throne, becoming William the Conqueror. The Bayeux Tapestry, still on show in France, records the battle.

56. C and D: The Welsh slowly won back land from the Normans; Norman French influenced the English language

Norman French, spoken by the new rulers, shaped modern English. Wales was conquered at first but the Welsh regained territory. William came from Normandy, in today's northern France.

57. B: False

Normans and Scots clashed along the border, and the Normans gained some border land, but they never invaded Scotland.

58. B: False

That survey was the Domesday Book, which still exists and shows English society just after the Conquest. The Bayeux Tapestry is an embroidery of the Battle of Hastings.

59. A: 1485

The Middle Ages, also called the medieval period, cover the years from the Norman Conquest to about 1485, a time of nearly constant war.

60. C: Edward I

Edward I's Statute of Rhuddlan of 1284 annexed Wales. The last Welsh rebellions were crushed by the mid-15th century, and English laws and language came in.

61. B and D: Caernarvon; Conwy

After Wales was annexed, the English built huge castles such as Conwy and Caernarvon to hold their power. Windsor and Edinburgh are castles still in use today.

62. A: Robert the Bruce

Robert the Bruce led the Scottish victory at Bannockburn in 1314, so Scotland was not conquered by the English.

63. C: Dublin

English troops first came to Ireland to help the Irish king, then stayed and built settlements. By 1200 they controlled the Pale, the area around Dublin.

64. A: The Holy Land

In the Crusades, Christians from Europe fought to win the Holy Land, and many knights took part.

65. B: False

Despite its name, the Hundred Years War actually went on for 116 years. The English finally left France in the 1450s.

66. D: Henry V

Agincourt, in 1415, is one of the best-remembered battles of the long war with France. Henry V's much smaller army defeated the French.

67. A: Feudalism

Under feudalism the king handed land to lords, who had to help him fight. In northern Scotland and Ireland, land was held by members of clans (prominent families).

68. B: False

Most peasants were serfs. They farmed a small plot belonging to the lord, worked for him in exchange and were not allowed to leave.

69. A: 1348

The Black Death, a disease that was probably a type of plague, reached Britain in 1348. It was among the worst disasters Britain has ever suffered.

70. B: One third

One in three people in England died, and Scotland and Wales lost a similar share of their people.

71. A and C: New social classes appeared, including the gentry; Workers were scarce and peasants asked for higher wages

With fewer people, fewer cereal crops were needed and workers were scarce, so peasants pushed for better pay. New classes such as the gentry arose, and people moved from the countryside into towns.

72. A: True

The disease hit the Pale hard, and for a while the part of Ireland run by the English became smaller.

73. B: John

Before 1215 there were few formal limits on royal power. That year King John had to accept the Magna Carta, meaning the Great Charter.

74. A: True

The Magna Carta protected the nobles' rights and limited the king's power to raise taxes or make and change laws, so he had to involve his noblemen.

75. B and C: Bishops; Great landowners

Nobles, bishops and great landowners made up the Lords. Knights and rich townspeople were elected to the Commons, and only a few people could vote.

76. B: False

Scotland's Parliament had three Houses, known as Estates: one each for the clergy, the lords and the commons.

77. C: By following earlier decisions and tradition

English judges built common law through precedence, meaning following previous decisions, and tradition. The idea that judges are independent of government also began to take hold.

78. A: True

Scotland's legal system grew up a little differently from England's: its laws were codified, whereas English common law rested on precedence and tradition.

79. A and B: Apple; Cow

Norman French and Anglo-Saxon merged into one English language. 'Apple', 'cow' and 'summer' come from Anglo-Saxon, while 'park' and 'beauty' come from Norman French.

80. B: False

By 1400 official documents in England were being written in English, which had become the language preferred by the royal court and Parliament.

81. C: Geoffrey Chaucer

Geoffrey Chaucer wrote The Canterbury Tales in the years before 1400. The pilgrims in the poems tell each other stories as they travel.

82. B: He was the first to print books on a press in England

No one in England had printed books on a press before Caxton, and The Canterbury Tales was among the first books he printed.

83. B: The Battle of Bannockburn

Many Scots kept speaking Gaelic, while the Scots language was also developing. Poets wrote in Scots, among them John Barbour, whose The Bruce tells of Bannockburn.

84. B: York Minster

Great cathedrals such as Lincoln Cathedral were built in the Middle Ages, and many had stained-glass windows. York Minster's glass is a famous example.

85. B: Wool

England was a major trading nation in this period, and its wool was a very important product sold abroad.

86. A and D: Engineers from Germany; Weavers from France

Skilled people came to trade and work. France sent weavers and Germany engineers, while Italy sent glass makers and Holland sent canal builders.

87. C: 1455

The civil war that began in 1455 was a fight over the English throne between supporters of two families, Lancaster and York.

88. B: Lancaster's symbol was a red rose and York's symbol was a white rose.

The war took its name from the families' symbols: a red rose for Lancaster and a white rose for York.

89. D: Richard III

Bosworth Field ended the Wars of the Roses. Richard III, from the York side, died there, and Henry Tudor, leading Lancaster, took the throne as Henry VII.

90. B and C: He was the first Tudor king; He married Elizabeth of York

Henry Tudor led the House of Lancaster and won at Bosworth. By marrying Elizabeth of York, King Richard's niece, he joined the two families, and the Tudor symbol put a white rose inside a red one.

91. B: Built up central government and cut the power of the nobles

Henry VII wanted peace and a secure crown, so he made the central administration stronger, weakened the nobles and saved money carefully. His son Henry VIII kept centralising power.

92. B: Catherine of Aragon

Catherine of Aragon came from Spain. Of their children only Mary lived, and Henry later sought a divorce in the hope of a son with a new wife.

93. A: Anne Boleyn

Anne Boleyn, an Englishwoman, had one daughter with Henry: Elizabeth, who later became Queen Elizabeth I.

94. D: The Pope would not approve his divorce

Henry needed the Pope's agreement to divorce his first wife. When it was refused, he created the Church of England, where the king rather than the Pope chose bishops.

95. A: A Europe-wide movement against the Pope's authority

The Reformation spread across Europe and challenged the authority, ideas and practices of the Pope and the Roman Catholic Church. Its followers, the Protestants, set up their own churches.

96. B: Henry VIII

The Act came in Henry VIII's reign. Afterwards the Welsh had representatives in the House of Commons, and their legal system was reformed.

97. A: Edward VI

Edward VI, Henry VIII's son, was a strong Protestant. The Book of Common Prayer dates from his reign.

98. C: She persecuted Protestants

Mary, a devout Catholic, treated Protestants harshly. She reigned only a short time and was followed by her half-sister Elizabeth.

99. C: 1588

In 1588 England beat the Armada, a big fleet sent by Spain to conquer the country and bring back Catholicism. Elizabeth I was especially popular afterwards.

100. B: The Golden Hind

Drake's Golden Hind circumnavigated the world. Drake also helped command the English against the Spanish Armada and is seen as a founder of England's naval tradition.

101. B: A modern copy of an early Shakespeare theatre

The Globe is a present-day reconstruction of the theatres used for Shakespeare's first performances. His works are still staged and studied in many countries.

102. B: James VI of Scotland

Elizabeth never married and had no children. The throne passed to her cousin, King James VI of Scotland, who then also ruled England, Wales and Ireland as James I.

103. B: The English Bible translated in James I's reign

Also called the King James Version, it came after earlier English Bibles, but many Protestant churches still use it.

104. A: Settlements of Scottish and English Protestants on land taken from Catholic landholders

The English government encouraged Protestants to move to Ulster in the north of Ireland. Many settlers were from south-west Scotland, and James later set up plantations elsewhere in Ireland too.

105. A: The belief that God directly chose the king to rule

James I and Charles I both held this belief and thought a king should not need Parliament's approval to act.

106. C: 1642

War started in 1642, after Charles I failed to arrest five parliamentary leaders. Supporters of the king were called Cavaliers and those of Parliament Roundheads.

107. A: 1649

Parliament had clearly won by 1646, but Charles, held as a prisoner, still refused to agree terms. He was executed in 1649.

108. D: The Commonwealth

With no monarch, England was declared a republic named the Commonwealth. At first the army held control.

