

Year 10 Citizenship Exam

Your year 10 exam will be on Politics and Participation and Rights and Responsibilities. Your exam is 1 hour 45 mins, so you should spend 50 minutes on each section and 5 minutes to check over your paper.

You should make sure that you read the questions carefully. If the questions ask you for a definition with an example, you need to do both to get full marks. Make sure that you refer to sources if it asks you. Make sure that you include recent stories from the news if they are applicable.

Politics and Participation-

- democracy and different forms of democracy, including representative democracy.
- The values underpinning democracy: rights, responsibilities, freedoms, equality, the rule of law.
- the power of government, the Prime Minister and cabinet; the sovereignty of Parliament; the roles of the legislature, the opposition, political parties, the Monarch, citizens, the judiciary, the police and the Civil Service.
- uncodified British constitution and examples of how this is changing.
- local government; the services provided, roles and accountability of councillors.
- The nature and organisation of regional and devolved government: Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England.
- How powers are organised between the Westminster Parliament and the devolved administrations in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales; how relations are changing between England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland; the debate about 'English votes for English laws'.
- Who can stand for election and how candidates are selected.
- Who can and cannot vote in elections and why; debates about the voting age.
- voter turnout, voter apathy and suggestions for increasing voter turnout at elections
- How public taxes are raised and spent by government locally and nationally.
- budgeting
- Different viewpoints for welfare, health, the elderly and education.
- 'First Past the Post' system; the frequency of Westminster elections.
- Other voting systems used in UK elections, including proportional systems and the advantages and disadvantages of each.
- The major political parties

- How parliament works: scrutinising government and making it accountable; parliamentary questions, committees, debates.
- The role of MPs; representing their constituencies, debating policy; scrutinising legislation.
- Ceremonial roles including Black Rod; key parliamentary roles including the Speaker, whips, front bench and back bench MPs.
- The legislative process; parliamentary debates and deliberation of public issues and policy.
- The formation of government by the leader of the political party with a majority in the House of Commons, or by a coalition of parties.
- The role of the Prime Minister, cabinet and ministers; the power of the Prime Minister and cabinet.
- The organisation of government administration into departments, ministries and agencies; role of the civil service.
- Electoral systems and processes used in European parliamentary elections
- Key differences in how citizens can or cannot participate in politics in one democratic and one non-democratic political system that is outside the UK.
- The different forms of action citizens can take to hold those in power to account for their actions; how the citizen can contribute to public life by joining an interest group or political party: standing for election; campaigning; advocacy; lobbying; petitions; joining a demonstration; volunteering.
- The roles played by public institutions, public services, interest and pressure groups, trade unions, charities and voluntary groups in providing a voice and support for different groups in society.

Rights and Responsibilities

- The fundamental principles of law to ensure rights and freedoms, the presumption of innocence and equality before the law.
- The nature of rules and laws in helping society to deal with complex problems of fairness, justice and discrimination.
- Rights in local to global situations where there is conflict and where rights and responsibilities need to be balanced.

The operation of the justice system:

- o the role and powers of the police
- o the role and powers of the judiciary
- o the roles of legal representatives

- o how the different criminal and civil courts work
- o tribunals and other means of dispute resolution.
- How civil law differs from criminal law.
- How the legal systems differ within the UK:
 - o England and Wales
 - o Northern Ireland
 - o Scotland.
- Rights and legal entitlements of citizens at differing ages: the age of criminal responsibility and other legal ages when young people become legally responsible for their actions (drive, marry, vote, join the forces).
- How citizens' rights have changed and developed over time, from the importance of Magna Carta (1215) to today and the Human Rights Act (1998).
- Common law, legislation and how they differ.
- The right to representation; the role and history of trade unions in supporting and representing workers; the role of employers' associations
- The nature of criminality in the UK today:
 - o differing types of crimes
 - o profile of criminality in the UK
 - o factors affecting crime rates in society and strategies to reduce crime.
- How we deal with those who commit crime:
 - o differing forms of punishment available in the UK
 - o the purposes of sentencing
 - o the effectiveness of differing types of sentence
 - o how the youth justice system operates.
- The importance of key international agreement and treaties in regard to human rights:
 - o the UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights
 - o the European Convention on Human Rights
 - o the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
 - o the Human Rights Act (1998).
- The role of international law in conflict situations:
 - o to protect victims of conflict
 - o how international humanitarian law helps establish the rules of war.
 - The role of trade unions

