

QUEEN'S AWARD

STUDY RESOURCE

SHEETS



These sheets are designed to help you prepare for Section A of the Queen's Award study paper. 80 marks are available in Section A.

Key facts and information for the following topics are included:

- Monarchy and flags
- UK and Local Government
- Living in Northern Ireland
- Girls' Brigade knowledge

At the end of each section, you will find sample questions to test your knowledge. These questions are typical of the questions asked in a study paper.

You can check your answers at the back of the resource sheets.

The overall pass mark is 60% with a minimum of 20/25 in the GB knowledge section. You will be able to resit the paper if you don't reach the required mark, so please don't panic!

All information is correct at time of publication. Please ensure you keep up to date with changes to local and national government at the time of sitting your paper.

Please remember if you have additional time or support in school exams please let us know and we can make the same arrangements for your study paper.

The Royal family



Our present monarch is King Charles III. King Charles became King on the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II on 8th September 2022. The coronation of King Charles III took place on Saturday 6th May 2023 in Westminster Abbey.

As well as being King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, King Charles III also has other duties and responsibilities.

1. Head of The Commonwealth

In the past, Britain had land and territory all over the world. These territories were part of the British Empire, ruled from London. The countries of the old British Empire still wanted to be tied together some way or somehow in a Family of Nations. The family of equal nations is the COMMONWEALTH.



The Commonwealth was formed in 1949 and is currently made up of 56 Independent States. Some of the members of the Commonwealth (apart from the United Kingdom) are: Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Ghana, Malaysia, Nigeria, Cyprus, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, Malta, Zambia, The Gambia, Singapore, Guyana, Botswana, Lesotho, Barbados, Mauritius, Swaziland, Tonga, Western Samoa. The Commonwealth is home to 2.5 billion people (one third of the world's population)!

2. Defender of the Faith

The King is Head of the Church of England.

3. Head of State

As Head of State, the King represents the British people on National occasions. One of the most important of these events of National importance is on Remembrance Sunday, when a wreath is laid and two minute silence observed at the Cenotaph in London - to recognise all those who have laid down their lives in the wars our country has been involved with.

The King also invites leaders of other countries to come to Britain on State Visits to show how much we value the friendship of other countries. In the same way, the King is invited to other countries as a gesture of friendship by other countries to us.

4. Other roles

- Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces
- The source of Honours - the King (on the advice of the Prime Minister) awards people the OBE, MBE. etc. He is recognising the worth or value of their achievements on behalf of all the people of the United Kingdom.
- Patron of different arts and charities etc.
- After a general election, the King invites the leader of the winning party to form a government and approves appointments to the Cabinet (you can find more information on how government is formed in topic 2).
- The Royal Assent - the King gives his approval to all 'bills' passed in Parliament.

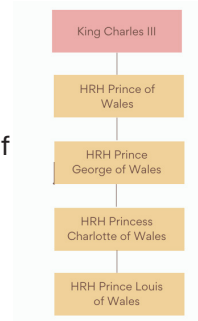
The Royal Family

King Charles was known as Prince Charles when he married Lady Diana Spencer in St Paul's Cathedral in 1981. They had two children, Prince William and Prince Harry before divorcing in 1996. In 2005, the then Prince Charles, married Camilla Parker-Bowles. Following her husband's succession to the throne and appointment as King Charles III, Camilla is known as Queen Camilla.

Line of succession

The line of succession to the throne means who will become the monarch when another monarch dies or steps down. From 2012, succession to the throne passes to the children of the first in line, whether a boy or a girl.

1. H.R.H Prince of Wales (Prince William, Son of King Charles III).
2. H.R.H Prince George of Wales, (Son of Prince William Prince of Wales, Grandson of King Charles III).
3. H.R.H Princess Charlotte of Wales (Daughter of Prince William Prince of Wales, Granddaughter of King Charles III).
4. H.R.H Prince Louis of Wales, (Son of Prince William Prince of Wales, Grandson of King Charles III).