109. D: Lord Protector

Cromwell took the title Lord Protector after his Irish campaign and his victory at Worcester, and kept it until his death in 1658.

110. A: The Netherlands

Charles II came back from the Netherlands and was crowned king of all four countries: England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

111. A: Sir Christopher Wren

The fire destroyed much of London, including St Paul's. The city was rebuilt with a new cathedral by the well-known architect Sir Christopher Wren.

112. B: 1679

The Act of 1679 made sure nobody could be held in prison unlawfully. Every prisoner has the right to a hearing in court.

113. C: How gravity works throughout the universe

Newton's best-known work explained gravity across the whole universe. He also found that white light contains all the colours of the rainbow.

114. D: 1688

In 1688 William, a Protestant married to James II's daughter Mary, was asked to come and claim the throne. He met no resistance and James fled to France.

115. B: The Battle of the Boyne

James invaded Ireland with French help to win back the crown, but William beat him at the Boyne and James went back to France.

116. B: Jacobites

Some people, especially in Scotland, kept backing James after he lost the throne. Some joined him in France; these supporters were known as Jacobites.

117. B: Unlike the Church of England, the Protestant Church of Scotland was not a state Church

In 1560 the Scottish Parliament ended the Pope's authority in Scotland. The new Church of Scotland, unlike the Church of England, was not a state Church.

118. A: Shakespeare was one of the first writers to show ordinary English men and women

He dramatised important events from history but did not limit himself to royalty. He also invented many words still in common use.

119. A: When James VI of Scotland became King of England, Scotland stayed a separate country

In 1603 James VI also became king of England, Wales and Ireland, yet Scotland kept its separate status.

120. A: True

Anne Boleyn was unpopular and faced accusations of having lovers. Her execution took place at the Tower of London.

121. B: False

Catherine Howard was related to Anne Boleyn as her cousin, not to Jane Seymour. Like Anne, she was accused of having lovers and executed.

122. B: False

In the Church of England it was the king, not the Pope, who appointed bishops and decided how people should

worship.

123. A: True

Edward VI, a strong Protestant, died aged 15 after a reign of just over six years. His half-sister Mary then took the throne.

124. A: True

Everyone had to go to their local church and follow set services, but the queen did not enquire into private beliefs. This balance helped her avoid serious religious conflict in England.

125. A: True

Her father died when she was a week old, so she became queen as a baby. She spent much of her childhood in France.

126. A: True

Drake helped lead the English against the Armada and is regarded as helping to found England's naval tradition.

127. A: True

Henry VII and Henry VIII spread English control beyond the Pale to the whole of Ireland, and Henry VIII called himself King of Ireland.

128. B: False

The Roundheads backed Parliament. The king's supporters were called the Cavaliers.

129. A: True

Cromwell beat Charles II's Scottish army at Worcester. Charles got away, at one point famously hiding up an oak tree, and later fled to Europe.

130. B: False

Richard failed to keep the army and government under control. With Oliver gone there was no clear leadership, and people started to talk about having a king again.

131. A: True

The Habeas Corpus Act of 1679 meant no one could be kept in prison unlawfully; every prisoner is entitled to a hearing in court.

132. A: True

Newton, born in Lincolnshire and drawn to science at Cambridge, discovered this about light. He is also known for his work on gravity.

133. A: True

All Scottish clans had to take an oath accepting William. The MacDonalds of Glencoe swore it late and were all killed, and the massacre made some Scots distrust the new government.

134. A and B: Catherine Howard; Anne Boleyn

Anne Boleyn and her cousin Catherine Howard both faced accusations of having lovers and were put to death. Jane Seymour died soon after giving birth, and Catherine Parr outlived Henry.

135. B and C: They used Bibles in their own languages, not Latin; They put each person's own bond with God above obeying the Church

Protestants rejected the Pope's authority, read the Bible in their own language and stopped praying to saints or at shrines. A person's own relationship with God mattered more to them than obeying the Church.

136. A and D: The Book of Common Prayer dates from his reign; He was strongly Protestant

Edward was the son of Henry VIII and Jane Seymour. He was a firm Protestant, his reign lasted just over six years, and the Book of Common Prayer comes from that time.

137. A and C: His birthplace was Stratford-upon-Avon; He was both a playwright and an actor

Shakespeare came from Stratford-upon-Avon and acted as well as writing plays and poems. The fire diary was written by Samuel Pepys, and today's Globe in London is a modern copy, not an original theatre.

138. A and C: Marston Moor; Naseby

The king's army lost at Marston Moor and Naseby, and by 1646 Parliament had clearly won. The Boyne and Killiecrankie came after the Glorious Revolution.

139. A and D: Dunbar; Worcester

The Scots crowned Charles II and he marched into England, but Cromwell beat his army at Dunbar and Worcester.

Parliament then controlled Scotland too.

140. A and D: A great fire that destroyed much of the city; A major outbreak of plague

Plague struck London in 1665, killing thousands, and a great fire followed the next year. Samuel Pepys described these events in his diary.

141. B and C: Sir Isaac Newton; Sir Edmund Halley

The Royal Society was set up under Charles II to promote 'natural knowledge'. Halley correctly forecast that the comet now named after him would come back.

142. A and B: He let Roman Catholics become army officers; He arrested some Church of England bishops

James II, a Catholic, let Catholics serve as army officers although an Act of Parliament banned it, and did not try to agree with Parliament. People feared he wanted England to be Catholic again.

143. B and D: England saw no fighting; It secured Parliament's power

William took the throne without resistance in England, and the change ended the danger of a monarch ruling alone just as he or she pleased.

144. A and B: He tried to force a revised Prayer Book on Scotland's Presbyterian Church; He entered the House of Commons to arrest five parliamentary leaders

The Prayer Book caused serious unrest in Scotland. Later Charles failed to arrest five leaders in the Commons, who had been warned, and war could no longer be avoided.

145. A: 1689

The Bill of Rights came in 1689, after William and Mary took the throne. From then on the balance of power between the monarch and Parliament was changed for good.

146. A: True

Parliament now decided who could take the throne, and it ruled that the monarch must be Protestant.

147. A and B: Funding for the army and navy needed Parliament's approval every year; Elections for a new Parliament were required at least every three years

Parliament now had to be elected at least once every three years, and the monarch needed its approval each year for army and navy funding. Taxes also needed Parliament's agreement.

148. C: The Whigs and the Tories

The monarch needed ministers who could win a majority in both Houses, and two groups formed, the Whigs and the Tories. Today's Conservative Party is still sometimes called the Tories.

149. D: 1695

From 1695 newspapers no longer needed a government licence, and more and more of them appeared. This was an important step towards a free press.

150. B: False

No women could vote at all. Only men owning property of a certain value had the vote, so it was far from a modern democracy.

151. A: A constituency in the hands of one rich family

Some constituencies were in the hands of one rich family and were called pocket boroughs. Those with almost no voters were called rotten boroughs.

152. C: 1656

Jewish settlers arrived in London in 1656, the first since the Middle Ages. At this time many people also left Britain for new colonies in America.

153. A and C: They were Protestants who had suffered persecution because of their faith; Many were skilled and worked in science, banking or weaving

The Huguenots were Protestant refugees from France who came between 1680 and 1720. Many had a good education and became scientists or bankers, or worked in crafts such as weaving.

154. A: 1707

The Act of Union of 1707 joined Scotland with England and Wales as the Kingdom of Great Britain. It followed uncertainty over who would succeed Queen Anne.

155. A: True

Scotland stopped being an independent country, but it kept its own legal system, its own education system and its

Presbyterian Church.

156. D: He was the closest Protestant relative of Anne

George I was German and was picked because he was Anne's closest Protestant relative. His English was poor, so he relied more on his ministers.

157. B: Sir Robert Walpole

The leading minister in Parliament came to be known as the Prime Minister. Sir Robert Walpole was the first, holding the post from 1721 to 1742.

158. D: 1746

Charles Edward Stuart landed in Scotland in 1745 and won some early successes. His army was beaten at Culloden in 1746, and he fled back to Europe.

159. B and D: Clansmen from the Scottish highlands supported him; After his defeat he escaped back to Europe

Charles, a grandson of James II, raised an army of highland clansmen in 1745 to replace George II. He lost at Culloden in 1746 and fled to Europe.

