

# GENERAL ELECTION 12TH DECEMBER 2019

## Citizenship

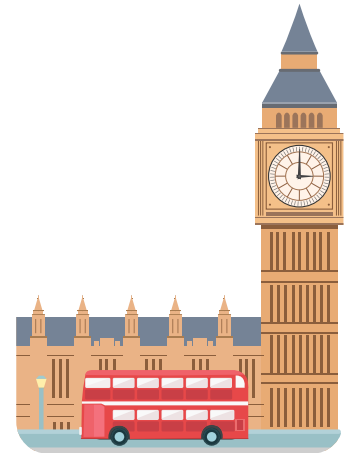
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Intermediate > Citizenship > Lessons 1, 2, 4

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The **General Election** decides who will represent their **constituency** in the **House of Commons**, where decisions are made about UK laws and policies. Your constituency is the area where you live, and the UK is **divided** into 650 constituencies. The General Election usually **takes place** every five years, but it can be held earlier in special circumstances. **At the moment**, there is a lot of disagreement about **Brexit**, as some people want the UK to leave the EU as soon as possible, and some people don't want the UK to leave at all. The current **prime minister**, Boris Johnson, believes that his party (the Conservative party) will gain more seats in the House of Commons which will make it easier for him to complete his plans. **Political parties** usually release a **manifesto**, which explains



everything they would do if they won the election. If you want to vote, you **have to** be over 18 and make sure you register. Then, on election day, you go to a **polling station**, often in a school or a church hall, and place your vote by putting a cross next to the name of the person you want to vote for. Your vote should be secret, so you don't have to tell anyone who you chose if they ask you. The vote is counted overnight and the results announced during the night and on the following morning. When the result is **confirmed**, the leader of the **winning** party has to visit the Queen to ask for permission to form a government.



### Match the words with a synonym:

divided

takes place

at the moment

have to

confirmed

winning

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must

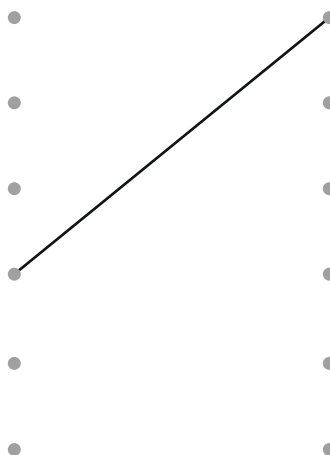
now

split up

victorious

happens

decided



## Read the text again and answer the questions:

- 1 How many constituencies are there in the UK?
- 2 How often does the General Election usually take place?
- 3 Why is the General Election taking place early this year?
- 4 If you want to know what a political party's plans are, what can you do?
- 5 Give three important things to know if you want to vote.
- 6 What happens the day after the General Election?



### Discuss with a friend, teacher, or your class

Do you think it's important for young people to vote?

What issues do you think are important when you decide which party to vote for?

Why do you think the vote is meant to be secret?



### Challenge!

Write definitions for the key words written in bold in the text.

