

Citizenship

How can we improve democracy in the UK?

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OAK
NATIONAL
ACADEMY

What is democracy?

Recap of some key points:

- Democracy is a system of government in which power is given to citizens (people). 'Rule by the people'.
- A healthy democracy has: free and fair elections; more than one political party; encourages the active participation of citizens; protects human rights; has a separation of powers; and the rule of law.
- Democracy is not static and evolves (changes) over time.



What are the different ways to improve democracy?

1. Representation

How:

through electing
House of Lords
members.

2. Participation

How:

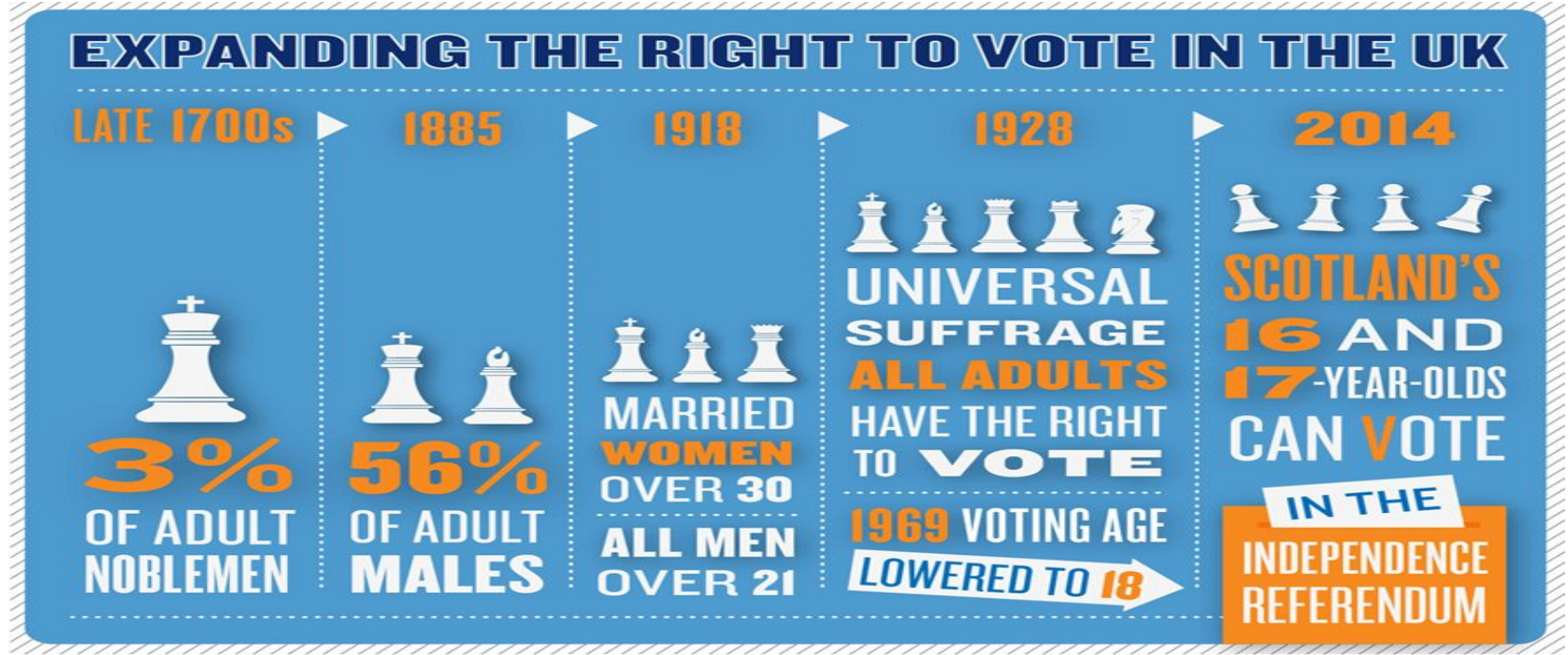
lowering the voting
age, or making voting
compulsory.

3. Electoral reform

How:

using proportional
representation voting
system and/or
increasing the use of
referendums.





Source: Image from The Day

What is this image showing?
How might this link to today's lesson?
What can we learn from this image?



Task 2: Should the voting age be lowered? For or Against

<p>Voting at 16 would match other aspects of citizenship available at that age. 16-year-olds can marry, join the armed forces and consent to medical treatment.</p>	<p>16 is too young; most are in full-time education and living with their parents. Parents, teachers or college lecturers may easily influence them.</p>	<p>People legally become adults at 18. Many of the things that 16-year-olds can do are still restricted, for example; they can join the armed forces but not in frontline service and only with the permission of their parents.</p>
<p>Young people may well have a better knowledge of issues than some older people as they are more likely to have studied citizenship.</p>	<p>Young voters are less likely to vote than any other age group, and this will result in a decline in turnout.</p>	<p>The needs, views, concerns and interest of 16-17-year-olds are somewhat marginalised. A wide range of political decisions affects them, such as university fees and public transport. Politicians would be more likely to act on these if young people could vote.</p>



Task 3: Comprehension Questions

Instruction

- Answer the two questions to check what you have learnt from today's lesson.
- Ensure you use the question at the start of your sentence.

Key terms

- Turnout
- Participation
- Representation
- Engagement

Questions:

- **Should the voting age be lowered?**

Some would argue that the voting age should/should not be lowered... this is because.... For example...

- **How might lowering the voting age improve democracy?**

Lowering the voting age can improve democracy because.... For example...