160. A: Crofts

Landlords knocked down many crofts to free the land for sheep and cattle. Evictions were frequent in the early 1800s, and many Scots left for North America.

161. A and C: He was a Scottish poet, called 'The Bard' in Scotland; He changed or added lyrics to many traditional folk songs

Burns wrote in Scots and in English and reworked many folk songs. His best-known work is probably Auld Lang Syne, sung at New Year. The Nobel Prize and The Jungle Book belong to Kipling.

162. B: Adam Smith worked out ideas about economics

Adam Smith's ideas on economics are still referred to today. David Hume wrote about human nature; steam power was James Watt's work.

163. A: True

Many of the great Enlightenment thinkers were Scottish, such as Adam Smith, who wrote about economics, and David Hume, who wrote about human nature.

164. A: True

Britain led the way. Its Industrial Revolution, across the 1700s and 1800s, came from new machinery and steam power. Before it, farming was Britain's largest employer.

165. D: The mass production of steel

Producing steel in large amounts helped the growth of shipbuilding and the railways. Manufacturing then became the main source of jobs in Britain.

166. A: A barber

Arkwright worked as a barber who could dye hair and make wigs, but when wigs went out of fashion he moved into textiles.

167. B and D: He improved the original carding machine; He created spinning mills powered by horses, using a single machine

Arkwright improved carding, which prepares fibres to be spun, and made spinning more efficient. He later used the steam engine to drive his machines.

168. B: False

Arkwright is remembered for running his factories in an efficient and profitable way. Canals were built in this period to link factories with towns and ports.

169. B: False

No law protected employees at that time. Children worked too and were treated like adults, sometimes even more harshly.

170. A: Australia

Cook mapped Australia's coast and some colonies followed. In the same period Britain took control of Canada, while the East India Company came to control much of India.

171. A and B: Tea; Spices

India and today's Indonesia supplied textiles, tea and spices, while sugar and tobacco were brought from the West

Indies and North America.

172. C: The first curry house in Britain

His Hindoostane Coffee House was Britain's first curry house. With his wife he also brought 'shampooing', an Indian head massage, to Britain.

173. B: False

Slavery was against the law inside Britain, but the overseas slave trade was a fully established industry dominated by Britain and its American colonies.

174. D: West Africa

Slaves were mainly taken from West Africa to America and the Caribbean and forced to labour on sugar and tobacco plantations.

175. A: True

In the late 1700s Quakers formed the first organised groups against slavery and asked Parliament to ban it.

176. C: William Wilberforce

Wilberforce and other abolitionists won the public over. From 1807 slave trading was banned on British ships and in British ports.

177. C: 1833

The slave trade in British ships was banned in 1807, and slavery itself was ended across the Empire in 1833. After that, 2 million workers from India and China were taken on in place of the freed slaves.

178. B: No taxation without representation

The colonists felt the taxes threatened their liberty because they had no representatives in the British Parliament.

179. B: 1776

The colonies declared independence in 1776. After the colonists defeated the British army, Britain recognised their independence in 1783.

180. A: True

Britain won at Trafalgar in 1805 against the French and Spanish fleets. Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square remembers him, and his ship HMS Victory is in Portsmouth.

181. C and D: He later became Prime Minister; He defeated Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815

Wellington, known as the Iron Duke, ended the French Wars at Waterloo in 1815 and was later Prime Minister. Nelson died at Trafalgar; Walpole was the first Prime Minister.

182. B: 1801

Following an Act of Union passed in 1800, Ireland joined in 1801. Before that it had shared a monarch with England and Wales since the time of Henry VIII but was a separate country.

183. A and D: The cross of St George; The cross of St Patrick

St George's cross (England) is red on white, and St Patrick's (Ireland) is red and diagonal on white. St Andrew's (Scotland) is white and diagonal on blue. Wales is not shown on the flag.

184. B: False

Wales has its own official flag with a dragon, but it is not on the Union Flag because Wales was already joined to England when the first version of the flag was designed.

185. A: 1606

The first Union Flag of 1606 combined the Scottish and English flags. Wales was already part of England then, so the Welsh dragon was not included.

186. A: True

Victoria became queen at 18 in 1837 and ruled for almost 64 years. Britain's power and influence abroad grew during her reign.

187. D: 1846

The Corn Laws were scrapped in 1846 as part of the move towards free trade. Raw materials became cheaper to import, which helped British industry.

188. A: True

The Corn Laws kept out cheap grain. Removing them in 1846 was one example of the government's free trade policies.

189. C and D: He was originally from Portsmouth; He built the Great Western Railway

Brunel was an engineer from Portsmouth who built tunnels, bridges, railways and ships. His Great Western Railway, from Paddington, was the first major railway in Britain.

190. D: 1851

The Great Exhibition of 1851 was held in a huge steel and glass building. Countries from around the world took part, but most exhibits were British-made.

191. D: Russia

Britain, Turkey and France fought Russia. Queen Victoria created the Victoria Cross during this war to honour brave soldiers.

192. A: True

It was the first war covered in depth by news reports and photographs. Many soldiers died from diseases caught in hospital rather than from their wounds.

193. A: St Thomas' Hospital in London

Her school at St Thomas' was the first school like it and is still open. She had earlier nursed soldiers in Turkey during the Crimean War, and she is often called the founder of modern nursing.

194. D: Potatoes

Many Irish people relied heavily on potatoes. When the crop failed, a million people died and another 1.5 million emigrated.

195. B: Charles Stuart Parnell wanted Ireland to remain part of the UK with a parliament of its own

Parnell argued for 'Home Rule', with Ireland keeping its place in the UK. Other nationalists, such as the Fenians, wanted full independence.

196. B: It got rid of pocket and rotten boroughs

The 1832 Act greatly increased the number of voters and gave more seats to towns and cities. Voting still depended on owning property, so the working class could not vote.

197. A: The Chartists

The Chartists wanted the vote for working people and others without property. Another Reform Act followed in 1867, creating more town seats and lowering the property needed to vote.

198. B and C: 1882; 1870

Before 1870 a married woman's money and property became her husband's. Acts of 1870 and 1882 changed this. The Reform Acts of 1832 and 1867 were about voting.

199. B: The Women's Social and Political Union

In 1889 Pankhurst founded the Women's Franchise League, and in 1903 she helped start the WSPU. WSPU members used civil disobedience, such as smashing windows and hunger strikes.

200. C: 30

Women over 30 won the vote in 1918, partly in recognition of their war work in the First World War. Just before 1928 the age was lowered to 21, the same as for men.

201. A: True

In 1918 only women over 30 could vote. Shortly before 1928 the voting age for women was brought down to 21, equal with men.

202. C and D: Critics said it was over-expanded and its conflicts wasted resources; Supporters said it benefited Britain through more trade

Supporters of expansion pointed to more trade, while critics said the Empire was over-expanded and its conflicts drained resources. Still, most British people thought the Empire did good in the world.

203. A: The British fought settlers from the Netherlands in South Africa

The Boers were Dutch settlers in South Africa who fought hard for over three years. The war led people to doubt that the Empire could last.

204. B and C: In 1907 he received the Nobel Prize in Literature; His birthplace was India, in 1865

Kipling wrote Just So Stories, The Jungle Book and the much-loved poem If. Auld Lang Syne is by Robert Burns, and Manchester in 1858 is Emmeline Pankhurst's birthplace.

205. A: True

Paying MPs was one of the early 1900s reforms and helped more people get involved in public life. Other measures

included pensions for older people and free meals for schoolchildren.

206. B and C: Increasing militarism; Growing nationalism in many European states

Nationalism, militarism, imperialism and Europe's split into two camps set the scene. The Great Depression began in 1929 and Poland was invaded in 1939, both after this war.

207. D: Archduke Franz Ferdinand

The killing of the Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand was the trigger. Other causes, such as nationalism and militarism, had already prepared the ground.

208. A and B: France; Japan

Britain's allies included France, Russia, Japan, Belgium and Serbia, joined later by others such as the United States. Germany and the Ottoman Empire were on the opposing side.

209. A and B: The Austro-Hungarian Empire; Bulgaria

The Central Powers were mainly Germany, Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire, with Bulgaria joining later. Russia and Serbia were among the Allies.

