



Does ethnic origin influence how people vote?

Britain is a multi-cultural society, but ethnic groups often are less likely to vote in elections than white people.

Vote Scotland is trying to change this, by visiting small communities of ethnic minorities, and helping them understand how to vote and why voting is important.

SUMMARY

The Vote Scotland campaign has aimed to improve voter turnout in areas and communities that have been under-represented. The campaign has included distributing literature in different languages to inform people on both how and why to vote.

Check you know the keywords

ethnic minority, language, turnout, Asian, voting behaviour, social class, election, 2007, Scottish Parliament

Watch the video and find out more:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/3805.flv>

- 1) Where is the Vote Scotland truck?
- 2) Which communities is the truck targeting?
- 3) What information is available in different languages?
- 4) Why has there been a lower turnout in black and ethnic minority groups?
- 5) Why is there a low turnout amongst lower social classes?
- 6) What was one problem in previous Parliaments?
- 7) What happens if people don't see their ethnic group represented?





Check your answers

1. Where is the Vote Scotland truck?
Outside a Mosque in Glasgow
2. Which communities is the truck targetting?
Groups and communities who historically haven't voted.
3. What information is available in different languages?
How to vote, how to fill in the ballot paper.
4. Why has there been a lower turnout in black and ethnic minority groups?
Language can be a factor – if you can't understand you can't vote.
5. Why is there a low turnout amongst lower social classes?
People have so many other day to day worries
6. What was one problem in previous Parliaments?
Everyone was white.
7. What happens if people don't see their ethnic group represented?
They think there is no point in getting involved.