

EDUCATION IN THE USA

Educato is free & compulsory until an age varying from 16 to 18. It is supposed to give equal opportunities to all. It is fundamental as together with hard work, it is the necessary condition of upward mobility. Americans believe in it as a means towards self-achievement.

However, the Constitution makes no mention of free and compulsory education and each state is therefore free to organise education as it wishes.

History:

1. **What was the situat° until 1954 for black & white children?** Segregat°: black & white attended ≠ schools
2. **What was the name of the decision which put an end to this situation?**

May 17th 1954: Brown vs Board of Educat° of Topeka → SC ruled that segregation in school was unconstitutional
Linda Brown, a young African American girl, had been denied admission to her local elementary school in Topeka, Kansas, because of the colour of her skin whereas the "coloured" school was much further away.

3. **What are "affirmative action laws" and when did they start?**

Started in the 1960s – set of measures to curtail discrimination:

- active effort to improve employment or educational opportunities for members of minority groups & women
- policies, programs, and procedures that give preferences to minorities and women in job hiring, admission to institutions of higher education, the awarding of government contracts, and other social benefits.
- typical criteria for affirmative action are race, disability, gender, ethnic origin, and age.

History: Affirmative action laws were initiated by the administration of President Lyndon B. Johnson (1963–69) in order to improve opportunities for African Americans while civil rights legislation was dismantling the legal basis for discrimination.

4. **Today, who is the US Education Secretary?**

Betsy DeVos – Republican - supports school choice, school voucher programs & charter schools

Secondary education

5. **Who goes to junior high school or middle school?** 6th to 8th grade (children between 11 and 13)
6. **Who goes to high school?** - 9th to 12th grade so teens from 14 to 18 years old.
7. **What are the SATs, the GPA and the APs?**

- **The SAT** (/ˌɛsˌeɪˈtiː/ ess-ay-TEE) is a standardized test widely used for college admissions in the US.
- **GPA** = grade point average. It is a standard way of measuring academic achievement in the U.S. Each course is given a certain number of "units" or "credits", depending on the content of the course. GPA assumes a grading scale of A, B, C, D, F - each grade corresponds to a number of grade points: A=4 pts, B=3, C=2, D=1 and F=0
- **AP tests** (Advanced Placement tests) are college-level exams on specific subjects and are administered in May upon the completion of an AP course taken at a student's high school. At many colleges and universities, a high enough score will earn the student college credit. In some instances, earning college credit can mean an overall lower college tuition bill.

8. What is a Prep school?

Prep schools are **private independent secondary schools** students attend to be able to **enter highly selective colleges and universities**. The term "prep school" in the U.S. is usually associated with **private, elite institutions** that have very selective admission criteria and high tuition fees.

9. What does NCLB stand for? Briefly explain what it is.

The **No Child Left Behind Act** of 2001 (NCLB) was a U.S. Act of Congress (Elementary & Secondary Educat^o). It supported standards-based education reform based on the premise that **setting high standards & establishing measurable goals** could improve individual outcomes in education. The Act required states to develop assessments in basic skills. To receive federal school funding, states had to give these assessments to all students at select grade levels.

The act did not assert a national achievement standard—each state developed its own standards. **NCLB expanded the federal role in public education through further emphasis on annual testing, annual academic progress, report cards, and teacher qualifications, as well as significant changes in funding.**

The bill passed in the Congress with bipartisan support. By 2015, criticism from right, left, and centre had accumulated so much that a bipartisan Congress stripped away the national features of No Child Left Behind. Its replacement, the **Every Student Succeeds Act**, turned the remnants over to **the states**.

10. What is the Common Core, when or why was it created?

The **Common Core State Standards Initiative** is an educational initiative in the US that details what K–12 students (from Kindergarten to 12th grade) should know in **English language, arts and mathematics** at the end of each grade.

It is the set of learning goals used by several states, in an effort to make education **more consistent nationwide** and to bring more depth to classroom learning. The idea is to establish **national standards** to ensure **equal chances** to all students regardless of their State as opposed to very different States' curricula.

→ 42 States + the District of Columbia adopted the Common Core Standards

→ Trump wants to repeal the Common Core: he wants education to be dealt with locally.

11. What is a charter school? K-12 institutions, funded with tax-payer money, but managed privately

12. What is the Pledge of Allegiance? Give details

The Pledge of Allegiance was first recited in 1892, the year it was first written. The author was Francis Bellamy, a Baptist minister from New York. Public schools all around the country were preparing a celebration in honour of the 400th anniversary of Columbus Day.

Its current wording is: *"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."*

During the Pledge, proper etiquette requires military personnel in uniform to salute, while other citizens place their right hand on their heart. Men should remove their hats during the pledge.

All states except California, Hawaii, Iowa, Vermont, and Wyoming require a regularly scheduled recitation of the pledge in public schools. California requires a "patriotic exercise" every day, which would be satisfied by the Pledge, but it is not universally enforced.

The Supreme Court has ruled in *West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette* that students cannot be compelled to recite the Pledge, nor can they be punished for not doing so.

Higher education

13. What comes to your mind when you're asked about the Ivy League?

- **8 of the oldest and most prestigious** universities: academic excellence, selectivity in admissions, social elitism
- all north-eastern Universities – private universities
- Brown University, Columbia University, Cornell University, Dartmouth College, Harvard University, the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton University, and Yale University
- **Ivy**: reference to the ivy growing on those old buildings

14. What is a community college?

Most degrees at a community college only take **two years** to complete, while degrees at a four-year university take four years to complete.

Instead of doing the first two years at a university, some students will elect to do those two years of general education requirements at a community college first and then transfer to a traditional university to complete the last two years of their degree.

Students who begin their studies at a community college are ready to enter university at the junior level, meaning they only need an additional two-years before earning a bachelor's degree.

Most community colleges do not offer a bachelor's degree. Instead, community colleges award certificates and associate degrees. **An associate's degree is designed to be finished in two years (after about 60 credits) and is made up of core classes like English, history, math, government, arts, and science.**

15. What is a Bachelor's degree, a Master's degree, a PhD?

- **A bachelor's degree is a four-year degree.** A bachelor's is a post-secondary **undergraduate degree**.
- **A master's degree is a type of graduate degree earned after completion of an undergraduate degree** like a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science. Typically, the master's degree takes 2 years of full-time study beyond the bachelor's degree to complete.
- **A PhD is a postgraduate doctoral degree**, awarded to students who complete an original thesis offering a significant new contribution to knowledge in their subject. PhD qualifications are available in all subjects and are normally the highest level of academic degree a person can achieve. PhD: abbreviation for 'Doctor of Philosophy'.

16. Apart from academic achievement, what is at the core of the college / university experience?

- **Life on campus**: for many students in the US, it is their first time living away from home.
- **Dorm living** is a learning experience.
- Variety of different clubs, events, and other activities such as sports, student government, media, tutoring
- Also Greek life: joining a **fraternity or sorority** is a great way to make friends and connections, and to get involved on campus. Many fraternities and sororities sponsor various philanthropic, volunteer and fundraising events.

17. What are the different ways to pay for university? Give some examples of tuition fees.

➤ Ask for Financial aid

There are a variety of **scholarships** available. Some are merit-based, so you must have good grades or fulfil service requirements to qualify. But others are based on situation, location, or the attended school.

Grants are often needs-based—your income and savings are simply insufficient for you to manage this on your own, or some other special situation applies to you. Federal Pell Grants are capped at \$5,920 a year and most go to families who earn less than \$30,000 annually.

→ Grants and scholarships do not need to be paid back.

➤ Work while attending school

➤ Take out a **student loan** (to be paid back)

- Very top-tier US universities (the majority of which are private-profits): fees and living costs are likely to add up to around US\$60,000 per year

- Public universities in the US have 2 tuition fee rates: one for state residents and one for everyone else. The second (more expensive) category applies equally to applicants from other US states and from other countries.

- Private universities tend to be much smaller than public universities and have a more diverse student population (both from different states and different countries) due to the fact that tuition is the same price for all students.

➤ Average US universities fees 2018/19:

	Public /community 2-year colleges	Public 4-year colleges	Private non-profit 4-year colleges
Tuition	\$3,660	\$10,230 (in-state fees)/ \$26,290 (out-of-state fees)	\$35,830
Room & board	\$8,660	\$11,140 (in-state fees)/ \$11,140 (out-of-state fees)	\$12,680
Total (per year)	\$12,320	\$21,370 (in-state fees) / \$37,430 (out-of-state fees)	\$48,510

Ex: Harvard - The total 2019-2020 cost of attending Harvard College without financial aid is \$47,730 for tuition and \$68,601 for tuition, room, board, and fees combined.

18. What are the names given to students in their 4 years in high school and at university?

First year: freshman second year: sophomore third year: junior fourth year: senior

19. What marks the end of both high school and university?

- **Commencement** (just the ceremony) often referred to as graduation. You will not receive a diploma at the commencement ceremony

- **Graduation**: the formal event at which a person who has successfully completed a course of study at a school, college, or university gets a document stating this fact, or the successful completion of a course of study.

EDUCATION IN THE UK

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In GB, education is free; it is compulsory till the age of 16. Most schools are co-educational.

Under 5, a child goes to nursery school, from 5 to 11, he goes to primary school, from 11 to 17, to Comprehensive school or Grammar school (for a few of them).

After that, they take their GCSEs and most of them take their A-levels and may then go to College.

MAIN POINTS:**1- What are State Schools?**

Free schools – have to follow the national curriculum – the equivalent of our public schools – co-educational

2- What are Public Schools?

Private & prestigious schools – very expensive and selective

But grants can be given to bright pupils whose parents could not afford the tuition fees

3- What are the « sacred nine »?

The nine best-known public schools: Eton, Harrow, Rugby, Winchester, Westminster, Charterhouse, Shrewsbury, Merchant Taylor's and Saint Paul's.

4- What do the letters GCSE stand for? General Certificate of Secondary Education**5- Explain what GCSEs and A-levels are?**

- GCSEs: at 16 years old – pupils take 5 to 10 subjects marked from A to G

- A-levels (General Certificate of Educat^o Advanced Level): at 18 – usually taken in 3 (but up to 5) subjects – results are extremely important to enrol in the university of your choice (ex: requirement could be 2 As and 1 A*)

6- Education is a devolved power. What does it mean?

Devolution: the transfer of power or authority from a central government to a local government.

- England: the DOE (Department of Educat^o) ensures the National Curriculum is implemented in state schools

- But ≠ (and yet compatible) school systems in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales

The development of academies:

- were first set up in 2002 and have become increasingly popular since

- Academies: publicly-funded independent schools

- Expected to provide first-class education

- Greater freedom to innovate + can be selective

7- What unpopular measure did David Cameron's gvt implement concerning universities in England?

David Cameron's government (PM 2010-2016) **tripled the annual fees in 2012 → £9,000**

- Much of the cost of courses was transferred from the state to students

- Uni: 60% of their income from private sources + 40% from the state, rather than 60% from the state as at present.

- New system to make universities more competitive by putting spending power in the hands of students, putting pressure on universities to drive up standards

- Loans, grants & scholarships proposed by the Gvt will increase in value from £7bn to £12bn by 2015

8- Who is the Secretary of State for education in the UK? Gavin Williamson was appointed in July 2019.

9- What are the three oldest universities of the United Kingdom?

University of Oxford (around 1096)

University of Cambridge (1209)

University of St Andrews (1413)

10- VOCABULARY → Define these words:

1. **National Curriculum** : introduced in 1988 - 3 core subjects: English, maths & sciences – Pupils can choose other subjects to complete their studies

2. **Comprehensive Schools** : no selection of the pupils – open to pupils of all abilities – co-educational

3. **Grammar schools**: selective schools – more academically-oriented – 164 England + Wales / 69 Northern Ireland

NB: Comprehensive schools and grammar schools are state schools so free and generally co- educational

4. **British private schools**: aka independent schools - independent and private – Public schools included – do not have to adhere to the National Curriculum

5. Tuition fees:

- State schools: free

- Private schools: on average GBP 3,000 to GBP 6,000 per term.