210. B: More than a million Indian soldiers fought for Britain in the First World War

Soldiers came from all over the British Empire. Over a million Indians fought for Britain, about 40,000 of whom died, alongside troops from the West Indies, Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

211. A: About 60,000

On the opening day of the Somme attack alone, Britain had around 60,000 casualties. Over the whole war, British casualties passed 2 million.

212. D: 11 November 1918

Fighting stopped at 11 o'clock in the morning on 11 November 1918, and Britain and its allies were the winners.

213. A: 1913

The promise came in 1913 and a Home Rule Bill went before Parliament. The First World War then caused the government to put changes in Ireland on hold.

214. B: False

Home Rule meant Ireland would govern itself with its own parliament while staying inside the UK. Protestants in the north opposed it and threatened to fight it.

215. A: The Easter Rising

Irish Nationalists did not want to wait until after the war for change, so they rose up in Dublin in 1916. This became known as the Easter Rising.

216. B: False

The leaders were put to death under military law. After that, a guerrilla war was fought in Ireland against the British army and police.

217. C: 1922

A peace treaty was signed in 1921, and in 1922 Ireland split in two: Northern Ireland stayed in the UK and the rest became the Irish Free State.

218. B: 1949

The Irish Free State was formed in 1922 with its own government. It became a republic in 1949.

219. B: The Troubles

Some people in the North and the South still wanted a single independent Ireland. Long disagreement turned into a terror campaign, and the conflict is usually called 'the Troubles'.

220. A: True

After better living conditions in the 1920s, the Great Depression began in 1929. Some parts of the UK then saw mass unemployment.

221. B: It doubled, reaching 2 million from 1 million

Prices generally fell in the 1930s, so people with jobs had more to spend. The number of car owners doubled, reaching 2 million by 1939.

222. B and C: Evelyn Waugh; Graham Greene

The inter-war years saw a cultural flowering, with Graham Greene and Evelyn Waugh among the leading writers. Rutherford and Fleming were scientists.

223. D: John Maynard Keynes

John Maynard Keynes put forward influential economic ideas during the cultural flowering of the inter-war years.

224. B: False

1922 was when BBC radio broadcasts began. The BBC's regular television service, a world first, started in 1936.

225. B: 1933

Hitler took power in 1933. He considered the terms the Allies had placed on Germany after the First World War to be unjust and he wanted more land for Germans.

226. D: Poland

Britain had tried to avoid another war. Once Germany attacked Poland in 1939, both Britain and France declared war to halt Hitler.

227. B and D: Italy; The Empire of Japan

On the Axis side were fascist Germany, fascist Italy and the Japanese Empire. Poland and Canada were among the main allied countries.

228. D: 1940

Churchill took office in May 1940 at a moment of national crisis. He had first become an MP in 1900 and came back as Prime Minister in 1951.

229. A: More than 300,000

The Navy, helped by civilians in small fishing and pleasure boats, brought over 300,000 soldiers back. The phrase 'the Dunkirk spirit' comes from this rescue.

230. A: True

After France fell, Britain and its Empire had almost no other allies fighting Germany until Hitler turned on the Soviet Union in 1941.

231. B: An air battle the RAF won against the Germans

Hitler needed control of the skies before invading Britain. British fighter planes resisted and won this vital battle in the air.

232. A: True

These two British-made fighter planes were the key aircraft the Royal Air Force used to win the Battle of Britain.

233. B: Coventry

The Blitz was the German bombing of British cities at night. Coventry was nearly wiped out, and the East End of London also suffered heavy damage.

234. B: Pearl Harbour

Japan's December 1941 bombing of the American base at Pearl Harbour brought the United States into the war.

235. D: 6 June 1944

The allied landings in Normandy took place on 6 June 1944. After winning on the beaches, the Allies pushed through France and into Germany.

236. A and B: Hiroshima; Nagasaki

The war with Japan ended in August 1945 after the atom bombs fell on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Germany had already been defeated in May 1945.

237. D: Ernest Rutherford

Ernest Rutherford headed the team that first split the atom. Fleming and Florey are known for penicillin, and Keynes for his ideas on economics.

238. A: True

Churchill died in 1965 and was given a state funeral. In 2002 the public chose him as the greatest Briton in history.

239. B: False

Fleming was born in Scotland. As a teenager he moved to London, where he later trained and qualified as a doctor.

240. D: 1928

Fleming found penicillin in 1928. In 1945 he received the Nobel Prize in Medicine for this work.

241. B: Fleming discovered penicillin while he was researching influenza

Fleming was studying flu in 1928 when he made the discovery. Penicillin is still used against bacterial infections.

242. A and C: Ernst Chain; Howard Florey

After Fleming's discovery, Florey and Chain turned penicillin into a usable medicine, and it was being mass-produced by the 1940s.

243. D: Clement Attlee

Voters chose a Labour government in 1945, and Clement Attlee took office promising to bring in the welfare state described in the Beveridge Report.

244. C: Aneurin (Nye) Bevan

Aneurin Bevan, known as Nye, was Health Minister and led the creation of the NHS in 1948, giving everyone a basic level of health care.

245. A: True

True. Founded in 1948, the NHS promised a minimum standard of care for everyone, with no charge at the moment of treatment.

246. D: Nine

Nine countries became independent in 1947, among them India, Pakistan and Ceylon (today Sri Lanka). Other colonies followed over the next 20 years.

247. A: To defend member nations against a possible Soviet attack

NATO was a new alliance of nations formed against the perceived danger of attack from the Soviet Union and the countries allied with it. The UK also built its own atomic bomb.

248. C: Harold Macmillan

Harold Macmillan led the Conservative government of the time. His 'wind of change' speech was about the Empire's countries gaining independence.

249. A and D: He led the government between 1945 and 1951; He was Deputy Prime Minister to Winston Churchill during the war

Attlee, a barrister by training, served as Churchill's deputy in the wartime coalition, then led the government between 1945 and 1951. He led Labour for 20 years.

250. A: 1942

The wartime government asked for the report in 1941 and it appeared in 1942. It laid the foundations of today's welfare state.

251. B and C: Squalor; Idleness

The five Giant Evils were Want, Disease, Ignorance, Squalor and Idleness. Crime and Greed were not on the list.

252. B: Secondary schooling at no cost in England and Wales

R A Butler, a Conservative in charge of education from 1941, oversaw the 1944 Act. Its split between primary and secondary schools still exists in most of Britain.

253. A: Swansea

Swansea, his birthplace, has several memorials to him, such as a statue of him and the Dylan Thomas Centre. He died in New York aged 39.

254. A: True

True. Under Milk Wood is a play written for radio. It was first performed in 1954, after Thomas had died.

255. B and D: Under Milk Wood was first performed after his death; He often read his work aloud to audiences, for example on the BBC

Thomas read his work aloud in public and on the BBC. He died in New York, not Swansea, and wrote that 1952 poem for his dying father.

256. D: Driving buses

Labour was short, so industries looked overseas. Bus drivers were recruited in the West Indies, while textile and engineering firms sent agents to recruit in India and Pakistan.

257. A: True

True. To help rebuild the country, the government first encouraged workers from Ireland and elsewhere in Europe, and in 1948 invited people from the West Indies too.

258. B: The 1960s

This was the 1960s, known as 'the Swinging Sixties'. British fashion, cinema and pop music grew, and many people could now afford cars and other consumer goods.

259. C and D: Laws on abortion were made less strict; Laws on divorce were made less strict

The 1960s relaxed the laws on divorce and abortion. Migration fell in the late 1960s, and Northern Ireland's Parliament was suspended in 1972.

260. B: Migration from the West Indies, India and Pakistan went down in the late 1960s because new laws restricted immigration

The government passed laws requiring immigrants to have a strong link to Britain by birth or by ancestry, so the numbers coming fell.

261. D: 28,000

Even though immigration rules had been tightened, Britain accepted 28,000 Ugandan exiles of Indian origin in the early 1970s.

262. A and B: It stopped flying in 2003; It first flew in 1969

Britain and France built Concorde, the only supersonic passenger airliner. Its first flight was in 1969, passenger services started in 1976 and it was retired in 2003.

263. A: John Logie Baird

John Logie Baird developed television in the 1920s, and in 1932 he broadcast the first television pictures between London and Glasgow.

264. A: True

True. Radar was developed by the Scotsman Sir Robert Watson-Watt, who suggested that radio waves could detect enemy aircraft.

