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THE GREAT BRITISH CITIZENSHIP PUB QUIZ

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## THE GREAT BRITISH CITIZENSHIP PUB QUIZ

WOULD YOU PASS THE TEST?

The test will cover areas such as:

- The Making of the United Kingdom
  - Migration to Britain
  - UK Today
  - Government
  - Everyday Needs
  - Employment
  - The Law
- Sources of Help and Information
  - Communities

The test will consist of 1 round of 24 questions.

The pass rate is 75%.

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## Before The Quiz

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By chance the following conversation was overheard in a pub: A Japanese woman, who we figured had been living in the UK for about 10 years, presently studying for an MA, was recounting to her British friends some of the questions in the Citizenship Test she had sat earlier that day. The test had obviously provoked something in her as she started recalling some of the questions to see if her friends knew the answers: 'Where do local authorities get most of their funding from?' 'What percentage of the UK population say they attend religious services?' Nobody seemed to have direct answers, a few guesses were offered but the main response was further questions: 'What's that got to do with anything?' and 'Why would you need to know that?' Towards the end of their conversation, the Japanese woman said something along the lines of 'It's alright for you, you don't have to do this...how would you like it...?'

Which brings us to this evening's event where Citizenship Test meets Pub Quiz. Who will pass and fail? The indigenous Brits among us (whoever they are)? The answer should be an interesting one. Either way, the main criticism is of the Test itself and whether it is a meaningful way of assessing someone's suitability for citizenship. Is what the Test sets as necessary for immigrants to learn from British history and society entirely relevant?

If the test is about learning, you might be better off suggesting candidates take a trip to the pub, rather than trawling through the official 'Life in the UK Handbook'. Reducing culture to a set of 24 questions really enables you to learn very little. Take the example, Q.12, 'Where is the Scouse dialect spoken?' In a test it seems quite out of context. However, if you walked into a pub and bumped into a Liverpudlian, you would really begin to learn about the Scouse dialect.

If you are in the position where you may have to take the Test at an Official Testing Centre, then consider your time this evening not completely wasted, more like revision. If on the other hand you're not likely to have to sit the Official Test, but are slightly concerned you may fail this evening, don't worry; no passports will be confiscated in the resulting citizenship ceremony. However, we will be offering the results from this evening to the Home Office for their contemplation.

Good luck.

*Tom Mower, Julie Hill and Simon Elvins*

When the Manifesto Club members Tom Mower, Simon Elvins and Julie Hill proposed the Great British Citizenship Quiz, it struck us as an interesting way of taking up today's increasingly sterile debate about citizenship. Politicians and other leaders are increasingly concerned with defining 'what it means to be British', each inventing their pet lists of 'common values'. The multiple choice Citizenship Test is the otherworldly product of this discussion, and must seem a strange exercise to those (often long-time British residents) who have to tick the boxes.

At the Manifesto Club, we are interested in building new alliances among people from very different backgrounds, but we think it unlikely that alliances will emerge from policy initiatives dreamt up in a vacuum. Instead, meaningful relationships are built on the stuff of life - on collaboration towards shared projects, on friendships and shared beer, and on discussions about how life in the UK could be better organised and improved. So here's to the rowdiness of a pub quiz exposing the vacuity of the Citizenship Test — and in solidarity with all those who have had to prove their worthiness by recalling the distance from Lands End to John O'Groats.

*Josie Appleton and James Panton*

### On the Manifesto Club

The Manifesto Club is a new home for those who want to challenge today's downbeat, over-regulated culture - and to develop humanity's potential for creativity and knowledge.

Members join a blossoming network of people from a variety of backgrounds, to debate, argue and develop new ideas and projects - as well as supporting the club's core campaigns.

Membership starts at £5 a month. If you are interested in joining, see [www.manifestoclub.com](http://www.manifestoclub.com) / join; or email [info@manifestoclub.com](mailto:info@manifestoclub.com)

Those wishing to apply for British nationality must now answer questions on British history and culture — the so-called Britishness test. This controversial measure is intended to promote and recognise participation in multicultural British society, but has also been criticised for prolonging the application process and endorsing a siege mentality. Among those supporting the test is Labour's Mike Gapes, MP for Redbridge, which makes him my local MP.

When I went along to interview him, Gapes made favourable references to nationality ceremonies in the USA, adding: 'it should have been done a long time ago, and it is an event that people should be proud of.' This made the Britishness test sound like an award to those seeking citizenship, a kind of welcome pack. But then he said something which would have gone down well among those who do not welcome foreigners: 'nationality is something that should be earned and not just given away.'

So how can Britishness be earned? According to the test procedure, by correctly answering questions such as: What is Britain's favourite dish? Who has replaced Richard Whiteley on Countdown? What must dog owners do by law? What is a toad in the hole?

When I asked Mike Gapes if he would be willing to take a Britishness test, he happily agreed. As a supporter of it, he would, wouldn't he? And surely there can be no more active, well-integrated participants in British society than elected members of the House of Commons. Gapes was bound to pass with flying (British) colours.

