

Scottish Independence

The majority of people in Scotland are in favour breaking away from the rest of the UK and becoming independent, according to a poll taken just before the 300th anniversary of the Act of Union, which united Scotland and England.

A pair of Acts of Parliament, passed in 1706 and 1707 that came into effect on May 1, 1707, created Great Britain. The parliaments of both countries were dissolved, and replaced by a new Parliament of Great Britain in Westminster, London.

The poll showed support for independence for Scotland is running at 51%. This is the first time since 1998 that support for separation has passed 50%, and the first time since devolution gave power to the country in 1999. Six months before elections for the Scottish Parliament, these poll results come as good news to the Scottish Nationalist Party, who are hoping to make progress against Labour and further the cause of an independent Scotland.

Many people have become disillusioned with devolution, and believe that the Scottish Parliament has failed to deliver what they had hoped it would; only a tenth have no opinion. In fact, only 39% of those polled want to keep things as they are.

Questions

Q1 - Scotland and England

- a. have always been united.
- b. want to break up the union.
- c. have been united for a long time.
- d. were united by war.

Q2 - Great Britain

- a. was formed by an Act of Parliament in 1706.
- b. was formed by two Acts of Parliament in 1707.
- c. was formed by an Act of Parliament that came into effect on May 1st 1707.
- d. was formed by Acts of Parliament that came into effect on May 1st 1707.

Q3 - People who want independence for Scotland

- a. are the vast majority.
- b. are in the minority.
- c. are the slight majority.
- d. have decreased in number since devolution.

Q4 - The majority of people wanted independence for the first time

- a. before devolution.
- b. in 1999.
- c. after devolution.
- d. before and after independence.

Q5 - The results of the poll are good news

- a. for Labour.
- b. for both parties.
- c. for the Scottish Nationalist Party.
- d. for devolution.

Q6 - Most people's opinions of devolution

- a. have gone up.
- b. have gone down.
- c. are the same.
- d. make progress against Labour.

Q7 - The number of people who want to keep things as they are

- a. is greater than those that don't know.
- b. is smaller than those that don't know.
- c. is increasing.
- d. is the majority.

Piranhas

Scientists in the UK have announced that the piranha fish's reputation 1) _____ a fearsome 2) _____ may well not be deserved. The fish, which is found in the Amazon in Brazil, have been portrayed as deadly 3) _____ that work in shoals to overwhelm their prey and strip it of its flesh in seconds.

However, 4) _____ from St Andrews University say that piranhas are omnivores that mainly eat fish, plants and insects. They form big groups not to hunt but to defend 5) _____ against other predators, according to the team.

"Previously it was thought piranhas shoaled as it 6) _____ them to form a cooperative hunting group," said Professor Anne Magurran. "However, we have found that it is primarily a defensive 7) _____."

Piranhas can be attacked by animals 8) _____ dolphins, caimans and large fish, so forming a shoal is a good way of 9) _____ being killed. Piranhas of 10) _____ age stay in the middle of the group for 11) _____ and the 12) _____ of the shoal 13) _____ according to the level of 14) _____. When the water level is high, the fish form small groups as there is space to escape, but when the water level drops, they form large groups as protection against 15) _____.

Questions

- 1 a. as b. as if c. as though d. since
- 2 a. kill b. killer c. murderer d. murder
- 3 a. carnivore b. carnivorous c. carnivors d. carnivores
- 4 a. expert b. expertise c. experts d. expectant
- 5 a. them b. themselves c. it d. itself
- 6 a. able b. ables c. enable d. enabled
- 7 a. behave b. behaviour c. misbehaviour d. misbehaviours
- 8 a. such b. as c. like d. as such
- 9 a. prevent b. preventing c. avoid d. avoiding
- 10 a. reproduce b. reproductive c. reproduction d. reproductively
- 11 a. protection b. protecting c. protect d. protective
- 12 a. rate b. size c. amount d. dearth
- 13 a. different b. differ c. differs d. defer
- 14 a. risk b. fate c. destiny d. chance
- 15 a. predator b. predators c. predatory d. predate

Tense formation

Put the verbs in brackets in the most suitable forms.