265. C: Jodrell Bank in Cheshire

Lovell's work with radar led him to new discoveries in astronomy. He built the radio telescope at Jodrell Bank in Cheshire.

266. A: A theoretical mathematical device

Alan Turing's machine was a theoretical idea in mathematics. It strongly influenced computer science and the development of the modern computer.

267. A: 1953

The discovery came in 1953 and helped advances in medicine and crime-fighting. Francis Crick, one of the Nobel Prize winners for it, was British.

268. A: The jet engine

Whittle developed the jet engine in Britain in the 1930s. The hovercraft came later, in the 1950s, from Sir Christopher Cockerell.

269. B: False

False. Goodfellow invented the ATM in the 1960s, and the first one was used by Barclays Bank in 1967.

270. A: True

True. IVF treatment for infertility was first developed in Britain by Sir Robert Edwards and Patrick Steptoe, leading to this birth in 1978.

271. B and D: Dolly the sheep was the first mammal to be cloned; Sir Peter Mansfield co-invented the MRI scanner

Mansfield co-invented the MRI scanner. Dolly was the first cloned mammal, in 1996. Insulin's co-discoverer was the Scottish physician John MacLeod.

272. C: 25 December 1990

The web's inventor, Sir Tim Berners-Lee, is British. The first successful transfer of information across it happened on 25 December 1990.

273. B: The Harrier jump jet, which can take off vertically, was designed and built in the UK

The Harrier was a UK design able to lift off straight up. It was Concorde, not the Harrier, that Britain built together with France.

274. C: Imports were worth more than the money earned from exports

As the post-war boom ended, prices rose sharply and the pound's exchange rate was unstable, so the value of goods bought in exceeded what exports brought in.

275. B: 1972

The 1970s brought grave unrest to Northern Ireland. In 1972 its Parliament was suspended, and around 3,000

people died in the violence in the decades after 1969.

276. C: Pentathlon

Mary Peters took gold in the pentathlon in 1972, then raised funds for athletics locally and managed the women's British Olympic team.

277. B: False

False. She was born in Manchester and moved to Northern Ireland when she was young. She was made a Dame in 2000.

278. C: The United Kingdom

The EEC was founded in 1957 by West Germany, France, Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. At first the UK chose to stay out.

279. B: False

False. At first the UK chose to stay out, and it only became a member in 1973.

280. C and D: Her father was a grocer in Grantham, Lincolnshire; She became the UK's first woman Prime Minister in 1979

Thatcher became Conservative leader in 1975 and Prime Minister after the 1979 election. She stayed in office until 1990; 1970 is when she joined the cabinet.

281. A: True

True. She held office from 1979 to 1990 and worked closely with US President Ronald Reagan.

282. C and D: Legal controls on the powers of trade unions; Privatisation of nationalised industries

Thatcher's government sold off nationalised industries and limited union powers by law. The NHS and nationalisation of the railways came from the Labour government after 1945.

283. C: Argentina

Argentina invaded in 1982. The UK sent a naval taskforce, and military action won the islands back.

284. C: John Major

John Major took over from Mrs Thatcher and helped start the peace process, which Tony Blair's government later built on.

285. B: False

False. Dahl, born in Wales to a Norwegian family, was in the Royal Air Force. He began publishing in the 1940s and is best known for children's books.

286. B and D: A Welsh Assembly; A Scottish Parliament

Elected in 1997, the Blair government set up a Scottish Parliament with strong law-making powers and a Welsh Assembly. Direct rule began in 1972, and the UK joined the EEC in 1973.

287. A and B: The Northern Ireland Assembly was suspended in 2002 and not restored until 2007; The Good Friday Agreement was signed in 1998

Building on the peace process, the Blair government reached the Good Friday Agreement in 1998. The Assembly was elected in 1999, suspended in 2002 and reinstated in 2007.

288. B: 2007

Tony Blair led Labour to power in 1997, and Gordon Brown replaced him as Prime Minister in 2007.

289. D: Kuwait

British forces were a leading part of the coalition that liberated Kuwait after Iraq's 1990 invasion. Britain was also involved in the conflict in the former Yugoslavia.

290. B: False

False. They left Iraq in 2009. Since 2000 British forces had taken part in operations against international terrorism, including in Afghanistan and Iraq.

291. D: The Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats

In 2010 no party gained an overall majority, so the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats joined forces and the Conservative leader, David Cameron, became Prime Minister.

292. A: True

True. For the first time since February 1974, no single party won a majority, which led to a Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition.

293. D: The north west

The UK is in north-west Europe. Its longest mainland distance runs from John O'Groats to Land's End.

294. C: About 870 miles

It is the longest distance across the mainland: about 870 miles, or roughly 1,400 kilometres, from Scotland's north coast to England's south-west corner.

295. B: False

The majority live in towns and cities. Large parts of Britain remain rural, and many people visit them for holidays, walking, camping and fishing.

296. A: Edinburgh

Edinburgh is Scotland's capital. Glasgow, Aberdeen and Dundee are other Scottish cities.

297. A: Cardiff

Cardiff is the capital of Wales. Swansea and Newport are also Welsh cities, and Belfast is the capital of Northern Ireland.

298. A and C: Newport; Swansea

Swansea and Newport are cities in Wales, along with the capital, Cardiff. Dundee is in Scotland and Plymouth is in England.

299. D: 100

The UK currency is the pound sterling, written with the symbol £, and one pound is made up of 100 pence.

300. A and D: 20p; £2

Coins range from 1p up to £2, with 20p and £2 among them; there is no 30p or £3 coin. The £5, £10, £20 and £50 are banknotes.

301. B: False

Scotland and Northern Ireland have their own banknotes, which can be used anywhere in the UK. But shops and businesses are not obliged to take them.

302. B: False

Welsh is an entirely separate language from English. Many people in Wales speak it, and schools and universities teach it.

303. D: Gaelic

Gaelic is used in some areas of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. Welsh is spoken in Wales, and some people in Northern Ireland speak Irish Gaelic.

304. B: Better living standards and health care

Higher living standards and improved health care mean people live longer. A record number are now 85 or older, which pushes up spending on pensions and health care.

305. A: True

By law men and women must not be treated unfairly because of their gender or whether they are married. Married parents share responsibility for their children equally.

306. A: On average, girls finish school with higher qualifications than boys

Girls on average leave school with better results than boys, and more women than men go on to study at university.

307. A: About half

Today roughly half of all workers are women. They work in every sector of the economy, and more hold senior posts than ever before.

308. D: A gurdwara

Sikhs worship in gurdwaras. Across the UK there are also mosques for Muslims, synagogues for Jews, and Hindu and Buddhist temples.

309. A: By law, every person in the UK may choose a religion or choose to have none.

Although the UK is historically Christian, the law lets every person pick their own religion, or decide not to practise any religion at all.

310. D: The 1530s

The Church of England is a Protestant Church dating from the Reformation of the 1530s, and it is England's established Church.

311. A: True

The monarch heads the Church of England, which reflects the constitutional tie between the state and the Church in England.

312. C: The Archbishop of Canterbury

The Archbishop of Canterbury is the Church of England's spiritual leader. The Moderator chairs the Church of Scotland's General Assembly.

313. C: The Prime Minister and a Church committee

The monarch is entitled to pick the Archbishop and other senior officials, but the choice normally falls to the Prime Minister working with a Church-appointed committee.

314. A: True

Some Church of England bishops have seats in the House of Lords, another sign of the link between Church and state in England.

315. A: Presbyterian

The Church of Scotland, the national Church in Scotland, is Presbyterian and is run by ministers and elders.

316. D: One year

The Moderator chairs the General Assembly and often speaks for the Church of Scotland, but holds the post for a single year.

317. B: False

Wales and Northern Ireland have no established Church. Only in England is the Church of England the state Church.

318. B and D: The Anglican Church; The Episcopal Church

In other countries the Church of England is called the Anglican Church, and in the United States and Scotland the Episcopal Church. Methodists and Presbyterians are separate Protestant groups.

319. A and D: Quakers; Methodists

Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians and Quakers are Protestant groups. Roman Catholics form a different branch of Christianity, and Buddhism is a separate religion.

