

FREE STUDY GUIDE

# Life in the UK Test Study Guide

Cheatsheets for the British Citizenship Test - 2026 Edition

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This guide compiles the six essential cheatsheets for the Life in the UK test (officially the British citizenship test). Every page covers the facts that appear most often in the real 24-question exam.

# Kings & Queens of England (and Britain)

Every monarch from William the Conqueror to Charles III — dynasty, regnal dates and a one-line legacy you can actually remember.

## NORMAN (1066–1154)

<b>William I</b>	1066–1087	Won at Hastings; commissioned the Domesday Book (1086).
<b>William II</b>	1087–1100	Killed by an arrow in the New Forest.
<b>Henry I</b>	1100–1135	Strong administrator; only legitimate son drowned in the White Ship.
<b>Stephen</b>	1135–1154	The Anarchy — civil war with Empress Matilda.

## PLANTAGENET (1154–1399)

<b>Henry II</b>	1154–1189	Established English common law; Thomas Becket murdered.
<b>Richard I ("Lionheart")</b>	1189–1199	Led the Third Crusade; mostly absent from England.
<b>John</b>	1199–1216	Sealed Magna Carta at Runnymede (1215).
<b>Henry III</b>	1216–1272	First English Parliament summoned (1265).
<b>Edward I</b>	1272–1307	Conquered Wales; "Hammer of the Scots"; Model Parliament (1295).
<b>Edward II</b>	1307–1327	Lost Bannockburn (1314); deposed by his wife and barons.
<b>Edward III</b>	1327–1377	Began the Hundred Years' War; won Crécy (1346).
<b>Richard II</b>	1377–1399	Peasants' Revolt (1381); deposed by Henry Bolingbroke.

## LANCASTER & YORK (1399–1485)

<b>Henry IV (Lancaster)</b>	1399–1413	First Lancastrian king; usurped Richard II.
<b>Henry V</b>	1413–1422	Won the Battle of Agincourt (1415).
<b>Henry VI</b>	1422–1461, 1470–71	Wars of the Roses began under his reign.
<b>Edward IV (York)</b>	1461–1470, 1471–83	Defeated the Lancastrians; restored Yorkist rule.
<b>Edward V</b>	1483	Boy-king; one of the "Princes in the Tower."
<b>Richard III</b>	1483–1485	Last Yorkist king; killed at Bosworth Field (1485).

## TUDOR (1485–1603)

<b>Henry VII</b>	1485–1509	Ended the Wars of the Roses; founded the Tudor dynasty.
<b>Henry VIII</b>	1509–1547	Six wives; Act of Supremacy (1534) created the Church of England.
<b>Edward VI</b>	1547–1553	Boy-king; pushed England further toward Protestantism.
<b>Mary I ("Bloody Mary")</b>	1553–1558	Tried to restore Catholicism; persecuted Protestants.
<b>Elizabeth I ("Virgin Queen")</b>	1558–1603	Defeated the Spanish Armada (1588); Elizabethan golden age.

## STUART (1603–1714)

<b>James I (VI of Scotland)</b>	1603–1625	United the crowns of England and Scotland; survived the Gunpowder Plot (1605).
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<b>Charles I</b>	1625–1649	Lost the Civil War; executed at Whitehall in 1649.
<b>Interregnum (Cromwell)</b>	1649–1660	Oliver Cromwell ruled as Lord Protector — no monarch.
<b>Charles II ("Merry Monarch")</b>	1660–1685	Restoration of the monarchy; Great Plague (1665) and Great Fire (1666).
<b>James II</b>	1685–1688	Deposed in the Glorious Revolution for being Catholic.
<b>William III &amp; Mary II</b>	1689–1694 (-joint); William alone 1694–1702	Joint monarchs after the Glorious Revolution; Bill of Rights (1689). Mary II died of smallpox in 1694.
<b>Anne</b>	1702–1714	Last Stuart monarch; Act of Union with Scotland (1707) created Great Britain.

#### HANOVER (1714–1901)

<b>George I</b>	1714–1727	German-born; first Hanoverian king; spoke little English.
<b>George II</b>	1727–1760	Last British monarch to lead troops in battle (Dettingen, 1743).
<b>George III</b>	1760–1820	Lost the American colonies (1776–1783); suffered episodes of severe mental illness in later life.
<b>George IV</b>	1820–1830	Prince Regent from 1811; flamboyant and unpopular.
<b>William IV</b>	1830–1837	"Sailor King"; passed the Great Reform Act (1832).
<b>Victoria</b>	1837–1901	Reigned 63 years; the British Empire at its peak.

#### SAXE-COBURG-GOTHA & WINDSOR (1901–PRESENT)

<b>Edward VII</b>	1901–1910	Of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha; oversaw the Entente Cordiale (1904).
<b>George V</b>	1910–1936	Renamed the royal house Windsor (1917); led through WWI.
<b>Edward VIII</b>	1936	Abdicated to marry Wallis Simpson; reigned just 326 days.
<b>George VI</b>	1936–1952	Led Britain through WWII; father of Elizabeth II.
<b>Elizabeth II</b>	1952–2022	Longest-reigning British monarch (70 years).
<b>Charles III</b>	2022–	Current reigning monarch; ascended on his mother's death.

# Dates to Remember

The dates that show up most often — grouped by era so they actually stick.