- Boarding schools can be as high as GBP 12,000 per term.

6. **A boarding school**: a school in which most or all of the students live in during the school year – to be a boarder

IMMIGRATION TO THE USA

The USA is “a nation of nations” wrote B Franklin.

History:

1- **Who discovered America and when?** → Christopher Columbus – 1492

2- **Account for: “Jamestown, Virginia”, “The Pilgrim Fathers and the Mayflower”?**

→ **Jamestown, Virginia:** first English permanent settlement – **1607**

→ **The Pilgrim Fathers:**

- came to the US in **1620 on the Mayflower**
- arrived in Plymouth, Massachusetts
- English puritans who left England
- the Mayflower Compact: established a rudimentary form of democracy, with each member contributing to the welfare of the community

3- **Slavery is a different story of early immigration. In 1619, the first Africans were brought to Jamestown & slavery which was first limited in time became lifelong. Why did colonies buy slaves?**

- **to farm the land:** tobacco & rice plantations
- by the end of the 20th Cent: **20% of the population was black**

4- **When did the Irish potato famine strike Ireland? What did it entail as far as immigrat° is concerned**

- 1st potato blight in 1845 (until ~ 1852) – staple food → famine
- In Ireland: 1 million people died + 1 million immigrated mainly to the US

America!

1- **What is the American myth based on?**

Country of **success and of limitless opportunities** > the **American Dream** – hope for a better life

2- **What is the motto of the US? Name some American symbols.**

➤ **“E pluribus unum” = out of many one**

The early colonists and emigrants came from many countries and spoke many different languages. The National motto of the United States of America was originally used in reference to the integration of the original 13 British colonies into the one united country of America. It also reflects the amalgamation of the people and their adoption of the English language - they became Americans.

➤ **Old Glory/ Star spangled banner**

- thirteen alternating red and white stripes and thirteen white stars on a blue field.
- Stars have been added to the flag as new states join the union. Currently, the flag contains 50 stars.
- There are 50 stars representing the 50 states and there are 13 stripes representing the 13 original states.

➤ **Eagle:** The Bald eagle was chosen as it symbolises strength, courage, freedom, and immortality

➤ **The Statue of Liberty**

Located in New York, at 151 feet (46 meters) tall (305 feet including base and pedestal), the Statue of Liberty symbolizes freedom throughout the world. Its formal name is Liberty Enlightening the World. The Statue was actually a gift from the people of France.

The statue, made of copper sheets with an iron framework, depicts a woman escaping the chains of tyranny, which lie at her feet. Her right hand holds aloft a burning torch that represents liberty. Her left hand holds a tablet inscribed with the date "July 4, 1776" (in Roman numerals), the day the United States declared its independence from England. She is wearing flowing robes and the seven rays of her spiked crown symbolize the seven seas and continents.

Near the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbour is Ellis Island. This island served as an immigrant station and a temporary shelter for people coming to the U.S. from other countries.

➤ **Great Seal of the United States**

The Great Seal of the United States serves as a symbol of authenticity which verifies that government documents and papers of state are official and legal. The Great Seal of the United States seal is also an emblem that is representative of the country's origins, history, character and ideals.

- The American bald eagle is prominently featured supporting a shield composed of 13 red and white stripes (pales) representing the Thirteen Original States
- The motto of the United States, E Pluribus Unum
- The olive branch and 13 arrows grasped by the eagle allude to peace and war

3- Briefly explain what Ellis Island was.

- the **1st immigration Station**
- opened **1892 - 1954**
- 12 million: immigrants came through Ellis Island /**40%: of Americans can trace a relative to Ellis Island**
- Immigrants had to pass tests and physical examinations to make sure they wouldn't be a burden for the American society

4- Explain the concepts of "salad bowl" and "melting pot".

→ melting pot: with time, generations of **immigrants have melted together**: they have abandoned their cultures to become totally assimilated

→ a salad bowl: when immigrants **maintain their traditions and their native language**.

Account for:

➤ **The 1924 National Origins Act**

In 1924 Congress passed a discriminatory immigration law "to preserve the ideal of American homogeneity"

- restricted the immigration of Southern and Eastern Europeans & practically excluded Asians and Arabs and other nonwhites from entry into the United States.
- Admission quotas: limit of 2 percent of that population into the nation
- Congress abolished the national origins quota system in the 1960s.

➤ **The 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act**

- Abolished an earlier quota system based on national origin although it did maintain a per-country limit but no restrictions for immediate relatives of US citizens + skilled workers
- established a new immigrat° policy based on reuniting immigrant families & attracting skilled labour to the US
- that policy led to changing the demographic makeup of the American population as immigrants entering the US under the new legislation came increasingly from countries in Asia, Africa & Latin America, as opposed to Europe.

➤ The 2001 Patriot Act

- full name: “**Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act**”
- in the wake of 9/11 – nearly unanimously voted
- to strengthen security controls
- expands the scope of surveillance in case of suspicion of terrorism + sharing information btw federal agencies + harsh penalties if found guilty
- the Patriot Act was set to expire in 2015 but was more or less replaced by the Freedom Act (2015) which renewed many aspects of the Patriot Act (which is set to expire in 2019)

Update your knowledge:

1- What do you need to work in the US when you are an immigrant?

To work in the US you need one of the following documents:

- A Permanent Resident Card (also known as a Green Card)
- An Employment Authorization Document (EAD - work permit)
- An employment-related visa which allows you to work for a particular employer.

2- Explain what DACA is?

DACA= Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

- is a **federal government program** created in **2012** under Barack Obama to allow people brought to the US illegally as children the **temporary right to live, study and work** in America
- Those applying are checked for any criminal history or threat to national security
- must be students or have completed school or military service
- If they pass vetting, action to deport them is deferred for two years, with a chance to renew, and they become eligible for basics like a driving license, college enrollment or a work permit.
- they can apply for renewal after the two-year period is over
- about **800,000 undocumented immigrants** are concerned

→ Those protected under Daca are known as “**Dreamers** - Most Dreamers are from Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras and the largest numbers live in California, Texas, Florida and New York.

→ The Trump administration announced plans in **September 2017 to phase out Daca**.

San Francisco-based US district judge, William Alsup, decided in January 2018 the government **must continue processing renewals of existing Daca applications** while litigation over the legality of Trump’s action is resolved.

The administration unsuccessfully appealed Alsup’s ruling to the Supreme Court.

The US Supreme Court is now weighing the case of Daca - took up the case after lower courts ruled the administration **did not adequately explain why** it was ending the programme, criticising the White House's "capricious" explanations.

A decision is **expected in 2020**, months before the presidential election. Immigration remains one of Mr Trump's signature campaign issues.

3- Explain the situation on the Mexican border

- The Mexico–United States barrier is a series of walls and fences along the Mexico–United States border aimed at **preventing illegal crossings** from Mexico into the United States
- **Bush** implemented the **Secure Fence Act of 2006** to build a physical wall btw Mexico and the US
- **Border:** 2,000 miles and today, the **wall is 650 miles long**.

→ **The wall for Trump:** a central part of his bid for re-election

- on a trip to California, he wrote his name on a stretch of the wall in thick black marker pen
- At his rallies "Build the Wall!" chants are still going strong
- justification: against illegal immigration + safe from drug trafficking

→ **Not much change:** since Trump took power, only **69 miles (111km)** have been built: much of this is not new wall but rather **improvement work on existing structures**

The new system will be made of what the CBP (Control Border Patrol) describes as a combination of "**steel-bollard barrier, all-weather roads, lighting, enforcement cameras and other related technology**".

→ **But:** there should be more to come through with construction planned in several border sites. The administration is **aiming to have 509 miles of "new border wall system"** ready by the end of 2020.

Slow progress so far but can accelerate: **more available funds** than in the early days of the administration.

→ **Obstacles**

- **legal and political difficulties:** Dec 2018 – Jan 2019 **saw the longest government shutdown in US history** as Mr Trump refused **to sign a budget unless it included money for the wall (\$5.7bn)**. He went on to declare **a national emergency to free up funds**.

- **Environmentalists** are suing over the construction, concerned that the new barriers could cause irreparable harm to sensitive habitats

→ **Funding:** July - SC gave the go-ahead for the US president to **redirect \$2.5bn of Pentagon funds for the wall**. + **September a further \$3.6bn in Pentagon funding**

This and other funds bring the total available to **\$9.8bn**. There may be more to come. US media report that the administration is considering diverting billions more in military funding. The funds fall short even of Mr Trump's initial price tag of up to **\$12bn**.

→ **Results:** a big drop in migrants arriving at the US border, after Trump threatened to impose tariffs on Mexico if it did not launch a crackdown.

WORDS TO REMEMBER

Customs	Alien	To settle/ a settler	To deport
Border control	A native	Family reunion/family reunification	To assimilate
Border patrol	A smuggler	To fit in	A fence
			Host country

IMMIGRATION TO THE UK

A-Some history**1. Why did the UK need immigrants after the Second World War?**

→ the UK needed workers for the **reconstruction**

When the Second World War ended in 1945, it was quickly recognised that the reconstruction of the British economy required a **large influx of immigrant labour**. The Royal Commission on Population reported in 1949 that **immigrants of 'good stock' would be welcomed 'without reserve'**, and potential newcomers from the Caribbean and elsewhere soon became aware of the pressing needs of the labour market in the UK.

2. Explain why a lot of immigrants arrived from the Caribbean (the West Indies), from India and Pakistan in the 1950's. How is it linked to the Windrush scandal?

Modern-day immigration traces its roots **back to the British Empire**, which to varying degrees inculcated a **sense of Britishness** in local populations - a sense amplified by large-scale imperial participation in the Second World War, for the defence of the UK.

Postwar immigration also attracted, for the first time, **large numbers of workers** and their families from **outside Europe** - mainly from the **Caribbean** and from **India and Pakistan** (Pakistan seceded from India in 1947, just after India gained independence from the UK)

During the 1950s, in particular, Britain's **non-white immigrant population increased rapidly in size**.

→ First wave of immigrants from the **Caribbean**: a landmark moment was the **1958** arrival of the **Empire Windrush** from Jamaica, bearing hundreds of immigrants who were able to travel to the UK at low cost for the first time.

→ Also arriving during the **1950s** were immigrants from **Asia**, principally **India and Pakistan**.

➤ The Windrush scandal

Immigration from the West Indies was encouraged by the **British Nationality Act of 1948** which gave all Commonwealth citizens **free entry into Britain**, and by a tough new US immigration law introduced in 1952 restricting entry into the USA. The symbolic starting point of this mass migration to the 'mother country' was the journey of the **MV Empire Windrush** from Kingston, Jamaica, to Tilbury, Essex, in **June 1948**. On board were almost 500 West Indians intent on starting new lives in Britain.

The Windrush scandal is a 2018 British political scandal concerning people who were wrongly detained, denied legal rights, threatened with deportation, and, in around 63 cases, wrongly deported from the UK by the Home Office. Many of those affected **had been born British subjects and had arrived in the UK before 1973**, particularly from Caribbean countries as members of the **"Windrush generation"** (so named after the **Empire Windrush** ship).

As well as those who were wrongly deported, an unknown number were wrongly detained, lost their jobs or homes, or were denied benefits or medical care to which they were entitled. A number of long-term UK residents were wrongly refused re-entry to the UK, and a larger number were threatened with immediate deportation by the Home Office.

