

Comment

A youth worker involved in the piloting of this pack reported that the young people knew very few of the correct answers. 'But it created great debates, which led to some good discussions. The biggest debate on any question was number 6 [the one on domestic violence].'

Identity, Empowerment and Change, Handout 6 UK Citizenship Test

(As devised by BBC Radio 4, 21 January 2006. Answers and notes in Handout 7.)

1. **Which king had his powers curbed by the Magna Carta?**
 - a) Alfred the Great
 - b) Charles I
 - c) John

2. **Which year did all women over 21 get the vote in Britain?**
 - a) 1945
 - b) 1900
 - c) 1928

3. **Which three branches of authority need to agree to a law before it can come into force?**
 - a) The House of Commons, Lord Chancellor and the Queen
 - b) The House of Commons, the Lords and the Queen
 - c) The Prime Minister, the Cabinet and the police

4. **Are you**
 - a) a subject of the Crown?
 - b) a citizen of the Crown?
 - c) a defender of the Crown?

5. **Why is the Union Flag made up of its particular colours?**
 - a) It was chosen by Henry VIII
 - b) It's made up of the flags of St George of England, St Patrick of Ireland and St Andrew of Scotland
 - c) It's made of the flags of England and the flags of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of Mercia and Wessex

6. **Is a man allowed to punish his wife physically as long as it's in his own home?**
 - a) Yes, although not with any recognized weapon
 - b) Yes, though only under provocation
 - c) No

7. **Which English monarch broke away from the Roman Catholic Church?**
 - a) Charles
 - b) Elizabeth I
 - c) Henry VIII

8. **Who was the only politician in British history to abolish parliament?**
 - a) Cromwell
 - b) Gladstone
 - c) Churchill

9. **What building did Guy Fawkes famously fail to blow up?**
 - a) Buckingham Palace
 - b) Houses of Parliament
 - c) 10 Downing Street

10. **How long can a British government stay in office before a general election?**
 - a) 4 years
 - b) 6 years
 - c) 5 years

Background: The BBC Today Programme invited a politician (Barry Sheerman MP), a historian (Andrew Roberts), a race equality specialist (Trevor Phillips), a Muslim journalist (Sarah Joseph) and an economist (Madsen Pirie) to devise these questions, to test the knowledge of British law, history and constitution of potential UK citizens.

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/today/reports/archive/politics/citizenship.shtml#>