## EARLY BRITAIN

55 BC	Julius Caesar's first attempt to invade Britain
AD 43	Romans invade Britain (under Claudius)
AD 410	Romans leave Britain
c. 927	Æthelstan unifies England as a single kingdom
1066	Battle of Hastings — William the Conqueror
1215	Magna Carta sealed by King John

## MEDIEVAL

1314	Battle of Bannockburn — Scottish victory
1346	Battle of Crécy — Hundred Years' War
1415	Battle of Agincourt — Henry V
1455–1485	Wars of the Roses
1485	Battle of Bosworth Field — Tudor dynasty begins

## TUDOR & STUART

1534	Act of Supremacy — Church of England founded
1588	Spanish Armada defeated
1605	Gunpowder Plot fails
1642–1651	English Civil War
1649	Charles I executed
1660	Restoration — Charles II returns
1665	Great Plague of London
1666	Great Fire of London
1688	Glorious Revolution — James II deposed
1689	Bill of Rights

## EMPIRE & INDUSTRY

1707	Acts of Union (England + Scotland) — Great Britain
1801	Act of Union with Ireland — UK formed
1805	Battle of Trafalgar — Nelson's victory
1815	Battle of Waterloo — Napoleon defeated
1832	Great Reform Act

1833	Slavery abolished in the Empire
1837	Queen Victoria's reign begins
1851	The Great Exhibition (Crystal Palace)

## MODERN

1914–1918	First World War
1918	Women over 30 gain the vote (Representation of the People Act)
1928	Equal franchise — women vote at 21 like men
1939–1945	Second World War
1948	NHS founded; Empire Windrush arrives
1949	UK is founding member of NATO
1969	Voting age lowered to 18
1973	UK joins the EEC
1998	Good Friday Agreement
1999	Scottish Parliament + Welsh Assembly established
2020	UK leaves the European Union (31 January)

# Parliament & Government

Who does what, who appoints whom, and the difference between Lords, Commons and Cabinet.

## THE TWO HOUSES

<b>House of Commons</b>	Elected MPs — 650 constituencies. Decisions on tax and laws start here.
<b>House of Lords</b>	Appointed peers, bishops and (a few) hereditary peers. Revises and scrutinises.

## KEY ROLES

<b>Prime Minister</b>	Leader of the largest party in the Commons. Lives at 10 Downing Street.
<b>Cabinet</b>	About 20 senior ministers chosen by the PM.
<b>Speaker</b>	Chairs Commons debates. Politically neutral while serving.
<b>Monarch</b>	Head of state. Opens Parliament; assents to laws; appoints PM by convention.

## DEVOLVED BODIES

<b>Scottish Parliament (Holyrood)</b>	Health, education, justice, transport.
<b>Welsh Senedd</b>	Health, education, transport, environment.
<b>Northern Ireland Assembly (Stormont)</b>	Power-sharing executive across communities.

# Saints, Symbols & Sport

Every patron saint, every flower, every rivalry — the cultural quick-reference.

## PATRON SAINTS

England	St George — 23 April — red cross on white
Scotland	St Andrew — 30 November — white saltire on blue
Wales	St David — 1 March — daffodil & leek
Northern Ireland	St Patrick — 17 March — red saltire on white

## NATIONAL FLOWERS

England	Rose
Scotland	Thistle
Wales	Daffodil
Northern Ireland	Shamrock

## SPORT

Wimbledon	Tennis — oldest in the world (1877)
The Open	Golf — oldest major championship
Six Nations	Rugby Union — England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, France, Italy
The Ashes	Cricket — England vs Australia
Grand National	Horse racing — Aintree, Liverpool

# Values, Rights & Duties

The principles you sign up to as a citizen — plus the rights and responsibilities behind them.

## FUNDAMENTAL VALUES (DRILT)

<b>Democracy</b>	Power flows from the people via elections.
<b>Rule of law</b>	Everyone, including those in power, is subject to the law.
<b>Individual liberty</b>	Freedom of speech, religion and movement within the law.
<b>Tolerance</b>	Of different faiths and beliefs.
<b>Respect</b>	Mutual respect for those with different faiths and beliefs (and those with none).

## YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

<b>Obey &amp; respect the law</b>	Treating others with fairness.
<b>Look after yourself &amp; family</b>	And the area in which you live.
<b>Civic duties</b>	Pay your taxes; serve on a jury when called; register to vote.

## WHERE RIGHTS COME FROM

<b>Magna Carta (1215)</b>	King is subject to the law.
<b>Bill of Rights (1689)</b>	Limits royal power; free speech in Parliament.
<b>Human Rights Act (1998)</b>	Brings ECHR rights into UK law.
<b>Equality Act (2010)</b>	Protects against discrimination.

# 7-Day Revision Plan

Exactly what to revise each day in the week before your test — with focus questions.

## DAY 1 — GEOGRAPHY & NATIONS

Capitals, regions, languages

15 mins skim, 10 questions in app

## DAY 2 — EARLY HISTORY

Pre-1066 to Magna Carta

15 mins skim, 10 questions

## DAY 3 — TUDORS TO STUARTS

1485–1714

15 mins skim, 10 questions

## DAY 4 — EMPIRE & INDUSTRY

1707–1914

15 mins skim, 10 questions

## DAY 5 — 20TH CENTURY TO TODAY

World wars to Brexit

15 mins skim, 10 questions

## DAY 6 — GOVERNMENT & LAW

Parliament, courts, devolution

20 mins skim, full mock test

## DAY 7 — FINAL MOCK

Two full tests under exam conditions

Aim for 18/24 each = 75% pass mark