Linked to the "hostile environment policy" for illegal immigrants instituted by Theresa May during her time as Home Secretary, the scandal prompted a wider debate about British immigration policy and Home Office practice.

3. What does Enoch Powell's speech "Rivers of blood" refer to?

The 'Rivers of Blood' speech was made by British Member of Parliament Enoch Powell (Conservative Party) on **20 April 1968**, to a meeting of the Conservative Political Centre in Birmingham. **His speech strongly criticised mass immigration, especially Commonwealth immigration to the United Kingdom.**

The expression "rivers of blood" did not appear in the speech but is an allusion to a line from Virgil's *Aeneid* which he quoted: "as I look ahead, I am filled with foreboding (*worries*); like the Roman, I seem to see 'the River Tiber foaming with much blood'.

The speech caused a political storm, making Powell one of the most talked about and divisive politicians in the country, and leading to his controversial dismissal from the Shadow Cabinet by Conservative Party leader Edward Heath.

4. Explain what the 1971 Immigration Act consists in.

1971 Immigration Act: Commonwealth citizens lost **their automatic right** to remain in the UK, meaning they faced the same **restrictions** as those from elsewhere. They would in future only be allowed to remain in UK after they had **lived and worked here for five years**.

A partial "right of abode" (to stay) was introduced, lifting all restrictions on immigrants with a direct personal or ancestral connection with Britain.

The Immigration Act 1971 is the **foundation for the current legal framework**.

B-The current situation

1. The Points Based System:

a) It applies to anybody from outside the EU or the European Economic Area (however this is expected to change as Brexit passes on Jan 31st) including citizens from the Commonwealth

Migrants, including students, have to apply under one of the "tiers" that make up the Points Based System (PBS).

b) It doesn't apply to citizens from one of the European Union's member states (or one of the other countries in the European Economic Area - EEA). They are not subject to immigration controls. The rules mean that British workers can equally seek work and settle across the rest of the EU. However, check question 12...

c) The Points Based system: since Feb 2008, a '5 Tier points-based system' designed to simplify the whole immigration process by replacing all of the work permit and entry schemes with a single system.

The 5 tiers: Tier One: Highly skilled/ Tier two: Skilled with job offer/ Tier three: Low skilled (but never implemented)
Tier four: Students /Tier five: Temporary workers, Youth mobility

In short, the system awards points to migrants based on their skills, qualifications and experience. Putting it very simplistically, a young applicant with a doctorate and proof of high earnings will earn more points than someone who is less skilled - and therefore find it's easier for them to come to the UK.

2. Ministry responsible for immigration: the Home Office. The Home Secretary is Priti Patel

3. What is net migration?

Net migration - the difference between those coming in and leaving the UK each year

→ **Theresa May's** government intended to **reduce net migration** by over 200,000 a year for the 2020 general election.

Net migration **rose by more than a third when Cameron** was in power (2010-2016) although he had pledged to « take steps to take net migration back to the levels of the 1990s - tens of thousands a year, not hundreds of thousands. »

4. Why are so many migrants attracted to the UK?

- Low unemployment rate
- flexible labour market
- Family and community already in the UK: can facilitate job search and lower the costs of housing and childcare.
- cultural and historical links with other countries (such as former commonwealth countries) are thought to facilitate migration/ study opportunities
- Language : English

5. Account for the Immigration Act of 2015

a) What the government intended

- support working people, clamp down on illegal immigration and protect our public services
- focus on the exploitation of low-skilled workers and increase sanctions for those involved in such practices
- prosecute rogue landlords and agents who repeatedly fail to carry out right to rent checks or fail to take steps to remove illegal migrants from their property
- help stop illegal employment, including a new offence of illegal working
- give Immigration enforcement officers new powers to search individuals and properties and seize identity documents if they suspect someone to be here illegally
- ensure all public employees in customer-facing roles speak good English
- electronically tag foreign national offenders on immigration bail
- restrict the support we give to people whose claims for asylum have been rejected and to those who are destitute and face a genuine obstacle to leaving the UK
- resettle unaccompanied children impacted by the ongoing migration crisis
- crack down on those who exploit illegal migrants by seeking to smuggle them into the UK
- enforce a new skills levy on businesses bringing migrant labour into the country so we can reduce our reliance on imported labour, and boost the skills of young people in the UK

b) How the government is going to do it

- introduce new sanctions on illegal workers and rogue employers
- better co-ordination of regulators that enforce workers' rights
- prevent those unlawfully in the UK from accessing housing, driving licences and bank accounts
- introduce new measures to make it easier to enforce immigration laws and remove illegal migrants

6. What role did immigration play in the Brexit referendum debate?

The people in **favour of the Leave campaign** wanted Britain to **take back full control of its borders** and reduce the number of people coming to live and/or work.

There are concerns about **illegal immigration**: the open internal borders of much of the EU, and its long borders with poorer countries in the east, have led to 'people trafficking' by organised criminal gangs.

There have been concerns over pressure on services such as education and schools, while many workers say their wages are being driven down by foreign employees.

Difficulties deporting foreign criminals have created unwelcome headlines too.

7. What can you say about the situation of EU nationals in the UK today?

The UK government has reached an agreement with the EU that will **protect the rights of EU citizens** and their family members living in the UK. It has also reached an agreement with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, and a separate agreement with Switzerland.

These agreements mean that most citizens from the EU, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland will need to apply to stay in the UK. They can then continue living their lives here as they do now.

THE COMMONWEALTH AND THE BRITISH MONARCHY
➤ THE COMMONWEALTH

The 16th century heralded the beginning of the discovery of new territories. At that time, Queen Elizabeth I was reigning (1558-1603). Colonies were set up to organise trade and formed *the British Empire*. The words *British Empire* became *The Commonwealth of Nations*. The Queen of the UK is the Supreme Head of the Commonwealth.

Main points

1. **What is the Commonwealth?**
2. **How many countries compose the Commonwealth? What do they have in common?**

The Commonwealth:

- Voluntary association of **53 independent states**, former British colonies from six regions: Africa (19); Asia (7); the Americas (3); the Caribbean (10); Europe (3); and the South Pacific (11).
- **2.4 billion citizens** of all faiths and ethnicities - over half of its citizens are 25 or under
- **HM Queen Elizabeth II** is Head of the Commonwealth.

→ **History:** It was reconstituted in 1949 when Commonwealth Prime Ministers met and adopted the ‘London Declaration’ where it was agreed all member countries would be “freely and equally associated.”

Most recent members: **Rwanda** (2009) and **Mozambique** - the first country with no historical or administrative association to the Commonwealth to join.

→ Beliefs and Values:

The Commonwealth believes the best democracies are achieved through partnerships – of governments, business, and civil society.

Beyond the ties of **history, language and institutions**, members are united through the association’s values of: democracy, freedom, peace, the rule of law and opportunity for all.

3. Who is Patricia Scotland?

Patricia Scotland is the Commonwealth Secretary-General. Took office on April 1, 2016. From Dominica. The Secretary-General:

- is selected by Commonwealth leaders and can serve a maximum of two four-year terms.
- represents the Commonwealth publicly
- is the Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth Secretariat
- Supports dialogue and collaboration between member governments at the intergovernmental level.

Key dates

1. **What did the Commonwealth celebrate in 2019?** Its 70th anniversary.
2. **What will happen in summer 2022 in Birmingham?** The 2022 Commonwealth Games
3. **What is the 2020 Commonwealth theme?**

Delivering a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, Transforming - <http://www.thecommonwealth.org>

➤ THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT

1) How is the Prime Minister chosen?

The PM is an MP head of the government.

The **leader of the party** that wins the **most seats in a general election** is appointed PM by the Queen.

The Prime Minister is officially responsible for choosing the other members of the government.

2) What is the Cabinet?

A maximum of 22 paid government ministers chosen by the PM

They can be Members of either House of Parliament.

The Cabinet develop government policies and some members head government departments.

3) What do 10, Downing Street, Whitehall and Westminster refer to?

- **10 Downing Street** is the headquarters of the Government + the official residence and office of the PM

- **Whitehall**: a street in the City of Westminster, Central London - centre of the Government of the United Kingdom and is lined with numerous departments and ministries, including the Ministry of Defence, Horse Guards and the Cabinet Office.

Consequently, the name 'Whitehall' is used as a metonym **for the British civil service and government**;

- **Westminster** is a government district. It includes the Palace of Westminster, Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey and Westminster Cathedral.

In a government context, Westminster often refers to **the Parliament of the United Kingdom**, located in the Palace of Westminster — also known as the Houses of Parliament.

4) **How many chambers are there in Westminster?** 2: The House of Lords + the House of Commons.

5) **What are the main political parties in the UK?** The Conservative Party and the Labour Party.

➤ THE BRITISH MONARCHY

1) Who is Elizabeth II and which powers does she exercise?

- A **constitutional monarch**: Britain's head of state, but her **executive powers are limited** by constitutional rules. Her role is mostly **symbolic**: she represents Britain on state visits and on ceremonial occasions.

- **Queen** of 16 former British colonies, including Australia, Canada and NZ + head of the Commonwealth

→ Political powers:

- **Summoning/Proroguing Parliament** – The Queen has the power to prorogue (suspend) and to summon (call back) Parliament – prorogation typically happens at the end of a parliamentary session, and the summoning occurs shortly after, when The Queen attends the State Opening of Parliament.

- **Royal Assent** – It is The Queen's right & responsibility to grant assent to bills from Parliament, signing them into law. Whilst, in theory, she could decide to refuse assent, the last Monarch to do this was Queen Anne in 1708.

- **Appointing the Prime Minister** – The Queen is responsible for appointing the Prime Minister after a general election or a resignation, in a General Election The Queen will appoint the candidate who is likely to have the most support of the House of Commons. In the event of a resignation, The Queen listens to advice on who should be appointed as their successor.

- **Declaration of War** – The Sovereign retains the power to declare war against other nations, though in practice this is done by the Prime Minister and Parliament of the day.

- **Freedom From Prosecution** – Under British law, The Queen is above the law and cannot be prosecuted – she is also free from civil action.

→ **Judicial powers:**

The Queen's judicial powers are now very minimal, and there is only really one which is used on a regular basis, with others having been delegated to judges and parliament through time.

Royal Pardon – The Royal Pardon was originally used to retract death sentences against those wrongly convicted. It is now used to correct errors in sentencing and was recently used to give a posthumous pardon to WW2 codebreaker, Alan Turing.

→ **Armed forces**

The Queen's powers in the Armed Forces are usually used on the advice of Generals and Parliament though some functions are retained by The Queen herself nowadays.

Commander-in-Chief – The Queen is commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces and all members swear an oath of allegiance to The Queen when they join; they are Her Majesty's Armed Forces.

→ **Honours**

One of the main prerogative powers that are still used personally by The Queen these days is the power to grant honours. As all honours derive from the Crown, The Queen has the final say on knighthoods, peerages...

Creation of Peerages – The Queen may create a peerage for any person – whether a life peerage or hereditary one, though hereditary peerages haven't been issued for decades outside of the Royal Family.

Font of Honour – It is The Queen's prerogative power to create orders of knighthood and to grant any citizen honours.

2) **Where do the Sovereign's finances come from?**

The Queen has a **private income, a government grant and revenues from estates**

With an estimated personal net worth of \$515 million, Queen Elizabeth II is among the world's richest women. So, it's no surprise that the British Government wants to ensure that she does not get much richer while her government cuts jobs and costs. The Government, however, can only affect one part of the Queen's income as much of it is private or guaranteed by law.

1. Private Income: This includes money from inherited private estates, such as Sandringham and Balmoral Castle, and her personal investment portfolio. The Queen pays income tax on the revenue but her private wealth is not made public.

