

Section A – Key Vocabulary

- **Local Elections:** elections held for councillors to local councils, held on a fixed date in May after the fixed term of office has expired.
- **Democracy:** A system of government by the entire population or a majority of eligible citizens.
- **Voter Turnout:** the percentage of voters who actually vote against the total number who are registered to vote.
- **Voter Apathy:** a lack of interest by citizens in the electoral and political process.
- **Electoral Commission:** a government-established body that monitors and oversees all UK elections and referendums.
- **The Opposition:** the name given to the largest party in the Commons not in power. It is made of MPs representing parties not in the government.

Section D – 2019 Elections

Political Parties: a group of people who share a common ideology and political beliefs and wishes to win elections in order to carry out their ideas.

Prime Minister: the Head of the Government. The Prime Minister is the leader of the largest party in the House of Commons and is an elected MP.

Section B – Voting and elections facts

Who can stand for election?

- Must be at least 18 years old.
- British Citizen, or a citizen of the Commonwealth or the Republic of Ireland.
- You cannot stand for more than one constituency.

You cannot stand for election if you are:

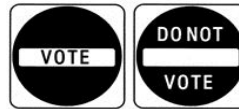
A Civil Servant; police; in the armed forces; a government nominated director of a commercial company; a judge; peer in the House of Lords (including bishops known as the Lords Spiritual).

Who can vote in elections?

- A British Citizen or a member of the EU or Commonwealth living in the UK.
- Anyone 18 and over can register to vote.
- Not suffering any legal incapacity to vote

Who cannot vote in elections?

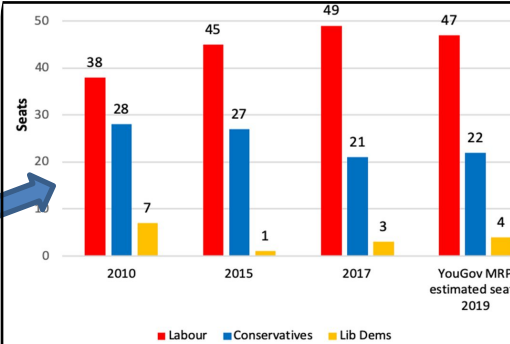
- Members of the House of Lords.
- People in prison
- Anyone found guilty in the last 5 years of illegal practices in connection with an election.
- Anyone been detained under certain sections of the Mental Health Act.



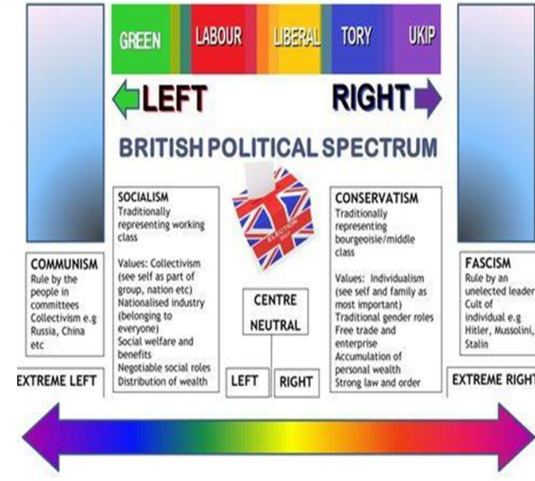
In Scotland the voting age for local and Scottish Parliament is 16.



Last Elections Results



Section C – Political Parties



Section D – Homework

1. Read/cover/write and check the spelling and meaning of the key vocabulary - **Section A**
2. Look at **Section B** and answer the following questions:
 - a) Who can vote in elections?
 - b) Who cannot vote in elections?
3. What political orientation do the Conservatives have? **Section C**.
4. **Extended Writing:** Do you agree with the Scotland voting age of 16? Can you explain why? Should the U.K introduce the same law? Use the writing frame below if necessary.

Writing Frame:

In my opinion, voting when you are 16 is / is not a good idea because ...
 On the one hand I agree that...because.
 On the other hand, I think that
 In conclusion, people should vote.....because