320. B: St Andrew's Day

30 November is St Andrew's Day, for Scotland. St David's Day is 1 March, St Patrick's Day 17 March and St George's Day 23 April.

321. A and B: Scotland; Northern Ireland

Only Scotland and Northern Ireland make their saint's day an official holiday, though in Scotland some businesses stay open. England and Wales still celebrate theirs with parades and festivals.

322. B: False

St Patrick's Day on 17 March belongs to Northern Ireland. The patron saint's day of Wales is St David's Day on 1 March.

323. B: Boxing Day

Boxing Day follows Christmas Day (25 December), and both are public holidays.

324. A and C: Roast turkey; Mince pies

Typical dishes are roast turkey, mince pies and Christmas pudding. Pancakes belong to Shrove Tuesday and chocolate eggs to Easter.

325. B: 40

Lent covers the 40 days before Easter. People traditionally fasted then, and today many give up something, such as a favourite food.

326. B: To use up food before fasting

Shrove Tuesday, or Pancake Day, is the day before Lent. Pancakes used up foods like eggs, fat and milk before the fasting period began. Chocolate eggs stand for new life at Easter.

327. B: False

False. Shrove Tuesday is the day before; Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, when Christians may be marked with a cross of ash on the forehead.

328. A: Diwali

Diwali celebrates good beating evil, and gaining knowledge. Leicester holds a famous Diwali celebration.

329. B and C: Hindus; Sikhs

Diwali is a Hindu and Sikh festival. Muslims celebrate the two Eids, and Jews celebrate Hannukah.

330. B: 8

Hannukah, in November or December, lasts eight days. A candle is lit each day on a menorah, recalling oil meant for one day that burned for eight.

331. A: The end of Ramadan

Eid al-Fitr follows a month of fasting by Muslims during Ramadan. Its date moves every year, and Muslims go to special services and meals.

332. A: True

True. Eid ul Adha recalls that Ibrahim was ready to sacrifice his son at God's command. Many Muslims kill an animal for food, which in Britain must happen in a slaughterhouse.

333. B: 14 April

Vaisakhi (also written Baisakhi) falls on 14 April. It marks the start of the Sikh community called the Khalsa, with parades, dancing and singing.

334. B: Hogmanay

Scots call New Year's Eve Hogmanay. For some Scottish people it matters more than Christmas.

335. A: True

True. New Year's Day is a public holiday across the UK, and Scotland also has a public holiday on 2 January.

336. A: Midday

April Fool jokes are played only until midday. Newspapers and TV often run joke stories on that day.

337. B: Father's Day falls on the third Sunday of June

Father's Day falls on the third Sunday in June. Mothering Sunday comes three weeks before Easter, not after it; on both days children send cards or give gifts.

338. A and C: Dressing up in frightening costumes for 'trick or treat'; Carving lanterns from pumpkins

Halloween (31 October) comes from a pagan festival marking the start of winter. Anonymous cards belong to Valentine's Day and poppies to Remembrance Day.

339. B: 1605

In 1605 Guy Fawkes led a Catholic group that tried, and failed, to blow up the Houses of Parliament and kill the Protestant king.

340. A: True

True. The day remembers people killed while fighting for the UK and its allies; at first it honoured the First World War dead (the war ended on 11 November 1918). Wreaths are placed at the Cenotaph.

341. C and D: The beginning of May; August

Bank holidays fall at the start of May, at the end of May or start of June, and in August. Northern Ireland also has a holiday in July for the Battle of the Boyne anniversary.

342. D: Stratford, East London

The main site of the 2012 Olympics was in Stratford, in the east of London. The Paralympic Games that year were held in London too.

343. C and D: 1948; 1908

The UK has been the Olympic host three times: in 1908, 1948 and 2012. In 1966 England won the football World Cup, and 1984 is when Torvill and Dean won Olympic gold.

344. A: True

British athletes did well in many different Olympic sports in 2012 and ended up third in the table of medals.

345. D: Sir Ludwig Guttman

Sir Ludwig Guttman, a doctor and refugee from Germany, found new ways to treat patients with spinal injuries and got them involved in sport and exercise.

346. C: 1954

Roger Bannister ran a mile in less than four minutes in 1954, the first man anywhere to do so.

347. B: Bobby Moore

Bobby Moore led the England side to World Cup victory in 1966. That tournament was held in the UK.

348. B: False

Ian Botham captained the English cricket team, not the football team, and set English Test records with both bat and ball.

349. B: Rowing

Steve Redgrave won rowing gold at five Olympic Games one after another. He is counted among Britain's greatest Olympians.

350. B and D: She was first in the London Marathon six times; She won 11 Paralympic gold medals

Tanni Grey-Thompson, a wheelchair athlete, took 16 Paralympic medals (11 of them gold) over five Games and was first in the London Marathon six times. Ice dancing gold went to Torvill and Dean.

351. A: Bradley Wiggins

The cyclist Bradley Wiggins won the Tour de France in 2012, a first for a British rider. He also won Olympic gold in 2004, 2008 and 2012.

352. A and C: He was born in Somalia; He won Olympic gold in the 10,000 metres in 2012

Mo Farah, a distance runner born in Somalia, took gold in both the 5,000 m and 10,000 m races in 2012. Wiggins won the Tour de France and Jessica Ennis the heptathlon.

353. A: 1936

No British man had won a Grand Slam singles title since 1936. In 2012 Murray also won Olympic gold and silver and reached the Wimbledon final.

354. B: False

Ellie Simmonds won Paralympic gold in swimming, in 2008 and 2012. Nobody in the British team at the 2008 Games was younger than her.

355. B: Australia

The Ashes is the best-known cricket competition. Cricket started in England and games can go on for as long as five days.

356. A and B: Union; League

Rugby began in England early in the 19th century. Union and league are played under different rules, and each has its own leagues and national teams.

357. D: The Six Nations Championship

England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, France and Italy take part in the Six Nations, while the Super League is the best-known rugby league club competition.

358. C: Newmarket, Suffolk

The museum is in Newmarket in Suffolk. Ascot, Aintree and Ayr host famous race meetings: Royal Ascot, the Grand National and the Scottish Grand National.

359. C: St Andrews

St Andrews is called the home of golf. The modern game goes back to Scotland in the 15th century.

360. B: False

A different golf course hosts The Open each year. It is the only 'Major' golf tournament that takes place outside the United States.

361. A: Leamington Spa

Modern tennis took shape in England towards the end of the 19th century, and the first club was set up in Leamington Spa in 1872.

362. A: True

Wimbledon, held annually at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, is also the oldest tennis tournament anywhere.

363. B: In 1966/67 Sir Francis Chichester became the first to sail alone round the world

Chichester was the first solo round-the-world sailor. Two years later Knox-Johnston was first to do it without a stop.

364. D: The Thames

Rowing is popular both for leisure and as a competitive sport, and the yearly Oxford against Cambridge race takes place on the Thames.

365. A and D: Sir Jackie Stewart; Lewis Hamilton

Jackie Stewart, a Scottish driver, was world champion three times, and Lewis Hamilton is one of the more recent British winners. Hoy and Wiggins are cyclists.

366. D: Edinburgh

There are dry ski slopes across the UK, and the longest in Europe is close to Edinburgh. Scotland also has five ski centres.

367. D: 1927

The BBC has run the Proms since 1927. The season lasts eight weeks, and its best-known concert, the Last Night of the Proms, is shown on television.

368. D: Westminster Abbey

Purcell (1659-95) played the organ at Westminster Abbey. He composed church music and operas, and British composers are still influenced by him.

369. C and D: Water Music; Music for the Royal Fireworks

Handel composed the Water Music for George I and Music for the Royal Fireworks for George II. The Planets is by Holst and Façade is by Walton.

370. A: True

True. Handel lived in the UK for many years and took British citizenship in 1727. His oratorio Messiah is often sung by choirs around Easter.

371. A: Holst's Jupiter

Gustav Holst adapted Jupiter, part of his suite The Planets, as the tune of this hymn. The Planets has one piece for each planet of the solar system.

372. B: False

False. They are by Sir Edward Elgar, who was born in Worcester. March No 1, Land of Hope and Glory, is normally heard at the Last Night of the Proms.

373. A: Ralph Vaughan Williams

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) composed for orchestras and choirs, and old English folk music had a strong effect on his work.