2. The Duchy of Lancaster

The Duchy of Lancaster dates from 1399 and now includes 18,000 hectares of property, land and other assets in England and Wales. The income it provides is called the **Privy Purse** and is used for the upkeep of property and to fund the Queen's private and official expenditure. In 2013, the profit from the Duchy was \$19 million.

The Queen is only entitled to the revenue from the Duchy; she cannot touch the capital or any gains in capital.

3. Sovereign Grant

In 1760, King George III cut a deal with parliament to hand over the Crown Estate — a large portfolio of land and property now worth \$15 billion, which includes most of the U.K.'s seabed, Regent Street in London and Buckingham Palace – to the Treasury. As part of this deal, the Monarch is entitled to a share of the profits of the Crown Estate. The Queen now receives the Sovereign Grant from the Treasury, which consists of 15% of the profits from the Crown Estate. Last financial year she received \$61 million, which goes to paying for royal travel, investitures, garden parties and the upkeep of official residences like Buckingham Palace.

This is the grant that the Government reportedly want to reduce because the revenue of the Crown Estate is rising faster than the costs of the royal household.

3) **Name the 3 next in line to the throne?**

Charles, Prince of Wales / William, Duke of Cambridge / Prince George

4) What recent event shook the Royal Family?

→ **Prince Andrew's scandal.** He stepped back from public duties because of the controversy surrounding his links with Jeffrey Epstein, a convicted American sex offender. He may have to testify in front of a US court.

→ **Megxit:**

The Duke & Duchess of Sussex "will no longer receive public funds for royal duties" according to Buckingham Palace.

It follows the revelation that the pair are to step back as senior royals and intend to become financially independent.

What does being 'financially independent' mean?

According to the Sussexes website, 95% of their income comes from Prince Charles's income from the Duchy of Cornwall, a vast portfolio of property and financial investments, which brought in £21.6m last year.

Money from the Duchy - just over £5m in total in 2018-19 - pays for the public duties of Prince Harry and Meghan, as well as the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, and some of their private costs.

It is understood the couple will continue to receive money from Harry's father under the new agreement, although it is unclear whether this will come from the Duchy, his personal wealth, or a combination of the two.

However, the pair will stop receiving money from the taxpayer-funded Sovereign Grant, which makes up the other 5% of their income.

This grant is paid from the government to the Royal Family to cover expenses for official duties and looking after royal palaces. It is worth a total of £82.4m this financial year and is funded by profits from the Crown Estate - commercial properties owned by the Crown.

Additionally, the Duke and Duchess are to repay the £2.4m cost of renovating their home, Frogmore Cottage in Windsor, a bill initially footed by the UK taxpayer. They will also pay a "commercial rent" on the property.

What is the Crown Estate?

An independent commercial property business and one of the largest property portfolios in the UK

The majority of assets are in London, but the estate also owns property in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

Holdings include Windsor Great Park and Ascot racecourse, but most is residential and commercial property

Managed by an independent organisation, with any profit paid to the Treasury for the benefit of all UK taxpayers

Funds the Sovereign Grant which supports official royal duties and maintains the occupied royal palaces

What other wealth do they have?

Both the duke and duchess have considerable personal wealth. Princes William and Harry received the bulk of the £13m fortune left by their mother Princess Diana.

Prince Harry is also thought to have been left millions of pounds by his great-grandmother, the Queen Mother, says BBC royal correspondent Nick Witchell.

During her acting career, the Duchess of Sussex earned a reported payment of \$50,000 (£38,300) per episode for the legal drama Suits.

She also ran a lifestyle blog, and designed her own fashion line for a Canadian brand.

It is not known whether the couple will continue to be given a security detail paid for by the taxpayer-funded Metropolitan Police, which does not disclose the costs. Their intention to travel back and forth from North America would be likely to add to this cost, but it is possible they will pay towards this.

6. GUN BEARING IN THE USA

A- SOME LANDMARKS

1-Find out who the Minutemen were during the American Revolution.

- Name given to select members of the militia
- An armed man pledged to be ready to fight on a minute's notice just before and during the Revolutionary War in the United States

The Minutemen were some of the first people to fight the British for independence. They saw their first action at Lexington and Concord and gained fame from there. The first minutemen were from Massachusetts, but other states soon had their own regiments.

2-This is the 2nd amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed"

- 2nd Amendment to the Constitution
- Adopted in 1791 – part of the Bill of Rights (natural and God-given rights).

B- THE NRA

a. **What do these letters stand for?** *National Rifle Association*

b. **When was the NRA created?** November 17, 1871

c. **Why was the NRA created?**

Lack of marksmanship (skill with a firearm) shown by the union troops during the Civil War / Primary goal : to promote and encourage rifle shooting on a scientific basis

d. **What does the NRA advocate and what does it oppose?**

- Lobbying for gun rights
- Defending the Second Amendment: guarantees the right of individuals to bear arms.
- Currently opposes most new gun-control legislation, calling instead for stricter enforcement of existing laws such as prohibiting convicted felons and violent criminals from possessing firearms and increased sentencing for gun-related crimes.

C- SOME FAMOUS SHOOTINGS

➤ **COLOMBINE** - April 20, 1999 - Columbine High School in Columbine, Colorado

→ **Attack:**

- 12 students and 1 teacher killed - 24 students injured – 3 injured while attempting to escape the school.
- Many weapons: Savage-Springfield 67H pump-action shotgun, 12 gauge; Hi-Point 995 Carbine, 9 mm caliber; pipe bomb; Intratec TEC-9 semi-automatic handgun, 9 mm caliber; and Stevens 311D double-barreled sawed-off shotgun, 12 gauge

→ Two senior students, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold - then committed suicide.

➤ **VIRGINIA TECH** – April 16th, 2007

→ Campus of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University – Blacksburg, Virginia

→ **Seung-Hui Cho:**

- 23 – South Korean with permanent residency in the US – senior at Virginia Tech
- Diagnosed with severe anxiety disorder > therapy but medical record not disclosed to Virginia Tech
- In btw attacks: back to his dorm: changed, deleted emails & removed hard drive
- 10mn after 2nd attack: shot himself dead

→ **Attack:**

- 32 people † (5 faculty members – 27 students) - 17 wounded by gunshot – 6 wounded while escaping
- 2 firearms: Walter P22 (22mm – semi-automatic handgun) – Glock 19 (9mm – semi-automatic)
- Was carrying around 400 rounds of ammunition – fired at least 174
- 2 separate attacks – 2h apart > 1st: Johnston hall (2 pupils †) – Norris Hall (30† - injured people)

➤ **AURORA** - July 20, 2012 - Century movie theatre in Aurora, Colorado (during *The Dark Knight Rises* movie)

→ **The Attack:**

- 12 people killed and 70 others injured
- Two Glock Model 22 semi-automatic pistols, .40 caliber; Smith & Wesson M&P15 AR 15 style rifle, .223 caliber; and Remington Model 870 shotgun, 12 gauge

→ James Eagan Holmes – 25 years old - was arrested outside the cinema minutes later

➤ **NEWTOWN** - December 14, 2012 - → Sandy Hook Elementary School, Newtown, Connecticut

→ **The Attack:**

- 20 children and 6 adult staff killed
- Bushmaster semi-automatic rifle, .223 caliber

→ **Adam Lanza:** 20 years old - committed suicide by shooting himself in the head

➤ **ORLANDO** – June 12th, 2016 - Pulse (gay night club) in Orlando, Florida.

→ **Omar Mateen:**

- 29 – security guard
- Had sworn allegiance to the leader of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)
- Attack as retaliation for previous US ops
- Had legally purchased his weapons
- Smith and Wesson found in his car along with hundreds of rounds
- Killed by Orlando Police department (OPD)

→ **Attack:**

- 49 † (38 † at the scene / 11 † in hospital) - 58 wounded > Latinos and LGBT
- SIG Sauer MCX semi-automatic rifle + 9mm Glock 17 (semi-automatic pistol)
- Fired at least 110 rounds (202 total with police forces)

➤ **LAS VEGAS** – **October 1st, 2017** - Route 91 Harvest music festival on the Las Vegas Strip, Nevada

→ **Stephen Paddock:**

- 64
- Former auditor and real estate business man > in a retirement community
- Killed himself
- Unknown motive

→ **Attack:**

- 58 † (36 women – 22 men from 20 to 67) - 851 injured
- More than 1,100 rounds
- Fired from a hotel suite (32nd floor)
- Bump stock: enables semi-automatic weapons to fire at the rate of a fully automatic one

Deadliest mass shooting committed by an individual in the US, surpassing the death toll of the 2016 Orlando shooting

➤ **PARKLAND** – **February 14th, 2018** - Marjory Stoneman Douglas High school in Parkland, Florida

→ **Nikolas Jacob Cruz:**

- 19 - Former student of the school
- Member of the Junior Reserve Officer's training Corps (JRTOC) + part of the air rifle team > awards
- Confessed & charged with 17 counts of premeditated murder
- Took an Uber ride to the school + went to buy a soda at a Subway and then lingered in McDonalds...
- 2016 - 2017: tips about Cruz's threat to carry out a school shooting
- FBI also informed (sept 2017 – Jan 2018)

→ **Attack:**

- 17 † (14 students – 3 staff members) - 16 wounded
- AR-15 Style semi-automatic rifle + multiple small capacity magazines
- Triggered the fire alarm which sparked confusion

D- SOME LAWS

1. Focus on these Acts and explain what each of these Acts consists in.

a. 1968 Gun Control Act

- Spurred by the assassinations of Pres John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr.
- Passed by President Lyndon B. Johnson
- becomes the primary federal law regulating firearms

Gun control act:

- Prohibits all convicted **felons, drug users and the mentally ill** from buying guns
- **Raises the age** to purchase handguns from a federally licensed dealer to **21**
- Expands the licensing requirements to more gun dealers and requires more detailed record-keeping

b. 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act

- **Bans all sale, manufacture, importation, or possession** of a number of specific types of assault weapons.
- A **10-year federal ban** on the manufacture of new semi-automatic assault weapons (specifically 19 weapons that have the features of assault rifles, including the AR-15, certain versions of the AK-47, the TEC-9, the MAC-10 and the Uzi, several of which had become the preferred weapon of violent drug gangs)
- The act also bans **large-capacity ammunition magazines**, limiting them to 10 rounds
- The law **does not apply to weapons that were already in legal possession**, and there are easy ways to adapt new weapons to avoid the prohibitions.

2004: The 10-year **ban on assault weapons** over - the law **was not renewed** by Congress - failure to renew the ban

c. 2005 Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act.

- Signed by President George W. Bush
- Grants **gun manufacturers immunity** from civil lawsuits filed over crimes committed with firearms
- The law killed a legal strategy being pursued by gun-control advocates to hold manufacturers responsible for the negative effects of their products

2. Explain what happened to the 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act in 2004.

2004: The 10-year sunset **provision of the assault weapons ban** runs its course, and the **law is not renewed** by Congress. Repeated efforts to renew the ban fail.

3. On February 12th, 2013, in his State of the Union Address, President Obama mentioned some proposals to reduce gun violence. Find what these proposals were.

- Requiring **criminal background checks** for all gun sales, including those by private sellers that currently are exempt.
- Reinstating and strengthening the **ban on assault weapons** that was in place from 1994 to 2004.
- **Limiting ammunition magazines** to 10 rounds

Extract from President Obama's State of the Union Address (February 12, 2013)

It has been **two months since Newtown**. I know this is not the first time this country has debated how to reduce gun violence. But this time is different. Overwhelming majorities of Americans – Americans who believe in the 2nd Amendment – have come together around **common-sense reform** – like **background checks** that will make it harder for criminals to get their hands on a gun. Senators of both parties are working together on tough new laws to **prevent anyone from buying guns for resale to criminals**. Police chiefs are asking our help to get **weapons of war and massive ammunition magazines off our streets**, because they are tired of being outgunned.

