

The News Explained

General Election 2019: The Voting System

We are going to watch a BBC programme, *The News Explained*, which explains how the voting system in an election actually works.

Task: as we watch, complete the **True or False** quiz. If an answer is false, write the correct answer in the space below.

True / False

1. In a General Election, you are voting for who should be the next Prime Minister.

True / False

2. Your local area is called a 'constituency', and there are 650 of them in the UK, made up of roughly the same number of voters.

True / False

3. Every candidate who stands for election must represent a particular political party.

True / False

4. The candidate who gets the most votes wins – this system is called 'First Past the Post'.

True / False

5. If the candidate has more votes than any other candidates in their constituency, they become a Member of Parliament, meaning they have a seat in the House of Commons.

True / False

6. Every MP has an assigned seat where they sit in the House of Commons, meaning all MPs can sit in there at once.

True / False

7. A 'Safe Seat' means a candidate from a particular political party is likely to win in their constituency, whereas in a 'Marginal Seat', it is less clear who the winner will be.

True / False

8. In the last election, 14 million votes were cast for losing candidates - almost half of the votes at that election. This means that the share of votes a party gets doesn't equate to how many seats that party gets in the House of Commons.

True / False

9. MPs only represent the people who voted for them in an election.

True / False

10. The Prime Minister is then chosen in a completely different election.

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We are going to watch a BBC programme, *The News Explained*, which explains how the voting system in an election actually works.

Answers

- 1. In a General Election, you are deciding who should represent you and your local area in parliament.**
- 2. Your local area is called a 'constituency', and there are 650 of them in the UK, made up of roughly the same number of voters.**
- 3. Most people who you can vote for in an election are members of a particular political party, but they do not have to be.**
- 4. The candidate who gets the most votes wins – this system is called 'First Past the Post'.**
- 5. If the candidate has more votes than any other candidates in their constituency, they become a Member of Parliament, meaning they have a seat in the House of Commons.**
- 6. There is only enough space in the House of Commons for about 430 of the 650 MPs to sit down at the same time.**
- 7. A 'Safe Seat' means a candidate from a particular political party is likely to win in their constituency, whereas in a 'Marginal Seat', it is less clear who the winner will be.**
- 8. In the last election, 14 million votes were cast for losing candidates, almost half of the votes at that election. This means that the share of votes a party gets doesn't equate to how many seats that party gets in the House of Commons.**
- 9. Whoever you vote for, the elected candidate should represent everyone in their constituency, not just the people who voted for them.**
- 10. The Prime Minister is usually the leader of the party with the most MPs in parliament.**