

Year 8 Citizenship

The Making of the UK

Learning Objectives

- Explain how Wales, Scotland and Ireland became part of the UK.
- Understand devolution and the powers of devolved governments.
- Assess the impact of Brexit on the UK.

What previous knowledge is required?

Basic understanding of the countries of the UK and monarchy from Year 7 History/Citizenship.

How will this term's content help with future learning?

Provides foundations for learning about Parliament, elections and UK governance.

Common Misconceptions

- The UK is a single country with one government for all decisions.
- England and the UK are the same thing.
- Brexit removed all links with Europe.

National Curriculum / Specification

The development of the political system of democratic government in the UK, including the roles of citizens, Parliament and the monarch.

A History of Suffrage

Learning Objectives

- Trace the development of voting rights from Magna Carta to universal suffrage.
- Explain the role of Chartists and Suffragettes.
- Evaluate why voting rights matter in a democracy.

What previous knowledge is required?

Knowledge of monarchy, Parliament and medieval rights.

How will this term's content help with future learning?

Supports later study of elections, participation and democratic rights.

Common Misconceptions

- People have always had the right to vote.
- Votes for women were granted instantly.

National Curriculum / Specification

The development of democracy and the precious liberties enjoyed by citizens of the UK.

UK Political Parties

Learning Objectives

- Describe the multi-party system.
- Compare Labour, Conservative, Liberal Democrat and other parties.
- Understand how parties seek power through elections.

What previous knowledge is required?

Knowledge of voting and democratic government.

How will this term's content help with future learning?

Prepares students for study of elections and political participation.

Common Misconceptions

- The Prime Minister is directly elected by the public.
- The UK only has two political parties.

National Curriculum / Specification

The operation of Parliament, including voting and elections, and the role of political parties.

How does Local Government Work?

Learning Objectives

- Identify the roles of Kent County Council, Maidstone Borough Council and parish councils.
- Understand local decision-making and services.
- Investigate local case studies.

What previous knowledge is required?

Understanding of government structures in the UK.

How will this term's content help with future learning?

Develops active citizenship and community participation.

Common Misconceptions

- All local councils do the same jobs.
- Local government has no influence on daily life.

National Curriculum / Specification

The roles played by public institutions and voluntary groups in society, and ways citizens improve communities.

Does the Criminal Justice System Serve Everyone Fairly?

Learning Objectives

- Explain the roles of police, courts and legal professionals.
- Consider equality before the law.
- Explore how laws can be challenged and changed.

What previous knowledge is required?

Knowledge of rules, rights and responsibilities.

How will this term's content help with future learning?

Builds understanding of law, justice and rights for development in Year 9.

Common Misconceptions

- Everyone experiences the justice system equally.
- Courts always determine absolute truth.

National Curriculum / Specification

The nature of rules and laws and the justice system, including the role of the police and operation of courts and tribunals.

Public Services and Taxation

Learning Objectives

- Understand taxation and government spending.
- Explain the role of government departments and public services.
- Assess the importance of public health provision.

What previous knowledge is required?

Awareness of government and public institutions.

How will this term's content help with future learning?

Supports future understanding of economics, budgeting and public policy.

Common Misconceptions

- Taxes are optional.
- All tax money goes to one service.

National Curriculum / Specification

The functions and uses of money, the importance and practice of budgeting and managing risk; and the roles of public institutions.