Each of these proposals deserves a vote in Congress. If you want to vote no, that's your choice. But these proposals deserve a vote. Because in the two months since Newtown, more than a thousand birthdays, graduations, and anniversaries have been stolen from our lives by a bullet from a gun. [...]

Our actions **will not prevent every senseless act of violence** in this country. Indeed, **no laws, no initiatives, no administrative acts will perfectly solve all the challenges** I've outlined tonight. But we were never sent here to be perfect. We were sent here to make what difference we can, to **secure this nation, expand opportunity**, and uphold our ideals through the hard, often frustrating, but absolutely necessary work of self-government.

4. What is Donald Trump's stance on gun bearing?

- Donald Trump was endorsed by the NRA during his first presidential campaign - the NRA pumped \$30 million into Trump's 2016 election campaign
- He pledged his support to the NRA and said he would protect and cherish the 2nd Amendment.

However since the Parkland shooting, his position has somewhat evolved:

- Suggested expanding background checks for gun buyers + raising the legal age to buy rifles from 18 to 21
- Called for tighter restrictions on gun sales to young adults and for background checks to be expanded for all weapons purchases, including at gun shows and online.
- Directed his Justice Department to ban bump-stocks, enabling rifles to shoot hundreds of rounds a mn
- Support for **increasing armed security** at schools, **arming teachers** and reducing "gun-free zones".
- He also warned lawmakers against proposing a bill that included **concealed carry** across the US, a provision that Republicans and the NRA have long campaigned to include in any new gun legislation.

By late September 2019, Trump had gone silent on the issue, and The Post reported that the president was abandoning plans to fight gun violence because he was worried it might cost him votes within his base.

THE WELFARE STATE

A- Some history/ definition

This is a social system whereby the state assumes primary responsibility for the welfare of its citizens, as in matters of health care, education, employment and social security.

B- In Britain

1. Who proposed setting up a welfare state after the war? (2 names) W.H. Beveridge and J.M. Keynes

2. What was issued in 1942? Which five « giant evils » were identified?

→ **The Beveridge report** - 5 giant evils : Want Disease Squalor Ignorance Idleness

3. For each issue, say which major reform the Labour Government put in place between 1945 and 1951

- **Want:** National Insurance Act, National Assistance Act, Family Allowance Act, Industrial Injuries Act
National Insurance Act: covered sickness, unemployment benefits, maternity, widow, death benefits, old age pensions
National Assistance Act: a safety net for those not paying National insurance
- **Disease:** The National Health Service (NHS) - one of the pillars of the welfare state. The right of all citizens to receive treatment. Aims: comprehensive, universal and free at point of service.
- **Squalor:** New Towns Act: House building programmes.
- **Ignorance:** Education Act: secondary education for all.
- **Idleness:** some industries nationalised and run by the government.

4-What happened in the late 70's?

A change occurred: change of social order, increasing financial and political pressure so Thatcher's government curbed social security costs by **cutting insurance benefits**.

5- What happened on June 14th, 2017?

Grenfell tower (24 storeys/ 127 flats): 14 June 2017

Fire at the 24-storey block in North Kensington, after it was reported at 00:54 – took 24h to get it under control
72 victims – 65 people rescued by firefighters

Tower managed by the Kensington and Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation (KCTMO) on behalf of the council

→ **What caused the fire? A fridge (not started deliberately)**

Fridge: a Hotpoint fridge freezer on the fourth floor > Footage showing the fire spreading up **externally first**
The fridge: the **Hotpoint FF175B model posed a "low risk" and did not need modifications**

→ **What about the cladding?**

Flammable cladding - installed in a recent renovation in 2016 - is thought to have contributed to the rapid spread of the fire.
2016: £8.6m refurbishment plan: new exterior cladding, replacement windows and a communal heating system.
> Zinc cladding originally proposed replaced with an aluminium type which was less fire resistant (£300,000 economy).

→ **Had there been safety concerns about the tower?**

The Grenfell Action Group had claimed, before and during the refurbishment that the block constituted a fire risk and residents had warned that access to the site for emergency vehicles was "severely restricted".
The council insisted the block had been regularly inspected.

→ **What happened in the immediate aftermath of the fire?**

T. May criticised for her react^o to the fire as she told the Commons that the official response had "not been good enough".
A public inquiry was opened looking at the adequacy of regulations, the tower's refurbishment, the response of authorities in the aftermath.

→ **What about other tower blocks?**

A survey in the aftermath of the fire identified 228 other buildings where cladding failed safety tests.
In May 2018, the government announced a £400m operation to remove dangerous cladding from tower blocks owned by councils and housing associations.

→ **Social Divide:**

Grenfell Tower is in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea: one of the wealthiest local authorities in the country
Kensington and Chelsea: some of the most expensive houses in the world but the highest gap between rich and poor anywhere in the country.

Grenfell Tower: populated by poorer, mainly ethnic-minority residents.

The Conservative-run council was criticised for neglecting the borough's poorer residents, and some have blamed their neglect as a cause of the fire. In 2016, the council took £55 million in rent but only invested less than £40 million in council housing. One journalist described the incident as an example of Britain's inequality.

6- What are the plans for the NHS today?

The NHS in England published a 10-year plan in January 2019.

Plan: increase budget by **£20bn a year by 2023** – funds shifted from hospitals to mental health & community

Adapted from <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-46784582>

- **More personalised medicine** to create more effective treatments by tailoring them to the individual but many of these treatments are still in their infancy. It is unclear just how effective they will be in the future.
- developing **ambulatory care** - "same-day emergency care"

- **Earlier detection of cancer**

Only half of people diagnosed with cancer have the disease identified early, if increased to 75% the government says 55,000 lives could be saved in the next 10 years if this is achieved.

- **More focus on prevention about having a healthy lifestyle** - evidence from the most recent Health Survey for England shows nearly nine in 10 people have an unhealthy lifestyle habit, such as excess drinking, poor diet or smoking. Half have at least two.
- **greater collaboration btw hospitals and their community counterparts (such as doctors or social services)**
- **digital development**: online GP booking, video consultations with hospital consultants to reduce unnecessary hospital appointments, remote monitoring of things such as blood pressure...
- **Easier access to mental health support for all**

C-In the USA

1. Congress passed the Social Security Act in 1935. Name President Roosevelt's program: The New Deal

2. Whom did it target?

→ Workers (unemployment, retirement age), the disabled, needy families (maternal services), old people (retirement)

3. What was set up in 1965?

→ **Medicaid and Medicare**: created when Pres Johnson signed amendments to the Social Security Act on Jul 30, 1965

Medicaid:

- joint federal + state program that helps with medical costs for people with limited income and resources
- Offers benefits not normally covered by Medicare, like nursing home care and personal care services.

People eligible for Medicaid: limited income + 1 of the following elements (65 or older / under 19 / pregnant/ disabled / caring for a child / eligible immigrant)

Medicare is health insurance for people 65 or older / under 65 with certain disabilities / people with kidney problems

4. What about Obamacare? Explain why it was put in place and what it changed.

- ObamaCare's official name: the **Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act**
- signed in 2010 by President Barack Obama
- Many of the law's provisions are already in effect and the rest continue to roll out until 2022

→ New benefits, rights, protections to curb healthcare spending and improve healthcare and health insurance

→ Affordable Care Act increases the **quality, accessibility, and affordability** of health insurance. In exchange, most people who can afford to must Obtain Health Coverage by 2014 or pay a per-month fee. The law eliminates pre-existing conditions, stops insurance companies from dropping you when you are sick, protects against gender discrimination, expands free preventative services and health benefits, expands Medicaid, improves Medicare, requires larger employers to insure their employees, creates a marketplace for subsidized insurance providing tens of millions individuals, families, and small businesses with **free or low-cost health insurance**

5. Say what the Trump administration tried to do with it, why and what they have managed to do so far.

The Trump administration **tried to repeal Obamacare** but the two plans were defeated in Congress.

On October 12, 2017, US President Donald Trump signed an **executive order** allowing the sale of health insurance plans that are **exempt from some Obamacare regulations**.

The order, however, **does not lift the Obamacare individual mandate** that requires most Americans to have some form of health insurance or face a tax penalty.

Now:

- The order directs federal agencies to consider easing rules allowing small businesses and some individuals to buy cheaper plans with fewer benefits.
- The new plans would also lift limits on short-term health insurance plans and circumvent Obamacare regulations requiring "essential health benefits" including maternity care, emergency room visits and mental health treatment.

Current issue:

- As originally passed, the ACA included a **requirement for all Americans to obtain health insurance or pay a penalty**, known as the individual mandate.
- When the Supreme Court was asked to weigh in on the law's constitutionality in 2012, it held that this was a **legitimate exercise of Congress's power to tax**.
- But as part of their tax-cut bill in 2017, Republicans **reduced this penalty to zero, killing the individual mandate**. Republican officials from 20 states then sued the federal government, arguing that without the mandate, the **entire law, based as it was on Congress's taxing powers, should be struck down as unconstitutional**.
- In the meantime, the law remains almost entirely intact but faces an uncertain future.

THE DEATH PENALTY

Some history:

The first established death penalty laws date as far back as the 18th Cent B.C. in the Code of King Hammurabi of Babylon, which codified the death penalty for 25 different crimes. In the Seventh Century B.C., the Draconian Code of Athens made death the only punishment for all crimes; and death penalty was also part of the Fifth Century B.C.'s Roman Law of the Twelve Tablets. Death sentences were carried out by such means as crucifixion, drowning, beating to death, burning alive, and impalement.

In the Tenth Century A.D., hanging became the usual method of execution in Britain. In the Sixteenth Century, under the reign of Henry VIII, as many as 72,000 people are estimated to have been executed. Some common methods of execution at that time were boiling, burning at the stake, hanging, beheading, and drawing and quartering. Executions were carried out for such capital offenses as marrying a Jew, not confessing to a crime, and treason.

Britain influenced America's use of the death penalty more than any other country. When European settlers came to the new world, they brought the practice of capital punishment. The first recorded execution in the new colonies was that of Captain George Kendall in the Jamestown colony of Virginia in 1608. Kendall was executed for being a spy for Spain. In 1612, Virginia Governor Sir Thomas Dale enacted the Divine, Moral and Martial Laws, which provided the death penalty for even minor offenses such as stealing grapes, killing chickens, and trading with Indians.

Laws regarding the death penalty varied from colony to colony. The Massachusetts Bay Colony held its first execution in 1630, even though the Capital Laws of New England did not go into effect until years later. The NY Colony instituted the Duke's Laws of 1665. Under these laws, offenses such as striking one's mother or father, or denying the "true God," were punishable by death.

➤ **The Death Penalty all over the world**

1. Find out if there are more countries in the world which have abolished capital punishment or which actually use it.

- Historically, capital punishment has been used in almost every part of the world.
- Currently, the large majority of countries have either abolished or discontinued the practice
- The U.S. is the most developed country to use the death penalty.
- Globally, of the 195 United Nations states: 55 countries retain capital punishment / 104 countries have completely abolished / 8 have abolished it for ordinary crimes (while maintaining it for special circumstances such as war crimes) / 28 are abolitionist

2. Find out the names of the 5 countries which have carried out the most executions last year.

→ China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Syria but precise numbers are not available for many countries

➤ **The Death Penalty in the US**

3. In which part of the 20th century did executions reach a peak in the US?

- resurgence in the use of the death penalty from the 1920s to the 1940s
- More executions in the 1930s than in any other decade in American history, an average of 167 per year (Prohibition + Great Depression)
- This was due, in part, to the writings of criminologists, who argued that the death penalty was a necessary social measure.