The Flag



The National flag of the United Kingdom is the Union Flag commonly known as the Union Jack.

The Union Flag is a combination of the cross of St. George, Patron Saint of England, the cross of St. Andrew, Patron Saint of Scotland; and the cross of St. Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland.

- a) The St. Andrew's Cross - Scotland.
A white X cross on a blue background.



- b) The St. George's Cross - England.
A red + cross on a white background.



- c) The St. Patrick's Cross - Ireland.
A red X cross on a white background.



Union flag facts:

- it is flown on public buildings on days of national importance for example a Royal wedding day and Remembrance Sunday.
- the flag is flown at half-mast on days of public mourning such as the death of the Monarch or other members of the Royal Family or the Prime Minister
- when flown upside down it is a distress signal.
- the Union Flag remains as the official flag of Northern Ireland.

Monarchy and flags - test yourself

How many sovereign states are currently in the Commonwealth? Circle the correct answer.

40

75

56

List any two Commonwealth member countries (apart from the United Kingdom).

As Head of State, the King represents the British people on National Occassions.
Name one such occassion.

Saint George is the Patron Saint of Scotland. True or false.

True

False

When the Union flag is flown upside down, what does this represent?

Check your answers at the back.

UK Government

The government of the United Kingdom is based in the Houses of Parliament.

The Houses of Parliament are actually made up of two Houses - House of Lords and House of Commons.



The House of Lords

The House of Lords makes laws, holds Government to account, investigates policy issues and is the UK's highest court.

Membership of the House of Lords includes experts in many fields and the work it carries out complements that of the House of Commons. Members of the House of Lords consist of:

- Hereditary Peers
- Life Peers
- The Law Lords
- The Lords' Spiritual

Members of the House of Lords are not elected. There are currently 760 members who are eligible to take part in the work of the House of Lords.

The House of Commons

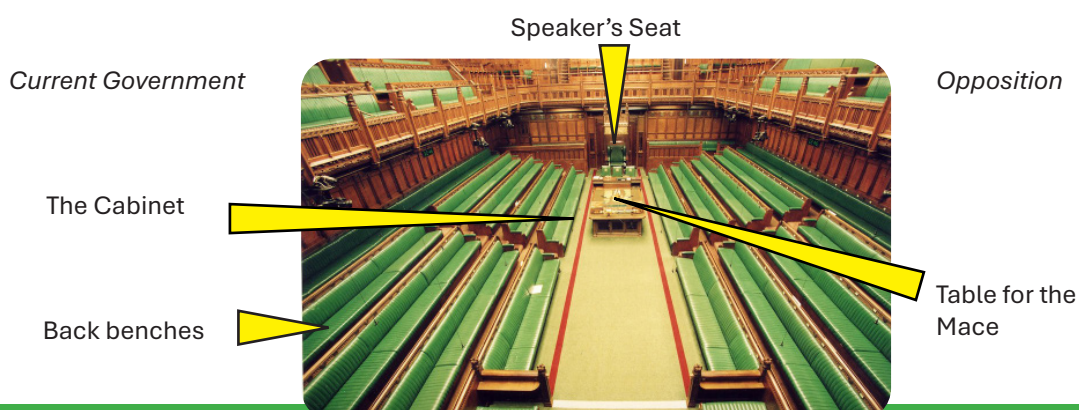
The House of Commons is made up of 650 elected men and women (Members of Parliament - MPs). They meet at Westminster in London.

In the House of Commons is the *Chamber*. The Government sits on one side of the Chamber and the Opposition sits on the other side. The *Cabinet* – those who have been given important jobs, sit at the front; on the front benches and the ordinary MPs sit behind them; on the back benches.

Between the two sides, the middle of the Chamber, there is a table on which is placed the *Mace*, the symbol of Parliament's authority. No business can be undertaken if the Mace is not there.

Also, in the middle is a special seat - for the *Speaker* - The Speaker of the House of Commons is the spokesperson and President of the Chamber. He/she is an MP who is elected by the other MPs to be the Chairman of the debates in the House of Commons.

