

Democracy Factsheet

The word 'democracy' comes from two Greek words, demos (people) and kratia (power, rule).

Although there are different ways of organising democracy, for us here in the United Kingdom, democracy means that citizens over the age of 18 have a right to vote to elect their local and national governments, which run the country and pass laws on their behalf.

These elected members, known as MPs (Members of Parliament), uphold our human rights and try to make sure we have the freedom to go about our lawful business without interference.

They are our representatives in the Houses of Parliament – this is why it is also known as the House of Commons.



Multiple-choice Questions

- 1 Who lives at number 10 Downing Street?
a The Prime Minister b The Queen c The Pope
- 2 Who runs the country?
a The Prime Minister b The Queen c The Government
- 3 If you disagree with a government decision or policy, should you:
a try to blow up Parliament like Guy Fawkes?
b demonstrate on the streets?
c work to get them voted out at the next election?
- 4 Who makes the laws that govern our country?
a The Prime Minister b Parliament c The Queen
- 5 If the government tries to pass an un-Islamic law, do you:
a demonstrate peacefully on the streets?
b quietly obey it and try to get change through democratic means?
c challenge it and quote the Human Rights Act?
- 6 British democracy is:
a rule by the people b rule by one person c rule by Mickey Mouse
- 7 Democracy promotes:
a human rights b cruelty c intolerance

Feedback

Lesson Title: Understanding Democracy

Name:

Madrasah/Organisation:

Today I have learnt about:

As a result of this lesson I have learnt that a good Muslim should:

I am going to follow up this topic in my home/school/community by:

Follow-up Worksheet

Lesson Title: Understanding Democracy

Name:

Madrasah/Organisation:

Task: Ask pupils to answer the following questions in the space below:

- 1 Which Muslim country is the largest democracy?
- 2 Look up the word 'democracy'. Where does it come from?
- 3 Ask your parents and relatives if they voted. If so, who did they vote for and why? If not, why did they not vote? (Note that it is their right not to tell you.)
- 4 Find out if your parents are members of a political party. If so, which one and why? (Note again that it is their right not to tell you.)