4. What did the United Nations sign in 1948?

- adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- This 1948 doctrine proclaimed a "right to life" in an absolute fashion, any limitations being only implicit.

5. Find out what the public sentiment about the death penalty was after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted.

In the 1950s, public sentiment began to turn away from capital punishment. Many allied nations either abolished or limited the death penalty, and in the U.S., the number of executions dropped dramatically.

6. Find information about the number of executions in the US in the 1940's, 1950's and 1960's and draw a conclusion.

- 1940s: 1,289 executions / 1950s: 715 / 1960-1976: 191
- 1966: support for capital punishment reached an all-time low. A Gallup poll showed support for the death penalty at only 42%.

7. What happened between 1967 and 1972? Why?

Between 1967 and 1977, the U.S. observed what amounted to a voluntary moratorium on executions as the Supreme Court wrestled with the issue. In several cases not directly testing its constitutionality, the Supreme Court modified the application and administration of the death penalty.

8. Find the missing words to the 8th amendment:

→ Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

9. Find the name of the 1972 case in which the SC held that the death penalty laws violated the 8th amendment.

In the 1972 case of Furman v. Georgia, the Supreme Court issued a 5-4 decision effectively striking down most federal and state death penalty laws finding them "arbitrary and capricious." The court held that the death penalty laws, as written, violated the "cruel and unusual punishment" provision of the Eighth Amendment.

10. How many death sentences were lifted after this decision?

As a result of Furman v. Georgia, more than 600 prisoners who had been sentenced to death between 1967 and 1972 had their death sentences lifted.

11. Find out how states managed to reinstate death penalty?

- The Supreme Court's decision did not rule the death penalty itself to be unconstitutional, only the specific laws by which it was applied.
- States quickly began to write new death penalty laws designed to comply with the court's ruling.

12. How many states in the US use the death penalty and how many do not?

→ 28 states use it (+ US government + US military) / 22 don't

13. Find the names of the last 4 states which abolished death penalty and the year they did it.

→ Delaware (2016), Washington (2018), New Hampshire (2019), Colorado (2020)

14. Find out the main Federal capital offenses.

- The capital offenses include espionage, treason, and death resulting from aircraft hijacking
- Mostly consist of various forms of murder: murder committed during a drug-related drive-by shooting, murder during a kidnapping, murder for hire, and genocide

15. What are the 5 methods of execution?

→ Lethal injection (most-widely used), electrocution, gas chamber, hanging and firing squad.

16. What is clemency? How many defendants have benefited from it since 1976?

- Clemency is an act of mercy through the executive branch of government lessening a punishment
- In death penalty cases, it means sparing the life of the condemned inmate.
- Since 1976, 294 clemencies have been granted in capital cases for humanitarian reasons, including doubts about the defendant's guilt or conclusions of the governor regarding the death penalty process.
- Clemency process varies from state to state, typically involving the governor or a board of advisors, or both.

17. What is death row?

Death row refers to the section of a prison in which prisoners, who are under death sentences and are awaiting appeals and/or potential execution, are housed.

18. Find out the number of people on death row in 2019: 2620 as of January 1, 2020

19. Here are 10 notions to discuss the PROS and CONS in the death penalty debate. Find at least one pro and one con argument for each notion.

PRO Death Penalty	CON Death Penalty
1. MORALITY	
<p>PRO: "The crimes of rape, torture, treason, kidnapping, murder, larceny, and perjury pivot on a moral code that escapes apodictic [indisputably true] proof by expert testimony or otherwise. But communities would plunge into anarchy if they could not act on moral assumptions less certain than that the sun will rise in the east and set in the west. Abolitionists may contend that the death penalty is inherently immoral because governments should never take human life, no matter what the provocation. But that is an article of faith, not of fact. The death penalty honors human dignity by treating the defendant as a free moral actor able to control his own destiny for good or for ill; it does not treat him as an animal with no moral sense." Bruce Fein, JD Constitutional Lawyer and General Counsel to the Center for Law and Accountability "Individual Rights and Responsibility - The Death Penalty, But Sparingly," www.aba.org - June 17, 2008</p>	<p>CON: "Ultimately, the moral question surrounding capital punishment in America has less to do with whether those convicted of violent crime deserve to die than with whether those state and federal governments deserve to kill those whom it has imprisoned. The legacy of racial apartheid, racial bias, and ethnic discrimination is unavoidably evident in the administration of capital punishment in America. Death sentences are imposed in a criminal justice system that treats you better if you are rich and guilty than if you are poor and innocent. This is an immoral condition that makes rejecting the death penalty on moral grounds not only defensible but necessary for those who refuse to accept unequal or unjust administration of punishment." Bryan Stevenson, JD Professor of Law at New York University School of Law "Close to Death: Reflections on Race and Capital Punishment in America," from Debating the Death Penalty: Should America Have Capital Punishment? The Experts on Both Sides Make Their Best Cas - 2004</p>
2. CONSTITUTIONALITY	
<p>PRO: "Simply because an execution method may result in pain, either by accident or as an inescapable consequence of death, does not establish the sort of 'objectively intolerable risk of harm' [quoting the opinion of the Court from Farmer v. Brennan, 511 U. S. 825, 842, 846 (1994)] that qualifies as cruel and unusual... Kentucky has adopted a method of execution believed to be the most humane available, one it shares with 35 other States... Kentucky's decision to adhere to its protocol cannot be viewed as probative of the wanton infliction of pain under the Eighth Amendment... Throughout our history, whenever a method of execution has been challenged in this Court as cruel and unusual, the Court has rejected the challenge. Our society has nonetheless steadily moved to more humane methods of carrying out capital punishment." Baze v. Rees (529 KB) US Supreme Court, in a decision written by Chief Justice John G. Roberts - Apr. 16, 2008</p>	<p>CON: "Death is... an unusually severe punishment, unusual in its pain, in its finality, and in its enormity... The fatal constitutional infirmity in the punishment of death is that it treats 'members of the human race as nonhumans, as objects to be toyed with and discarded. [It is] thus inconsistent with the fundamental premise of the Clause that even the vilest criminal remains a human being possessed of common human dignity.' [quoting himself from Furman v. Georgia, 408 U.S. 238, 257 (1972)] As such it is a penalty that 'subjects the individual to a fate forbidden by the principle of civilized treatment guaranteed by the [Clause].' [quoting C.J. Warren from Trop v. Dulles, 356 U.S. 86, 101 (1958)] I therefore would hold, on that ground alone, that death is today a cruel and unusual punishment prohibited by the Clause... I would set aside the death sentences imposed... as violative of the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments." William J. Brennan, JD - Justice of the US Supreme Court Dissenting opinion in Gregg v. Georgia - July 2, 1976</p>
3. DETERRENCE	
<p>PRO: "Common sense, lately bolstered by statistics, tells us that the death penalty will deter murder... People fear nothing more than death. Therefore, nothing will deter a criminal more than the fear of death... life in prison is less feared. Murderers clearly prefer it to execution -- otherwise, they would not try to be sentenced to life in prison instead of death... Therefore, a life sentence must be less deterrent than a death sentence. And we must execute murderers as long as it is merely possible that their execution protects citizens from future murder." Ernest Van Den Haag, PhD Late Professor of Jurisprudence at Fordham University "For the Death Penalty," New York Times - Oct. 17, 1983</p>	<p>CON: "[T]here is no credible evidence that the death penalty deters crime more effectively than long terms of imprisonment. States that have death penalty laws do not have lower crime rates or murder rates than states without such laws. And states that have abolished capital punishment show no significant changes in either crime or murder rates. The death penalty has no deterrent effect. Claims that each execution deters a certain number of murders have been thoroughly discredited by social science research." American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) "The Death Penalty: Questions and Answers," ACLU.org Apr. 9, 2007</p>

4. RETRIBUTION	
<p>PRO: "Society is justly ordered when each person receives what is due to him. Crime disturbs this just order, for the criminal takes from people their lives, peace, liberties, and worldly goods in order to give himself undeserved benefits. Deserved punishment protects society morally by restoring this just order, making the wrongdoer pay a price equivalent to the harm he has done. This is retribution, not to be confused with revenge, which is guided by a different motive. In retribution the spur is the virtue of indignation, which answers injury with injury for public good... Retribution is the primary purpose of just punishment as such... [R]ehabilitation, protection, and deterrence have a lesser status in punishment than retribution." J. Budziszewski, PhD Professor of Government and Philosophy at the University of Texas at Austin- "Capital Punishment: The Case for Justice, "OrthodoxyToday.org - Aug./Sep. 2004</p>	<p>CON: "Retribution is just another word for revenge, and the desire for revenge is one of the lowest human emotions — perhaps sometimes understandable, but not really a rational response to a critical situation. To kill the person who has killed someone close to you is simply to continue the cycle of violence which ultimately destroys the avenger as well as the offender. That this execution somehow give 'closure' to a tragedy is a myth. Expressing one's violence simply reinforces the desire to express it. Just as expressing anger simply makes us more angry. It does not drain away. It contaminates the otherwise good will which any human being needs to progress in love and understanding." Raymond A. Schroth, SJ - Jesuit Priest and Community Professor of the Humanities at St. Peter's College Email to ProCon.org - Sep. 5, 2008</p>
5. IRREVOCABLE MISTAKES	
<p>PRO: "...No system of justice can produce results which are 100% certain all the time. Mistakes will be made in any system which relies upon human testimony for proof. We should be vigilant to uncover and avoid such mistakes. Our system of justice rightfully demands a higher standard for death penalty cases. However, the risk of making a mistake with the extraordinary due process applied in death penalty cases is very small, and there is no credible evidence to show that any innocent persons have been executed at least since the death penalty was reactivated in 1976... The inevitability of a mistake should not serve as grounds to eliminate the death penalty any more than the risk of having a fatal wreck should make automobiles illegal..." Steven D. Stewart, JD Prosecuting Attorney for Clark County Indiana Message on the Clark County Prosecutor website accessed - Aug. 6, 2008</p>	<p>CON: "...Since the reinstatement of the modern death penalty, 87 people have been freed from death row because they were later proven innocent. That is a demonstrated error rate of 1 innocent person for every 7 persons executed. When the consequences are life and death, we need to demand the same standard for our system of justice as we would for our airlines...It is a central pillar of our criminal justice system that it is better that many guilty people go free than that one innocent should suffer... Let us reflect to ensure that we are being just. Let us pause to be certain we do not kill a single innocent person. This is really not too much to ask for a civilized society." Russ Feingold, JD - US Senator (D-WI) introducing the "National Death Penalty Moratorium Act of 2000" - April 26, 2000</p>
6. COST OF DEATH VS. LIFE IN PRISON	
<p>PRO: "Many opponents present, as fact, that the cost of the death penalty is so expensive (at least \$2 million per case?), that we must choose life without parole ('LWOP') at a cost of \$1 million for 50 years. Predictably, these pronouncements may be entirely false. JFA [Justice for All] estimates that LWOP cases will cost \$1.2 million-\$3.6 million more than equivalent death penalty cases. There is no question that the up front costs of the death penalty are significantly higher than for equivalent LWOP cases. There also appears to be no question that, over time, equivalent LWOP cases are much more expensive... than death penalty cases. Opponents ludicrously claim that the death penalty costs, over time, 3-10 times more than LWOP." Dudley Sharp Director of Death Penalty Resources at Justice for All "Death Penalty and Sentencing Information," Justice for All website - Oct. 1, 1997</p>	<p>CON: "In the course of my work, I believe I have reviewed every state and federal study of the costs of the death penalty in the past 25 years. One element is common to all of these studies: They all concluded that the cost of the death penalty amounts to a net expense to the state and the taxpayers. Or to put it differently the death penalty is clearly more expensive than a system handling similar cases with a lesser punishment. [It] combines the costliest parts of both punishments: lengthy and complicated death penalty trials, followed by incarceration for life... Everything that is needed for an ordinary trial is needed for a death penalty case, only more so. More pre-trial time, more experts, twice as many attorneys, two trials instead of one will be conducted: one for guilt and one for punishment. And then will come a series of appeals during which the inmates are held in the high security of death row." Richard C. Dieter, MS, JD - Executive Director of the Death Penalty Information Center Testimony to the Judiciary Committee of the Colorado State House of Representatives regarding "House Bill 1094 - Costs of the Death Penalty and Related Issues" - Feb. 7, 2007</p>

