

The Scottish Government is planning to hold a **referendum** on whether Scotland should become independent from the United Kingdom.



A **referendum** is a vote in which people are asked to accept or reject a particular proposal. Usually they have to answer just 'yes' or 'no'.

In small groups, discuss the questions below. Choose a spokesperson to report back to the rest of the class.

1. What issues might the class want to have a referendum on in school?
2. What might be the result of these referendums?
3. Would you let parents and carers vote as well as students?

Look at the questions and answers on the information sheet.

In small groups, discuss the questions below. Choose a spokesperson to report back to the rest of the class.

1. Why is a referendum on Scottish independence important?
2. What are the main areas of discussion in regards to independence?
3. Why might the 'yes' campaign want to lower the voting age to 16?
4. Why might some English people want Scotland to become independent?
5. Do you think **voter turnout** may be high or low in a referendum? Why?

Voter turnout = the number or percentage of people who go to vote

For

The campaign in favour of Scottish independence is called 'Yes Scotland' and is led by Alex Salmond of the Scottish National Party, with support from the Scottish Green Party.

Go to their website and summarise the advantages of independence: www.yesscotland.net/get_the_facts

Against

The campaign against Scottish independence is called 'Better Together' and is led by Alastair Darling, with support from the Conservative Party, the Liberal Democrats and the Labour Party.

Go to their website and summarise the advantages of staying in the UK: bettertogether.net/pages/the-ve-case

Hold a debate

Motion: Should Scotland be an independent country: yes/no?

Choose:

- a **proposer** to open the debate in favour of the motion (the 'yes' side)
- an **opposer** to give the main argument against the motion (the 'no' side).

Give argument cards to the other members of your team.

Remember to respond to the other team's ideas and say why they you disagree.

If you wish to say something, please raise your hand.

Points will be awarded for:

- each new member of the team to speak (1 point)
- each new argument made (2 points)
- each argument which you respond to successfully (3 points).