

# WHO CAN VOTE?

In elections in  
Scotland?

## SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS

To vote in Scottish Parliament  
elections you need to be:

- 16 years old or over
- Resident in Scotland
- Any Nationality

## LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The requirements for local  
council elections are the  
same as Scottish Parliament  
elections.



## UK PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS

The rules are different for  
UK Parliament elections.

You need to be:

- 18 years old or over
- British, Irish or a citizen of a qualifying Commonwealth Country.
- You can also vote if you are a UK citizen living abroad.

The different types of elections have different rules, meaning some people might be eligible to vote in some elections but not others. Let's look at some examples on the next page.

# WHAT CAN I VOTE IN?

The students below need your help to decide which elections they can vote in. Tick the boxes to show the elections they are eligible to vote in. The information at the side should help you.

Pupil A  
Age: 18  
Nationality: Nigerian  
Lives in Alloa



UK Parliament elections

☐

Scottish Parliament elections

☐

Local council elections

☐

Pupil B  
Age: 16  
Nationality: British  
Lives in Stirling



UK Parliament elections

☐

Scottish Parliament elections

☐

Local council elections

☐

Pupil C  
Age: 16  
Nationality: Polish  
Lives in Falkirk



UK Parliament elections

☐

Scottish Parliament elections

☐

Local council elections

☐

Pupil D  
Age: 18  
Nationality: British  
Has just moved to Germany



UK Parliament elections

☐

Scottish Parliament elections

☐

Local council elections

☐

# WHAT CAN I VOTE IN?

The students below need your help to decide which elections they can vote in. Tick the boxes to show the elections they are eligible to vote in. The information at the side should help you.

Pupil A  
Age: 18  
Nationality: Nigerian  
Lives in Alloa



UK Parliament elections

☒

Scottish Parliament elections

☒

Local council elections

☒

Pupil B  
Age: 16  
Nationality: British  
Lives in Stirling



UK Parliament elections

☐

Scottish Parliament elections

☒

Local council elections

☒

Pupil C  
Age: 16  
Nationality: Polish  
Lives in Falkirk



UK Parliament elections

☐

Scottish Parliament elections

☒

Local council elections

☒

Pupil D  
Age: 18  
Nationality: British  
Has just moved to Germany



UK Parliament elections

☒

Scottish Parliament elections

☐

Local council elections

☐

# WHAT CAN I VOTE IN?

Further explanations for discussion of the answers to the previous page.

Pupil A is **over 16** and **lives in Scotland**, so they are eligible to vote in **Scottish Parliamentary and local government elections**.

They are **over 18** and are a citizen of a **qualifying Commonwealth country**, so they can also vote in **UK Parliamentary elections**.

Pupil B is **over 16** and **lives in Scotland**, so they are eligible to vote in **Scottish Parliamentary and local government elections**.

They are **under 18** so **can't vote in UK Parliamentary elections** yet, but as they are a **UK citizen**, they will be able to vote in this type of election **once they turn 18**.

Pupil C is **over 16** and **lives in Scotland**, so they are eligible to vote in **Scottish Parliamentary and local government elections**.

They are **under 18** so they are **not eligible to vote in UK Parliamentary elections**, and due to their **nationality**, they will **not** be able to vote in this type of election once they turn 18.

Pupil D is over 16 but **no longer lives in Scotland**, so they are **not eligible** to vote in Scottish Parliamentary and local government elections.

They are over 18 and are a UK citizen, so they can still vote in **UK Parliamentary elections**, but to do so, they must register to vote again, this time as a special category of elector called an **overseas elector**.