7. RACE	
<p>PRO: "[T]he fact that blacks and Hispanics are charged with capital crimes out of proportion to their numbers in the general population may simply mean that blacks and Hispanics commit capital crimes out of proportion to their numbers. Capital criminals don't look like America... No one is surprised to find more men than women in this class. Nor is it a shock to find that this group contains more twenty-year-olds than septuagenarians. And if — as the left tirelessly maintains — poverty breeds crime, and if — as it tiresomely maintains — the poor are disproportionately minority, then it must follow — as the left entirely denies — that minorities will be 'overrepresented' among criminals." Roger Clegg, JD General Counsel at the Center for Equal Opportunity "The Color of Death: Does the Death Penalty Discriminate?," National Review Online - June 11, 2001</p>	<p>CON: "Despite the fact that African Americans make up only 13 percent of the nation's population, almost 50 percent of those currently on the federal death row are African American. And even though only three people have been executed under the federal death penalty in the modern era, two of them have been racial minorities. Furthermore, all six of the next scheduled executions are African Americans. The U.S. Department of Justice's own figures reveal that between 2001 and 2006, 48 percent of defendants in federal cases in which the death penalty was sought were African Americans... the biggest argument against the death penalty is that it is handed out in a biased, racially disparate manner." National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) "NAACP Remains Steadfast in Ending Death Penalty & Fighting Injustice in America's Justice System," NAACP website - June 28, 2007</p>
8. INCOME LEVEL	
<p>PRO: "The next urban legend is that of the threadbare but plucky public defender fighting against all odds against a team of sleek, heavily-funded prosecutors with limitless resources. The reality in the 21st century is startlingly different... the past few decades have seen the establishment of public defender systems that in many cases rival some of the best lawyers retained privately... Many giant silk-stocking law firms in large cities across America not only provide pro-bono counsel in capital cases, but also offer partnerships to lawyers whose sole job is to promote indigent capital defense." Joshua Marquis, JD -District Attorney of Clatsop County, Oregon - "The Myth of Innocence," Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology - Mar. 31, 2005</p>	<p>CON: "Who pays the ultimate penalty for crimes? The poor. Who gets the death penalty? The poor. After all the rhetoric that goes on in legislative assemblies, in the end, when the net is cast out, it is the poor who are selected to die in this country. And why do poor people get the death penalty? It has everything to do with the kind of defense they get. Money gets you good defense. That's why you'll never see an O.J. Simpson on death row. As the saying goes: 'Capital punishment means them without the capital get the punishment.'" Helen Prejean, MA Anti-death penalty activist and author of Dead Man Walking "Would Jesus Pull the Switch?," Salt of the Earth 1997</p>
9. ATTORNEY QUALITY	
<p>PRO: "Defense attorneys... routinely file all manner of motions and objections to protect their clients from conviction. Attorneys know their trial tactics will be thoroughly scrutinized on appeal, so every effort is made to avoid error, ensuring yet another level of protection for the defendant. They [death penalty opponents]... have painted a picture of incompetent defense lawyers, sleeping throughout the trial, or innocent men being executed. Their accusations receive wide media coverage, resulting in a near-daily onslaught on the death penalty. Yet, through all the hysteria, jurors continue to perform their responsibilities and return death sentences." California District Attorneys Association (CDAА) "Prosecutors' Perspective on California's Death Penalty," www.cdaa.org - Mar. 2003</p>	<p>CON: "[A] shocking two out of three death penalty convictions have been overturned on appeal because of police and prosecutorial misconduct, as well as serious errors by incompetent court-appointed defense attorneys with little experience in trying capital cases. How can we contend that we provide equal justice under the law when we do not provide adequate representation to the poor in cases where a life hangs in the balance? We, the Congress, must bear our share of responsibility for this deplorable situation. In short, while others, like Governor Ryan in Illinois, have recognized the flaws in the death penalty, the Congress still just doesn't get it. This system is broken." John Conyers, Jr., JD - US Congressman (D-MI) Hearing for the Innocence Protection Act of 2000 before the Subcommittee on Crime of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives - June 20, 2000</p>

10. PHYSICIANS AT EXECUTIONS

PRO: "Accepting capital punishment in principle means accepting it in practice, whether by the hand of a physician or anyone else... If one finds the practice too brutal, one must either reject it in principle or seek to mitigate its brutality. If one chooses the latter option, then the participation of physicians seems more humane than delegating the deed to prison wardens, for by condoning the participation of untrained people who could inflict needless suffering that we physicians might have prevented, we are just as responsible as if we had inflicted the suffering ourselves. The AMA [American Medical Association] position should be changed either to permit physician participation or to advocate the abolition of capital punishment. The hypocritical attitude of 'My hands are clean — let the spectacle proceed' only leads to needless human suffering."

Bruce E. Ellerin, MD, JD

Doctor of Oncology Radiation at Sierra Providence Health Network

Response letter to the New England Journal of Medicine regarding an article titled "When Law and Ethics Collide — Why Physicians Participate in Executions," by Atul Gawande, MD

July 6, 2006

CON: "The American Medical Association's policy is clear and unambiguous... requiring physicians to participate in executions violates their oath to protect lives and erodes public confidence in the medical profession. A physician is a member of a profession dedicated to preserving life... The use of a physician's clinical skill and judgment for purposes other than promoting an individual's health and welfare undermines a basic ethical foundation of medicine — first, do no harm. The guidelines in the AMA Code of Medical Ethics address physician participation in executions involving lethal injection. The ethical opinion explicitly prohibits selecting injection sites for executions by lethal injection, starting intravenous lines, prescribing, administering, or supervising the use of lethal drugs, monitoring vital signs, on site or remotely, and declaring death."

American Medical Association (AMA)

"AMA: Physician Participation in Lethal Injection Violates Medical Ethics," press release from the AMA website July 17, 2006

IRELAND

→ SYMBOLS

1. Who is the patron saint of Ireland? On which day is he celebrated?

- Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland
- He is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland.

The most famous story about Saint Patrick is him driving the snakes from Ireland. He died on **17th March** in AD 461 and this day has since been commemorated as *St. Patrick's Day*.

2. What is the national emblem of Ireland?

- the Shamrock
- used by St Patrick to explain how the Holy Trinity
- His followers took to wearing a shamrock in celebration.

→ HISTORY

3. When was the Act of Union signed? It was passed in August 1800 and came into force on January 1st, 1801

4. What did this Act mean for Ireland?

- created the United Kingdom
- abolished the Irish parliament, but Irish MPs in Westminster (32 House of Lords / 100 House of Commons)
- united the Church of Ireland and Church of England

> On the way to independence

5. A Home Rule Bill was introduced in the House of Commons in 1886. It was defeated. Another one was introduced in 1912.

a. What did the idea of Home Rule mean for Ireland?

- Home Rule was the name given to the process of allowing Ireland more say in how it was governed
- More independence from England
- The Home Rule Bill was the start of a devolutionary process.

1. Purely Irish questions would be dealt with by an Irish Parliament

2. Parliament in Westminster would deal with all issues relating to the crown, army and navy, foreign policy and custom duties.

3. Irish members would still be in Westminster.

b. Was the 1912 Home rule Bill voted by the British Parliament?

- All talk of Home Rule ended when World War One broke out
- Many in Ireland agreed that this was the patriotic thing to do - even staunch supporters of Home Rule
- The threat of Germany as being a far greater issue to overcome > many Irishmen joined the army and fought in Western Europe.
- However, some (but not that many) were greatly angered by what they saw as acquiescence to Westminster > they led the Easter Uprising in 1916.

6. What is known as the Easter Rising?

- A rebellion against British rule in Ireland
- in the capital city, Dublin
- Started on April 24, 1916 (the day after Easter that year) and lasted 5 days > the rebels were beaten.

The event: The British used heavy guns (artillery) against the Irish all over Dublin. Within a week, the leaders of the rising realized they would not be able to beat the army. They surrendered and were arrested by the British. The trials of the leaders of the Easter Rising were held in secret. Pearse and 14 other leaders were sentenced to death. More than 500 people had died in the rising, including many ordinary citizens.

Legacy: At first, the Easter Rising had little support in Ireland. After its leaders were executed, though, people began to respect what they had tried to do. The rising came to be admired, and its leaders became heroes Eamon de Valera was one of those leaders. He survived the uprising and later became a leader of Ireland after it finally achieved independence.

7. When did the war of Independence start and end? Who were the opponents?

- 1919 - 1921
- British forces (the Royal Irish Constabulary - RIC) stationed in Ireland and the Irish Republican Army (IRA)
- The IRA attacked the police force because they were seen as supporting British rule and British law
- The IRA burnt their barracks + captured their arms: members of the police force were killed & others resigned

8. What was the consequence of the war of independence on Ireland?

- Ireland was divided into two parts with a border in between
- the Irish Free State (26 counties) vs. Northern Ireland (6 counties - still part of the UK today)

9. What is the name often used to refer to Northern Ireland and the other name for the Republic of Ireland?

- Northern Ireland often referred to as Ulster
- The Republic of Ireland is also known as Eire (Gaelic name)

10. What did Eire become in 1949? A republic

11. Is Southern Ireland part of the Commonwealth? No, it withdrew from the Commonwealth in 1949.

> The Troubles

12. What does the expression The Troubles refer to? What was at stake?

- A thirty-year conflict in Northern Ireland: 1968-1998
- Opposing those who were in favour of remaining in the UK (aka Unionists, Loyalists) vs. those who wanted NI to be independent (aka Republicans, Nationalists)
- began with a Civil Rights march in Londonderry on 5 October 1968 & concluded with the Good Friday agreement on 10 April 1998

During the Troubles, the scale of the killings perpetrated by all sides - republican and loyalist paramilitaries and the security forces - eventually exceeded 3,600. As many as 50,000 people were physically maimed or injured, with countless others psychologically damaged by the conflict, a legacy that continues to shape the post-1998 period.

The goal of the unionist and overwhelmingly Protestant majority was to remain part of the United Kingdom. The goal of the nationalist and republican, almost exclusively Catholic, minority was to become part of the Republic of Ireland. This was a territorial conflict, not a religious one. At its heart lay two mutually exclusive visions of national identity and national belonging.

13. Find different names referring to those in favour of remaining in the UK and those in favour of independence.

- Those in favour of remaining in the UK: Unionists, Loyalists (Protestants)
- Those in favour of independence : Republicans, Nationalists (Catholics)

14. Explain the role of the IRA, UDA and UVF during the troubles

The Irish Republican Army (IRA), opposed British rule in Ireland and was considered to be a terrorist organization because of certain tactics such as bombings and assassination. For them, the 'long war' was the only option. This strategy had been gaining traction since the introduction of internment (imprisonment without trial) in 1971 and the killing of 13 people by the Parachute Regiment on Bloody Sunday the following year.

The Ulster Defence Association (UDA) and the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) the major loyalist paramilitary organisations had resolved to use violence to resist republican paramilitaries and to oppose Irish unification.