374. C and D: Balthazar's Feast; Façade

Walton's Façade was turned into a ballet, and Balthazar's Feast is written for a big choir. Peter Grimes is an opera by Britten and Messiah is by Handel.

375. B: The Aldeburgh festival

Britten started the Aldeburgh festival in Suffolk. He is best known for operas such as Peter Grimes and Billy Budd.

376. A: Sir William Walton composed coronation marches for George VI and Elizabeth II

Walton composed coronation marches for both George VI and Elizabeth II. Handel's Water Music was for George I; it was the Royal Fireworks music that he wrote for George II.

377. B: Wales

The National Eisteddfod of Wales takes place every year. Most of its performances are in Welsh, and it holds major competitions for Welsh poetry.

378. B: False

False. Boy and girl bands were a trend of the 1990s. The 1960s brought bands such as The Beatles and The Rolling Stones, and Punk followed in the late 1970s.

379. A: Dame Agatha Christie

The Mousetrap is by Agatha Christie. It opened in the West End in 1952 and its original run is longer than that of any other show.

380. A and C: HMS Pinafore; The Mikado

Gilbert and Sullivan's 19th-century comic operas include HMS Pinafore, The Pirates of Penzance and The Mikado. Evita and Cats are shows with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

381. D: A female character played by a man

The Dame is a traditional pantomime role: a woman acted by a man. Pantomimes often also have a horse or cow with two actors inside one costume.

382. B: False

False. Pantomimes are a Christmas tradition. They are cheerful family shows with music and comedy, based on fairy tales.

383. D: Theatre and comedy

The Fringe is the largest part of the Edinburgh Festival, held every summer. It shows mostly theatre and comedy, often experimental.

384. A: True

True. The Laurence Olivier Awards, held each year in London, honour the actor, later Lord Olivier, famous for his Shakespeare roles.

385. B: 16th and 17th

During the 16th and 17th centuries many painters active in Britain were foreign, Holbein and Van Dyck among them. British portrait and landscape artists became famous from the 18th century.

386. A: True

True. Medieval art was mostly religious, such as church wall paintings and pictures in religious books. Much of it disappeared after the Protestant Reformation.

387. A: 1984

The Turner Prize began in 1984 and is named after the painter Joseph Turner. It is seen as one of Europe's most prestigious visual art awards.

388. A and B: Richard Wright; Damien Hirst

Damien Hirst and Richard Wright have won the Turner Prize for contemporary art. Ian McEwan and Hilary Mantel are novelists who won a prize for fiction.

389. B: John Constable

John Constable (1776-1837) painted landscapes, and his best-known works show Dedham Vale in the east of England.

390. B: False

False. David Allan (1744-96) was Scottish and best known for his portraits. The Welsh artist in the list is John Petts, known for engravings and stained glass.

391. B and D: Dante Gabriel Rossetti; Holman Hunt

The Pre-Raphaelites, active in the later 19th century, painted detailed, brightly coloured religious or literary scenes. Members included Holman Hunt, Rossetti and Sir John Millais.

392. C: Pop art

Hockney, born in 1937, played a big part in 1960s pop art and is still influential.

393. B: False

False. Turner (1775-1851) painted landscapes in a modern style and had great influence; he is credited with lifting the status of landscape painting.

394. A: William the Conqueror

The White Tower is a Norman keep, built because William the Conqueror ordered it.

395. D: Inigo Jones

Inigo Jones drew on classical architecture for both buildings. Later that century Wren worked on the new St Paul's Cathedral.

396. D: Dumfries House

In the 18th century Robert Adam designed the inside as well as the structure of houses like Dumfries House. Inigo Jones designed the Queen's House and the Banqueting House.

397. A: The Houses of Parliament and St Pancras Station date from the 19th century and are in the gothic style

The medieval gothic style came back in the 19th century, when many large public buildings went up, including town halls in Manchester and Sheffield.

398. A: True

True. After the First World War Lutyens designed many war memorials around the world, including the Cenotaph, where the yearly Remembrance Day service is held. He also designed New Delhi as India's seat of government.

399. D: Natural-looking grounds for country houses

Brown laid out the land around country houses with grass, trees and lakes so it looked natural. He liked to say a place had 'capabilities'.

400. B: False

False. Jekyll frequently partnered with Edwin Lutyens, creating colourful gardens for the houses he designed.

401. A and D: Vivienne Westwood; Mary Quant

Mary Quant, Vivienne Westwood and Alexander McQueen are recent fashion designers. Clarice Cliff designed Art Deco ceramics and Gertrude Jekyll designed gardens.

402. D: JRR Tolkien

In a 2003 vote, Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* was chosen as the UK's favourite novel.

403. A: Jane Austen

Jane Austen (1775-1817) wrote about marriage and family life. Many of her books have been adapted for film and television.

404. B: False

False. Mr Micawber stands for someone who is always hopeful. The Dickens character whose name means a mean person is Scrooge.

405. A and D: Kidnapped; Treasure Island

Stevenson's best-known books are *Treasure Island*, *Kidnapped* and *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. *Lucky Jim* is by Kingsley Amis and *Jude the Obscure* by Thomas Hardy.

406. C: Thomas Hardy

Thomas Hardy (1840-1928) is best known for novels about country life, such as *Far from the Madding Crowd* and *Jude the Obscure*.

407. B: Sherlock Holmes

Conan Doyle is best known for his Sherlock Holmes stories. Holmes was one of the earliest detectives in fiction.

408. A: True

True. Waugh's satirical novels include *Decline and Fall* and *Scoop*, but *Brideshead Revisited* is probably his most famous.

409. A and D: Our Man in Havana; Brighton Rock

Greene's novels, often shaped by his religious beliefs, include *Brighton Rock*, *Our Man in Havana* and *The Heart of the Matter*. *Decline and Fall* and *Scoop* are by Evelyn Waugh.

410. C: Beowulf

Beowulf is an Anglo-Saxon poem about a hero battling monsters. It is still being translated into modern English.

411. C and D: The Canterbury Tales; Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (a tale of one of King Arthur's knights) are medieval. *Paradise Lost* is by Milton and *The Tyger* by William Blake.

412. A: True

True. A sonnet always has 14 lines. Besides his plays, Shakespeare wrote many sonnets and a few longer poems.

413. C: John Milton

As Protestant ideas spread, some poets wrote about their faith. John Milton was one of them, and *Paradise Lost* is his work.

414. C: Scotland and the songs of the border area

Scott's poems drew on Scotland and the old stories and songs of the Scottish-English border. Owen and Sassoon wrote about the war, Milton about faith, and Wordsworth about nature.

415. A: Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon based poems on what they lived through in the First World War

Owen and Sassoon were poets of the First World War. Wordsworth is the poet named as being inspired by nature.

416. B and D: Lord Byron; John Keats

Keats, Byron, Shelley, Tennyson, Blake and the Brownings wrote in the 19th century. Ted Hughes and John Betjeman are more recent poets.

417. D: An allotment

An allotment is land that people rent on top of any garden they have at home, usually so they can grow their own fruit and vegetables.

418. B and D: Crathes Castle; Inveraray Castle

Crathes Castle and Inveraray Castle are well-known Scottish gardens. Sissinghurst is in England and Mount Stewart is in Northern Ireland.

419. A: True

Most UK shops trade seven days a week. They usually close earlier, or open later, on Sundays and public holidays.

420. B: Scotland

Haggis, a sheep's stomach filled with offal, onions, suet and oatmeal, is linked with Scotland. Wales has Welsh cakes and Northern Ireland the Ulster fry.

421. A and B: Roast beef; Fish and chips

England is linked with roast beef, eaten with potatoes, vegetables and Yorkshire puddings, and fish and chips are popular there too. Haggis is Scottish and the Ulster fry comes from Northern Ireland.

422. D: 1896

Public film showings in the UK began in 1896, and going to the cinema soon became very popular.

423. D: Charlie Chaplin

Charlie Chaplin made his name in silent films as a tramp. Like many other British actors, he built a career in Hollywood.

424. B: Sir Alfred Hitchcock moved to Hollywood and was still a major director when he died in 1980.

Hitchcock was one of the leading directors when British studios did well in the 1930s. He later went to Hollywood and kept his importance as a director until 1980, the year he died.