The conditions were not exactly the same as those stipulated by the Home Office. In my home-made test, Gapes was required to answer only 10 questions instead of 20. These were read out to him, and he could take as long as he wanted to give his answer. But it was all over in five minutes (which I recorded on videotape). At the end of it, with a great big smile on his face, Gapes said 'I have failed, haven't I?' His instincts (if not his answers) were right.

With only half the questions answered correctly, Mike Gapes MP, the honourable member for Redbridge, had failed the test. If his score-rate remained as low as that in a real test, and if he were an incomer to Britain, he would have been denied citizenship on grounds, presumably, of insufficient engagement with British society. Not good for someone who is meant to represent it.

In mitigation, Gapes claimed that some questions were irrelevant and that the reference to Richard Whiteley was unfair. Nevertheless he went on to say he still had full faith in the system — unlike students at the University of East London. In a recent survey which I conducted, 90 out of 100 said that the Britishness test would not help people integrate.

*Daniel Adam*

## Questions

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- Why were recruitment centres set up in the West Indies in the 1950s?
    - To recruit workers for textile factories
    - To recruit workers to build canals
    - To recruit workers to build railways
    - To recruit workers to drive buses
  - When will the British government adopt the euro as the UK's currency?
    - 2010
    - 2015
    - Never
    - When the British people vote for it in a referendum
  - When is Mothers Day?
    - The Saturday four weeks before Easter
    - The Sunday four weeks before Easter
    - The Sunday one week before Easter
    - The Sunday three weeks before Easter
  - How often does the cabinet normally meet?
    - Bi-weekly
    - Daily
    - Monthly
    - Weekly
  - What percentage of Christians in the UK are Roman Catholic?
    - 10%
    - 20%
    - 30%
    - 40%
  - What proportion of people in the UK own their own home?
    - Half
    - One quarter
    - One third
    - Two thirds
  - What are the roles of the whips in parliament?(Select two)
    - Responsible for discipline in their party
    - Ensure attendance of MPs at voting time in the House of Commons
    - Ensure the House of Commons is always safe and secure
    - Keep order in the House of Commons during political debates
  - What type of constitution does the UK have?
    - A legal constitution
    - A written constitution
    - An amended constitution
    - An unwritten constitution
  - When was the first census carried out in the United Kingdom?
    - 1785
    - 1801
    - 1851
    - 1912
  - During the 1980s, the largest immigrant groups to the UK came from which countries?
    - China, Japan and South Korea
    - India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh
    - Russia, Poland, Belarus and Ukraine
    - United States, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand
  - What proportion of young people who became first-time voters in the 2001 general election actually used their vote?
    - One in two
    - One in three
    - One in five
    - One in six
  - What is the difference in the average hourly pay rate for men and women?
    - The average hourly pay rate is 5% lower for women
    - The average hourly pay rate is 10% lower for women
    - The average hourly pay rate is 20% lower for women
    - No difference — the average hourly pay rate for women is the same as men
  - How might you stop young people playing tricks on you at Halloween?
    - Call the police
    - Give them some money
    - Give them sweets or chocolate
    - Hide from them
  - How many members are there in the Northern Ireland Assembly?
    - 108 members
    - 125 members
    - 64 members
    - 82 members
  - What proportion of the UK population have used illegal drugs at one time or another?
    - One quarter
    - One third
    - One half
    - Two thirds
  - Who is the monarch not allowed to marry?
    - Anyone who is not of royal blood
    - Anyone who is not a Protestant
    - Anyone who is under the age of 25
    - Anyone who was born outside the UK
  - How many young people (up to the age of 19) are there in the UK?
    - 10 million
    - 15 million
    - 20 million
    - 5 million
  - What is the purpose of the Council of Europe?
    - To create a single market for members of the council
    - To create new European regulations and directives
    - To debate proposals, decisions and expenditure of the European Commission
    - To develop conventions which focus on human rights, democracy, education, the environment, health and culture
  - How many independent schools are there in the UK?
    - 100
    - 1,000
    - 2,500
    - 15,000
  - What year did women in the UK gain the right to divorce their husband?
    - 1810
    - 1857
    - 1901
    - 1945
  - What is the minimum wage for workers aged 18-21?
    - £3.30 an hour
    - £4.45 an hour
    - £5.35 an hour
    - £6.16 an hour
  - What is the population of Wales?
    - 1.2 million
    - 2.9 million
    - 3.4 million
    - 5.3 million
  - Why was there a fall in the number of people migrating to the UK from the West Indies, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh in the late 1960s?
    - A weak British currency made immigration less appealing
    - It was becoming more difficult for immigrants to find employment in the UK
    - New laws were introduced restricting immigration to Britain
    - These countries were experiencing labour shortages
  - All dogs in public places must wear a collar showing the name and address of the owner. Is this statement true or false?
    - True
    - False
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# Answer Sheet

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Team Name :

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TOTAL	

## Answers

(Question 8 requires two correct selections for a single point, no half points for getting one of the options)

