



Does age influence how people vote?

Do people vote in your country? What age can you start voting in your country? Can you remember the first time you voted? Is there a difference between how a young person and an old person votes?

SUMMARY

A look at how age and age related issues could have an influence on new voters and older voters. School pupils from Edinburgh discuss how it feels to be faced with political decisions for the first time.

Bashir Mann, candidate for the Scottish Senior Citizens Unity Party discusses how it is only by being elderly himself that he has started to seriously consider issues relating to the elderly.

Check you know the keywords

age, voting, voting behaviour, young voters, older voters, election, issues, 2007, Scottish Parliament, modern studies

Watch the video and listen to the different opinions of the old and the young about voting

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/6068.flv>

1. What age can you vote for the first time in Scotland?
2. Why don't a lot of 18 year olds have much interest in politics – what does Mhairi say?
3. When did Kit start learning about voting and politics?
4. How do a lot of people choose who to vote for, what does Mhairi say?
5. Does Bashir think age makes a difference when it comes to voting?
6. What three ages does he talk about?
7. Bashir is 80 years old. What is his main interest in politics?
8. What changed his mindset and priorities?





Check your answers

1. What age can you vote for the first time in Scotland?
18 years old
2. Why don't a lot of 18 year olds have much interest in politics – what does Mhairi say?
Because they feel it doesn't really affect their lives much.
3. When did Kit start learning about voting and politics?
At age 18.
4. How do a lot of people choose who to vote for, what does Mhairi say?
They vote traditionally – if they've voted Labour, they'll continue to vote Labour
5. Does Bashir think age makes a difference when it comes to voting?
Yes he does.
6. What three ages does he talk about?
Young people, middle aged people and old aged pensioners.
7. Bashir is 80 years old. What is his main interest in politics?
The welfare of old age pensioners and elderly people
8. What changed his mindset and priorities?
Because now he is one of them! He knows from experience how their life is for them.