

Video Zone: How the General Election works – exercises

How does an election work? Watch this speedy one-minute guide to the UK's General Election and you'll be an election expert!

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises. Remember you can read the transcript at any time.

Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–e next to the numbers 1–5.

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|-----------------------|--|
| 1..... a poll | a. the name of the house of government in the UK |
| 2..... a coalition | b. an area of a country which has a Member of Parliament |
| 3..... a constituency | c. a process of collecting votes or opinions |
| 4..... a ballot | d. a voting process which is done in secret |
| 5..... Parliament | e. an alliance of political parties |

1. Check your understanding: multiple choice

Circle the best answer to these questions.

- How often are General Elections held in the UK?
a. every three years b. every four years c. every five years
- What is 'a bit like a shopping list of what politicians plan to do if they're voted in'?
a. a debate b. a manifesto c. a constituency
- What do voters need to do before Election Day?
a. register for a polling card b. attend a debate c. go to a polling station
- On Election Day, how long are polling stations open?
a. only in the morning b. from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. c. 24 hours
- How can people place their vote?
a. only at polling stations b. only by post c. at polling stations or by post
- What is a hung parliament?
a. an election with a clear winner b. an election with no clear winner c. an election which is reheld

2. Check your vocabulary: multiple selection – collocations (verb + noun)

Circle the two verbs which can complete each sentence.

1. The UK **holds / has / makes** an election every five years.
2. Every registered person over 18 years old can **place / give / cast** a vote.
3. Politicians from different political parties **sit / stand / run** for election.
4. Politicians campaign to **get / win / take** votes and public support.
5. Politicians **throw / have / hold** debates with their rivals, sometimes on TV.
6. Every person's vote can **play / get / have** a big role in deciding who leads the country.

Discussion

Do you think voting is important?

Are you interested in national or international politics?