1. The last time I (eat) fish, I (feel) ill afterwards, and since then I (not eat) fish at all.
2. Before I (meet) you I (never fall) in love, but now that I (meet) you my life (never be) the same again.
3. Not again! You (always forget) to pay the phone bill! Now they (cut) it off, and it (take) ages to get it reconnected.
4. The tickets (finally come)! The postman (just bring) them. So, we (leave) for Portugal at last!
5. The man over there (smile) at you. I (watch) him for the past five minutes. I think he (decide) to come over here!
6. Before he (die) he (give) all his money to his friends, but when his wife (ask) them to help her, they (say) they (spend) it all.
7. When I (go) in, she (lie) on a sofa. She (hurt) her leg the day before, and she (try) to rest it.
8. I (be) in Madrid this time next week. Some friends of mine (move) there and last week they (phone) me and (invite) me for a holiday.

Reported speech

- 1- 'Have you ever met him? I asked her.
- 2- 'Will I get better soon? She asked the doctor.
- 3- 'When will it be ready?' they asked me.
- 4- 'Why didn't you tell me about it?' she asked him.
- 5- 'Which one do you want?' he asked her.
- 6- 'Do you know how to do it?' he asked me.
- 7- 'Would you like to have dinner with us tomorrow?' he asked them.
He asked them_____.
- 8- 'What can I do to help her?' he asked me.
He asked me_____.

Sentence transformation

16. Valerie doesn't object to her photograph appearing in the magazine. **Objection**
Valerie_____ photograph appearing in the magazine.
17. There is no more petrol left in the car. **Run**
The car _____ petrol.
18. If you ask me, you should buy a new coat, Tracy. **Advised**
Tracy's mother _____ a new coat.
19. People say that the famous couple are about to get married. **Said**
The famous couple _____ about to get married.
20. You can't borrow my camera, but you must be careful with it. **Long**
You can borrow my camera _____ careful with it.
21. I find Robert's taste in music very hard to tolerate. **Put**
I find it hard _____ Robert's taste in music.
22. I find waiting for buses very boring. **Get**

- I _____ waiting for buses.
23. It's very difficult to predict the weather here. **Tends**
The weather _____ unpredictable here.
24. People say learning lists of words is not a good use of time. **Waste**
Learning lists of words is _____ of time.
25. Christine complained formally when her course of study was cancelled. **Made**
Christine _____ when her course of study was cancelled.
26. I find all the advertisements on TV really irritating, said John. **Nerves**
All the advertisements on TV really _____, said John.
27. Mark regretted selling his old motorbike. **Wished**
Mark _____ his old motorbike.
28. 'If you take my advice, Paul,' said Lynda, 'you should buy a personal computer'. **Advised**
Lynda _____ a personal computer.
29. I couldn't see any signs that they were at home.
They _____ at home. **Seem**

Word formation

11. You must take a _____ as soon as possible. (DECIDE)
12. "_____ killed the cat." (CURIOUS)
13. I decline all _____ (RESPONSIBLE)
14. This design shows great _____ (ORIGINAL)
15. You're making the problem _____ hard for you. (NECESSARY)
16. He drives so _____ that I'm sure he'll have an accident. (CARE)
17. I'm sorry to _____ but I think you're wrong. (AGREE)
18. If you want to get the job you'll have to send the _____ form soon. (APPLY)
19. My _____ is to leave the group as soon as possible. (INTEND)
20. He's a very _____ child. He's full of energy. (LIVE)

Preposition exercises 2

1. Fill in each space in the following sentences with in, on, at, to or into.
1. _____ the morning we went _____ the museum and then had lunch _____ the cafeteria.
 2. Look! You have mud _____ your shoes. Wipe them _____ the mat before you come _____ the house.
 3. They went _____ the restaurant and sat down _____ a corner table.