1. Why were recruitment centres set up in the West Indies in the 1950s?  
D. To recruit workers to drive buses
2. When will the British government adopt the euro as the UK's currency?  
D. When the British people vote for it in a referendum
3. When is Mothers Day?  
D. The Sunday three weeks before Easter
4. How often does the cabinet normally meet?  
D. Weekly
5. What percentage of Christians in the UK are Roman Catholic?  
A. 10%
6. What proportion of people in the UK own their own home?  
D. Two thirds
7. What are the roles of the whips in parliament?  
A. Responsible for discipline in their party  
B. Ensure attendance of MPs at voting time in the House of Commons
8. What type of constitution does the UK have?  
D. An unwritten constitution
9. When was the first census carried out in the United Kingdom?  
B. 1801
10. During the 1980s, the largest immigrant groups to the UK came from which countries?  
D. United States, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand
11. What proportion of young people who became first-time voters in the 2001 general election actually used their vote?  
C. One in five
12. What is the difference in the average hourly pay rate for men and women?  
C. The average hourly pay rate is 20% lower for women
13. How might you stop young people playing tricks on you at Halloween?  
C. Give them sweets or chocolate
14. How many members are there in the Northern Ireland Assembly?  
A. 108 members
15. What proportion of the UK population have used illegal drugs at one time or another?  
B. One third
16. Who is the monarch not allowed to marry?  
B. Anyone who is not a Protestant
17. How many young people (up to the age of 19) are there in the UK?  
B. 15 million
18. What is the purpose of the Council of Europe?  
D. To develop conventions which focus on human rights, democracy, education, the environment, health and culture
19. How many independent schools are there in the UK?  
C. 2,500
20. What year did women in the UK gain the right to divorce their husband?  
B. 1857
21. What is the minimum wage for workers aged 18-21?  
B. £4.45 an hour
22. What is the population of Wales?  
B. 2.9 million
23. Why was there a fall in the number of people migrating to the UK from the West Indies, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh in the late 1960s?  
C. New laws were introduced restricting immigration to Britain
24. All dogs in public places must wear a collar showing the name and address of the owner. Is this statement true or false?  
A. True

## Scoring Guide

Total	Grade
Less than 6	Very Poor. Significant action needs to be taken. Citizenship may be under review.
7 - 12	Unsatisfactory - considerable gaps in knowledge.
13 - 17	Good.
18 or more	Excellent - Well done! You are above pass level. You have sufficient knowledge of life in the UK needed to live in this country and take part in society.

21c Badiston Rd  
London  
W9 3HN

7<sup>th</sup> September 2007

To Whom It May Concern,

**Re: Picture Round Proposal: 'Life in the UK Test.'**

Following recent personal research into the 'Life in the UK Test,' it has come to our attention that the questions are all text based. Leading on from this observation we would like to make the proposal of a picture round using images from British popular culture and of iconic figures. To illustrate this, please find enclosed a selection of images we felt were in keeping with the test.

If this takes you as a valuable proposal, we would be happy to discuss it further with you.

Kind Regards

Tom Mower  
&  
Julie Hill

## PICTURE ROUND



Clockwise from top left:  
St Pauls Cathedral, The Beatles, George Best, Stonehenge, Robin, English Breakfast, Postman Pat  
William Churchill, Oak Tree, Michael Faraday, Prince Philip, Lady Diana



**Public Correspondence  
Team**  
Lunar House  
40 Wellesley Road  
Croydon  
CR9 2BY

Web: [www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk)

Tom Mower & Julie Hill  
21C Badiston Road  
London  
W9 3HN

Our Ref: TO98440

Date: 12/09/2007

Dear Tom Mower & Julie Hill

Thank you for your letter of 12/09/2007.

We appreciate you taking the time to write and would like to assure you that the views you expressed have been noted.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Joan Dulieu



Managed Migration Policy  
Room 1101  
Apollo House  
36 Wellesley Rd  
Croydon  
CR9 3RR

Mr Tom Mower & Ms Julie Hill  
21c Badiston Road  
London  
W9 3HN

**Fax** 0208 760 8577

**Web** [www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk)

Dear Mr Mower and Ms Hill

19 September 2007

Thank you for your letter of 7 September about the Life in the UK test.

You mentioned that you have been doing research in to the Life in the UK test. You have noticed that the questions for the test are all text based, and have suggested implementing a picture round. This would consist of using different images from British popular culture and of iconic figures, which you kindly provided a sample of.

We would have to carefully assess how such an idea could be implemented, as the computer based test system we are currently using would apparently not support graphics. Also, of course, the test is used to assess the language skills of applicants as well as their knowledge of life in the UK. In this respect, the use of the text based questions is quite valuable.

However, we are grateful that you have taken the time to write to us; this is a valuable idea which is very worthy of consideration. When the next review of the test takes place your suggestion will be taken into account

Yours Sincerely

Charlotte Bennett-Diver  
Policy Advisor  
Managed Migration Policy

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**Manifesto  
Club** 'History is still young'



A project by Tom Mower, Julie Hill, Simon Elvins & [www.manifestoclub.com](http://www.manifestoclub.com)  
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