15. Bloody Sunday: When did it take place and what happened?

On the morning of Sunday 30 January 1972, around ten thousand people gathered in Londonderry for a civil rights march. The British Army had sealed off the original route so the march organisers led most of the demonstrators towards 'Free Derry Corner' in the nationalist Bogside area of the city. Despite this, a number of people continued on towards an army barricade where local youths threw stones at soldiers, who responded with a water cannon, CS gas and rubber bullets.

As the riot began to disperse, soldiers of the 1st Parachute Regiment were ordered to move in and arrest as many of the rioters as possible. In the minutes that followed, some of these paratroopers opened fire on the crowd, killing thirteen men and injuring 13 others, one of whom died some months later.

British troops had been sent into Derry as a peacekeeping force in August 1969 and had initially been welcomed by the predominantly Catholic nationalist community as a preferable alternative to what they saw as the discrimination of the local Northern Ireland security forces. The residents of the Bogside area of the city had declared it 'Free Derry' and refused to recognise the authority of the Northern Ireland government, led by a unionist majority that drew most of its support from the Protestant community.

Opposition to policies such as detention of terrorist suspects without trial (internment) and the alleged rigging of electoral wards to favour Protestant voters (gerrymandering) had inspired a nascent civil rights movement across Northern Ireland. With support for the demands of the civil rights movement so strong among local people, Derry was an obvious choice for a mass demonstration.

About ten thousand people gathered in the Creggan area of Derry on the morning of Sunday 30 January 1972. After prolonged skirmishes between groups of local youths and the army at barricades set up to prevent the march reaching its intended destination (Guildhall Square in the heart of the city), paratroopers moved in to make arrests. During this operation, they opened fire on the crowd, killing thirteen and wounding 13 others.

The dead were all male, aged between seventeen and forty-one. Another man, aged fifty-nine, died some months later from injuries sustained on that day. The wounded included a fifteen-year-old boy and a woman.

While the British Army maintained that its troops had responded after coming under fire, the people of the Bogside saw it as murder. The British government was sufficiently concerned for the Home Secretary to announce the following day an official inquiry into the circumstances of the shootings.

Opinion was further polarised by the findings of this tribunal, led by the British Lord Chief Justice, Lord Widgery. His report exonerated the army and cast suspicion on many of the victims, suggesting they had been handling bombs and guns. Relatives of the dead and the wider nationalist community campaigned for a fresh public inquiry, which was finally granted by then Prime Minister Tony Blair in 1998.

Headed by Lord Saville, the Bloody Sunday Inquiry took 12 years and finally reported in 2010. It established the innocence of the victims and laid responsibility for what happened on the army.

Prime Minister David Cameron called the killings "unjustified and unjustifiable". The families of the victims of Bloody Sunday felt that the inquiry's findings vindicated those who were killed, raising the question of prosecutions and compensation.

16. Who was Bobby Sands? Why is he remembered?

A hero among Irish nationalists, Robert Gerard "Bobby" Sands was born in Belfast, Ireland on March 9, 1954. The steady number of conflicts pushed Sands to join the Republican Movement in 1972.

In late 1976, authorities arrested Sands in connection with a bombing that had taken place at a large furniture company, and an ensuing gun battle. After weathering a brutal interrogation and then a court proceeding that offered up questionable evidence connecting Sands and three others to the attack, a judge sentenced Sands to 14 years in prison at Her Majesty's Prison's Maze, a facility used to house Republican prisoners from 1971 until 2000, located just outside of Belfast.

As a prisoner, Sands's stature only grew. He pushed hard for prison reforms, confronting authorities, and for his outspoken ways, he was frequently given solitary confinement sentences. Sands's contention was that he and others like him, who were serving prison sentences, were actually prisoners of war, not criminals as the British government insisted.

Sands led nine other Republican prisoners into the H Block section of the Maze prison, on a hunger strike that would last until death. Their demands ranged from allowing prisoners to wear their own clothes to permitting visits and mail, all of which were central in improving the inmates' way of life.

A hero among his fellow nationalists, Sands was elected as a Member of Parliament for Fermanagh and South Tyrone. To the shock of Unionists, he won more than 52 percent of the vote in the North Ireland.

Only days after slipping into a coma, on the morning of May 5, 1981, Sands died from malnutrition due to starvation. He was 27 years old, and had refused to eat for 66 days. Over the next seven months, nine other IRA supporters died on a hunger strike. Eventually, the British government gave proper political recognition to the prisoners, many of them earning their release under the 1998 Good Friday agreement.

17. In 1994 the IRA called for a historic ceasefire and accepted to start negotiating. What happened on April 10th 1998? Why is it such an important date for Northern Ireland?

- The Belfast Agreement aka the Good Friday Agreement (it was Good Friday= vendredi saint) in 1998
- Union between NI and the UK would remain in place as long as the majority of the people in NI wanted it
- NI was to be governed by representatives of both the unionist and the nationalist sides: as power-sharing

18. What happened in Omagh on 15th August 1998 and why?

The Belfast Agreement of Easter 1998 has helped to keep peace in the North of Ireland, however a terrible bombing was carried out only a few months after it was signed. One group carried out a **car bombing** in the town of Omagh, County Tyrone on the 15th of August 1998. The bombing has been blamed on a group who opposed the Belfast Agreement, known as the Real Irish Republican Army. Twenty-nine people were killed and about 220 wounded. Many of those who died were school children and young students.

➤ The current situation in Northern Ireland

19. What is Stormont?

- the name of the building where the Northern Ireland assembly sits
- unicameral assembly with 90 members known as Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs).

20. Why is there a First Minister and a Deputy First Minister in Northern Ireland? Give the names of the people currently holding these positions and their political parties.

- Northern Ireland has a power-sharing government: Irish nationalists and unionists must work together.
- The system was set up to provide a political settlement after years of conflict
- The first and deputy first ministers lead the executive. Although they have different titles, they basically have equal authority and cannot work in isolation from each other.
- First Minister: Arlene Foster (DUP) / Deputy First Minister: Michele O'Neill (Sinn Féin)
- Westminster has delegated powers (aka devolved powers) to Stormont such as: healthcare, education, transport, policing, justice, agriculture, economic matters and many other issues.

21. What is the DUP? What is Sinn Féin?

The DUP - Democratic Unionist Party : It is right-wing and socially conservative. The DUP sees itself as defending Britishness and Ulster Protestant culture against Irish nationalism. The party is Eurosceptic and during the UK European Union (EU) referendum it supported the UK's withdrawal from the EU. Its leader is **Arlene Foster**.

Sinn Féin: is a left-wing, Irish republican political party active in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. It was the political wing of the IRA during the troubles. **Michelle O'Neill** is the Vice President of Sinn Féin, and Leader of Sinn Féin in the Northern Ireland Assembly. (Mary Lou Mc Donald is the Leader of Sinn Féin)

➤ The Republic of Ireland

22. Is the currency used in the Republic of Ireland the same as the one used in Northern Ireland?

In 2002, Ireland adopted the euro as its currency vs. Sterling pound for Northern Ireland

23. What is a Taoiseach (/ˈtiːʃək/)? Who is currently holding this position?

- the prime minister and head of government of Ireland
- Leo Varadkar is currently holding this position

THE UNITED KINGDOM AND EUROPE

➤ ENTERING THE EU

1. When was the European Economic Community founded?

- Treaty of Rome - 25 March 1957: signed by Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and West Germany
- Britain initially spurned the European Economic Community on the grounds that the UK was a global power with horizons beyond the European continent.

2. When did the United Kingdom join the European Community? In January 1973

3. Was it the first time it had applied to join the European Union?

- No
- Britain had applied to join in 1963 but the then French president, Charles de Gaulle, said "non" - a view he repeated in 1967 - on the grounds that Britain was hostile to European integration.

4. What happened in 1975?

- Referendum on Britain's European membership
- 66% voted yes to stay in the European community
- Held by Labour Prime Minister Harold Wilson

➤ DRIFTING APART

5. When was the Euro introduced? Did the UK adopt the Euro?

- January 2002
- The UK did not adopt the Euro → its currency is the pound sterling (£).

6. Which British party won the largest number of seats at the 2014 European Parliament election? Draw a conclusion.

- The UKIP came first with around 27.5% of the votes.
- The UKIP is famous for its Euroscepticism > a warning sign.

7. Who decided to organise a referendum about Brexit & when did this referendum take place?

- David Cameron - Conservative PM (2010-2016)
- was campaigning for the 2015 general election, so he pledged an in/out referendum if the Conservatives won the election.

The referendum took place on Thursday, 23rd June 2016. The question was: "Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?"

8. What was the overall result of this referendum & what was the turnout?

- Leave won by 52% to 48%
- Turnout was 71.8%, with more than 30 million people voting

	Leave	Remain
England	53.4%	46.6%
Wales	52.5%	47.5%
Scotland	38%,	62%
N. Ireland	44.2%	55.8%

9. What was the consequence of this referendum for the British government?

- David Cameron resigned
- Theresa May became Prime Minister (Conservative - 2016-2019)

➤ LEAVING THE EU

10. When and how did the Brexit process really start?

- started on 29th March 2017 when Theresa May triggered Article 50
- Article 50: a plan for any country that wishes to exit the EU to do so - was created as part of the Treaty of Lisbon - gives the two sides two years to agree the terms of the split.
- The UK was scheduled to leave on Friday, 29 March 2019.

11. What did the UK and the EU agree on 25 November 2018? They agreed on a withdrawal deal.

12. When was the UK supposed to leave the EU in the first place? Why didn't it happen?

- The UK had been due to leave on 29 March 2019
- but the withdrawal agreement reached between the EU and the UK was rejected 3 times by UK MPs. (December 11, 2018 / January 15, 2019 / March 29, 2019)

13. What happened on May 23, 2019? How is this linked to what happened on July 23, 2019?

- On May 23, 2019 T. May made a last attempt to convince MPs to support her EU Withdrawal Agreement Bill by offering a vote on whether to hold a 2nd referendum, if the bill was passed > failed
- On 24 May, Mrs May officially announced her resignation as Conservative leader.
- On July 23, 2019, Boris Johnson was elected new Conservative leader and became prime minister

14. The UK & the EU struck a new Brexit deal. In what way was it different from the previous one?

- The key change is that under Mr Johnson's deal, a customs border will effectively be created between Northern Ireland and Great Britain > some goods entering Northern Ireland from Great Britain will be subject to checks and will have to pay EU import taxes (known as tariffs).
- would be refunded if goods remain in Northern Ireland (so not moved to the Rep of Ireland)

15. When was the UK supposed to leave the EU in the second place? Why didn't it happen?

- on October 31, 2019
- But British MPs withheld their approval for the new Brexit deal until laws implementing Brexit were in place

16. What happened on December 12, 2019 and on January 23, 2020? What was the consequence of these two events?

- On December 12, 2019: General elections > Conservatives won by gaining an 80-seat majority. But Scotland and Northern Ireland in particular registered strong anti-Brexit votes.
- On January 23, 2020 the UK's EU Withdrawal bill became law, after a relatively smooth passage through parliament compared to the earlier havoc.

17. Explain what the transition period is.

Until 31 December 2020, the UK will remain in both the EU customs union and single market. That means, until the transition ends, most things will stay the same. This includes:

- Travelling to and from the EU
- Freedom of movement (the right to live and work in the EU and vice versa)
- UK-EU trade, which will continue without any extra charges or checks being introduced

But as the transition has begun the UK will automatically lose its membership of the EU's political institutions, including the European Parliament and European Commission: so no voting rights, but the UK will need to follow EU rules + will continue to contribute to the EU's budget.

→ **Top of the to-do list will be a UK-EU free trade deal.** This will be essential if the UK wants to be able to continue to trade with the EU with no tariffs, quotas or other barriers after the transition.