425. D: In Which We Serve

In the Second World War, British films such as *In Which We Serve* did a lot to keep up morale. *Passport to Pimlico* was a later comedy, and the other two came out in 1962 and 1981.

426. C and D: Passport to Pimlico; The Ladykillers

British comedy films reached a high point in the 1950s and 1960s with titles such as *Passport to Pimlico* and *The Ladykillers*, with the *Carry On* films coming later. *The Killing Fields* is from 1984 and *Touching the Void* from 2003.

427. A: True

Ealing Studios is said to have the longest unbroken record of any film studio anywhere. Many films made in the UK today are produced by foreign companies using British skills.

428. A: Wallace and Gromit

Nick Park's work shows British strength in animation, and several of his Oscar-winning films feature Wallace and Gromit. *Harry Potter* and *James Bond* are film series made in the UK.

429. D: The British Academy Film Awards

The British Academy Film Awards are held every year by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) and are the UK's answer to the Oscars.

430. A and D: Lawrence of Arabia; Brief Encounter

David Lean made *Brief Encounter* (1945) and *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962). *The Third Man* was directed by Carol Reed and *Chariots of Fire* by Hugh Hudson.

431. B: False

Carol Reed directed *The Third Man*. Among the famous British films listed, the one by Hitchcock is *The 39 Steps* from 1935.

432. C: In the 1840s

Satirical magazines started to appear in the 19th century. The best known of them, *Punch*, first came out in the 1840s.

433. A and B: Punch; Private Eye

Punch was the most famous satirical magazine of the 19th century, and *Private Eye* keeps that tradition going today. *Spitting Image* was a satirical TV show and *Coronation Street* is a soap opera.

434. A: True

Comedians were a big part of music hall. Morecambe and Wise, for example, performed in music halls during the

1940s and 1950s and later became TV stars.

435. B: 1969

Monty Python's Flying Circus began in 1969 and brought a new style of progressive comedy. Satire shows were also important, such as Spitting Image, shown in the 1980s and 1990s.

436. A: One for each tenant

Normally a single licence covers all the equipment in a home. When people rent separate rooms on separate tenancy agreements, each of them needs a licence.

437. D: By money from TV licences

TV licence money funds the BBC, including its radio stations, and the BBC is independent of government. Most other UK channels rely mainly on advertising and subscriptions.

438. B: 18

Only people aged 18 or over can be sold alcohol in pubs and night clubs. Younger people may be let into some pubs if an adult is with them.

439. A: True

From 16, people may have beer or wine alongside a meal in a restaurant or hotel, including a pub's dining area, if accompanied by someone aged over 18.

440. A: 18

Betting shops and gambling clubs are only open to people aged 18 or over. Betting on sports and other events is a common pastime in the UK.

441. A: True

Dogs in public must have a collar with the owner's name and address. The owner must also keep the dog under control and clean up after it.

442. C: The great bell of the Parliament clock

Big Ben is the nickname of the great bell in the clock at the Houses of Parliament, though many people use it for the clock too. The tower itself is called Elizabeth Tower.

443. A: True

The tower that holds Big Ben was given the name Elizabeth Tower in honour of the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in 2012.

444. C: Cornwall

The Eden Project is in Cornwall, in south-west England. Its biomes work like huge greenhouses holding plants from around the world, and it is also a charity.

445. A: On Northern Ireland's north-east coast

The Giant's Causeway lies on Northern Ireland's north-east coast. Its columns were made from volcanic lava around 50 million years ago.

446. C: Loch Lomond

Loch Lomond, in a national park in the west of Scotland, is the largest stretch of fresh water in mainland Britain. Windermere is the biggest stretch of water in the Lake District.

447. B: The new millennium

The London Eye, a 135-metre Ferris wheel on the south bank of the Thames, was built for the UK's millennium celebrations and is still part of New Year events.

448. B: William the Conqueror built the first Tower of London after he became king.

William the Conqueror built the first Tower of London once he had become king in 1066, not Henry VIII.

449. B and D: Take a tour with the Yeoman Warders; See the Crown Jewels

At the Tower of London the Yeoman Warders, also called Beefeaters, give tours about its history, and the Crown Jewels are on show. Big Ben is at the Houses of Parliament and the Ferris wheel is the London Eye.

450. A: True

The National Trust began in 1895, started by three volunteers. Both it and its Scottish counterpart, the National Trust for Scotland, are charities that protect important buildings, coastline and countryside.

451. A: True

Edinburgh Castle stands out on the skyline of the Scottish capital, and its past reaches as far back as the early

Middle Ages.

452. B and C: Windermere is its biggest stretch of water; It is England's largest national park

The Lake District is the biggest national park in England and is known for lakes and mountains; Windermere is its largest stretch of water. Snowdon is in Snowdonia, in Wales, and Loch Lomond is in Scotland.

453. 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.

454. 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.

455. 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.

456. 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.

457. B: False

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

458. B: False

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

459. D: 1918

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

460. D: 30

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

461. A: 1928

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

462. A: True

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

463. 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.

464. B: False

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

465. A: True

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

466. 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.

467. 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.

468. 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.

469. 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.

470. 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.

471. 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.

472. A: 1952

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

473. A: True

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

474. D: Prince Philip

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

475. 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.

476. 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.

477. A: True

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

478. 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.

479. 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.

480. A: True

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

481. 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.

482. 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.

483. 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.

484. B: False

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

485. 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.

486. 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.

487. 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.

488. B: 1958

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

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

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

490. A: True

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

491. 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.

492. B: 1999

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

493. 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.

494. 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.

495. 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.

496. B: The Speaker

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

497. B: By a secret ballot of MPs

MPs pick the Speaker from among themselves by secret ballot.

498. 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.

499. 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.

500. A: True

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

501. D: At least every five years

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

502. 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.

503. 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.

504. 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.

505. 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.

506. 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.

507. 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.

508. 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.

509. D: About 20

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

510. 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.

511. 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.

512. 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.

513. 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.

514. B: The opposition

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

515. A: True

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

516. 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.

517. 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.

518. 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.

519. B and C: Greenpeace; Liberty

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

520. 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.

521. B: False

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

522. 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.

523. 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.

524. 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.

525. C: 1999

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

526. 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.

527. A: True

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

528. 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.

529. 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.

530. 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.

531. 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.

532. 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.

533. A: Hansard

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

534. B: False

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

535. 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.

536. 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.

537. 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.

538. 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.

539. 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.

540. 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.

541. 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.

542. B: False

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

543. 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.

544. 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.

545. B: The British Empire

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

546. A: True

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

547. B: False

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

548. 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.

549. C: The European Economic Community

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

550. B: 1957

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

551. 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.

552. B: 1973

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

553. 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.

554. 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.

555. 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.

556. A: True

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

557. 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.

558. 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.

559. 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.

560. 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.

561. 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.

562. B: False

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

563. A: True

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

564. A: True

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

565. 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.

566. 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.

567. 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.

568. B: False

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

569. 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.

570. 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.

571. 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.

572. 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.

573. 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.

574. 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.

575. 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.

576. 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.

577. D: A Magistrates' Court

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

578. 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.

579. 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.

580. 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.

581. B: 15

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

582. 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.

583. 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.

584. 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.

585. 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.

586. 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.

587. 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.

588. 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.

589. 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.

590. 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.

591. 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.

592. 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.

593. A: True

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

594. 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.

595. 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.

596. 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.

597. 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.

598. 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.

599. 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.

600. 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.

601. 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.

602. 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.

603. 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.

604. A: 2008

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

605. 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.

606. 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.

607. 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.

608. 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.

609. 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.

610. 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.

611. 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.

612. 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.

613. 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.

614. D: 70

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

615. 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.

616. 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.

617. 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.

618. 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.

619. 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.

620. 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.

621. 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.

622. A: True

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

623. 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.

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

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

625. 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.

626. 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.

627. A: 18

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

628. B: False

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

629. D: The school board

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

630. 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.

631. A: True

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

632. A: Canvassing

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

633. B: False

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

634. C: At election times

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

635. 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.

636. D: About an hour

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

637. 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.

638. 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.

639. A: True

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

640. 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.

641. D: The British Red Cross

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

642. 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.

643. A: The NSPCC

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

644. B: False

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

645. 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.

646. A: True

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

647. 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.

648. 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.

649. 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.

650. 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.

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

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