4. I've got to go ____ town this morning but we can meet later ____ the morning, ____ John's house.
5. It says ____ the newspaper that they're getting married ____ the spring ____ a small church ____ the island of Santorini.
6. There I was, sitting ____ the waiting-room when who do you think came ____ the room?
7. ____ Tuesday morning. I'm going ____ town to put some money ____ my bank account.
8. The coffee's ____ the table and there's some sugar ____ the cupboard if you want some.
9. The film starts ____ eight o'clock and I'd like to be ____ the cinema ____ time to see the start of the film.
10. Mr. Fisher is ____ Boston now but he'll be ____ his way back ____ London ____ a couple of days' time.
11. I saw Jessica ____ Oxford Street ____ Friday afternoon and she told me she's still ____ university.
12. Is there anything ____ the television this evening? Have a look in the paper –I think the TV guide is ____ the back page.
13. She stood up and walked ____ the window. She saw a woman sitting ____ a bench throwing a ball ____ a dog, who caught it and brought it back ____ her.
14. She was standing ____ the queue ____ the bus stop, with her back ____ me.
15. I had never been ____ the United States before so, when we arrived ____ JFK airport ____ that spring morning in 1989, I felt very excited.

Question tags

- Q11 - I'm right,? ☐aren't I ☐am I
- Q12 - You had seen it before,? ☐hadn't you ☐don't you
- Q13 - Everybody looked so miserable,? ☐didn't everybody ☐didn't they
- Q14 - You wouldn't do that,? ☐would you ☐wouldn't you
- Q15 - He'll be there,? ☐won't he ☐isn't he
- Q16 - Everybody will be there,? ☐won't it ☐won't they
- Q17 - She's had too much to do lately,? ☐isn't she ☐hasn't she
- Q18 - It won't happen,? ☐will it ☐doesn't it
- Q19 - They should be here soon,? ☐shouldn't they ☐shan't they
- Q20 - I'm not intruding,? ☐aren't I ☐am I

So/such

- Q11 - She's a kind person a. so b. such
- Q12 - I told him not to be stubborn a. so b. such
- Q13 - They tried hard, but still didn't succeed a. so b. such
- Q14 - Don't be silly a. so b. such
- Q15 - I didn't know that it was a long way from my house a. so b. such
- Q16 - She's cool a. so b. such
- Q17 - Nobody thought that he would be a good president a. so b. such
- Q18 - I wasn't expecting many people to be there a. so b. such
- Q19 - They did it well a. so b. such
- Q20 - far so good a. so b. such

Conditionals

Q9 - If she'd tried harder, she might have succeeded.

- a. Zero Conditional b. First Conditional c. Second Conditional
- d. Third Conditional e. Mixed Conditional

Q10 - If you work hard enough, you may well pass.

- a. Zero Conditional b. First Conditional c. Second Conditional
- d. Third Conditional e. Mixed Conditional

Q11 - If we fail, who will be held responsible?

- a. Zero Conditional b. First Conditional c. Second Conditional
- d. Third Conditional e. Mixed Conditional

Q12 - If she went, she could report back to us all.

- a. Zero Conditional b. First Conditional c. Second Conditional
- d. Third Conditional e. Mixed Conditional

Q13 - If he'd studied at a good college, he might have got a better grade.

- a. Zero Conditional b. First Conditional c. Second Conditional
- d. Third Conditional e. Mixed Conditional

Q14 - If you ever need help, just ask me.

- a. Zero Conditional b. First Conditional c. Second Conditional
- d. Third Conditional e. Mixed Conditional

Q15 - I would be surprised if it rained.

- a. Zero Conditional b. First Conditional c. Second Conditional
- d. Third Conditional e. Mixed Conditional

Q16 - If anyone complains, we deal with it immediately.

- a. Zero Conditional b. First Conditional c. Second Conditional
- d. Third Conditional e. Mixed Conditional

Vocabulary

Which gadget tells you ...

1. How fast you are going in your car
2. how hot it is
3. how long is the shelf
4. how much the potatoes weigh
5. how level your shelves are
6. how much oil you have in your car
7. which way is north
8. how many degrees there are in an angle

Who do you see if ...

1. you have lost a filling
2. your fringe is too long
3. your car won't start
4. your taps are leaking
5. you want to get rid of lots of old metal
6. you want to sell your house
7. somebody in the family has just died
8. you have an ingrowing toe nail

Essay ideas

You have seen an advert for host families in Catalonia to take in English students in the summer who want to practise their Spanish and you are interested. Write for more details with specific questions and also explain why you think you'd make a good host.

DESCRIPTIONS: Describe your ideal "dream" house and its location, with reasons.

Write a description of a person who has had an important influence on your life.