At the end of a debate, the Speaker will arrange for a vote to be taken. Voting is done by the MPs actually getting to their feet and walking into two rooms just off the main Chamber. There is an 'aye' lobby, and a 'no' lobby where they are counted by official tellers (counters). They also take a note of who voted yes or no.



The Prime Minister

The Prime Minister (PM) is the leader of the largest political party in the House of Commons.

What is their role?

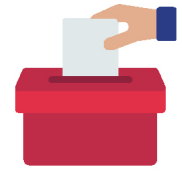
1. He/she has the duty of informing the King of the business to be discussed by the Government. This usually takes place in the weekly meetings held with the King at Buckingham Palace.
2. The PM presides over the meetings of the Cabinet.
3. The PM has general supervision over the different Government Departments. Although it is the appropriate Minister who does the normal day-to-day running of their Department, the PM generally makes sure that he/she is running their Department properly.
4. The PM speaks for the Government in the debates and arguments in the House of Commons. The PM must, stand up at Question Time and answer the questions put to him/her by other MPs (whether of his/her own party or of other parties). This usually happens once a week for around 30 minutes.
5. Although the King is Head of the Church of England it is the PM who actually recommends which of the Priests or Clergymen of the Church of England should become Bishops and Archbishops. The PM makes the recommendations to the King, as Head of the Church, and His Majesty makes the appropriate appointments.
6. The PM appoints judges etc.
7. The PM appoints the chief executives of the various large industries which the Government runs on behalf of the ordinary people of this country. Some of these nationalised industries to which the PM appoints the top personnel are the BBC, the Post Office etc.
8. The PM confirms the list of people throughout the country who are on the "Honours List" awarded by the King.

What is the Cabinet?

The Prime Minister chooses a team of people from their own party, in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords, to be ministers. Together they make up the government and are known as the Cabinet.

- They are the most senior members of the government.
- The Cabinet consists of a team of ministers who head up government departments e.g. Secretary of State for health, for education and skills, commonwealth affairs, work and pensions, trade and industry, media and sport, food and rural affairs.
- The Deputy Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland amongst others are also in the Cabinet.

Elections



The MPs who make up the House of Commons are voted for in elections. Each MP represents one of the 650 areas (constituencies) into which the United Kingdom is divided.

All citizens of the UK or Irish Republic and the Commonwealth (if resident in the UK) who are over 18 may vote in local elections.

Terms used at an Election

- **Ballot** - This is a method of voting when everybody who votes makes his/her choice on a piece of paper in secret. The papers are usually put into a large (black) box and they are not counted until later.
- **Polling stations** - where the voters go to vote - usually a public building, eg. local school, church hall or community centre.
- **Electoral register** – The updated list of all those entitled to vote.
- **Candidate** - This is a person for whom the electorate can vote. Candidates' names are usually printed in alphabetical order on the ballot paper to make it easier for the voters.
- **Constituency** -The UK is divided up into 650 different areas or constituencies, each of which elects one person to be an MP in the House of Commons. Sometimes the constituencies are called "seats".
- **Marginal seat** - This is a constituency where it is VERY DIFFICULT to predict which person will win the most votes.
- **Safe seat** - This is a constituency where it is QUITE EASY to predict which person will win most votes.
- **Manifesto** - A manifesto is a public declaration of the ideas and policies of a political party. It is usually published during the campaign before a general election and contains a description of what the party will do if it wins the election and becomes the Government.
- **Mandate** - Once a General Election has taken place, and the party which wins most seats in the House of Commons becomes the Government, the new Government will claim that by winning the election, it has the right to do what it said it would do in its manifesto.
- **Opinion polls** - These are predictions as to what the election result will be.

Current Government

Correct at time of publication, please check when sitting your paper for changes.

Prime Minister
Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP

Chancellor of the Exchequer
Rt Hon Louise Haigh MP

Home Secretary
Rt Hon Shabana Mahmood MP

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
Rt Hon Sir Chris Bryant MP

Speaker of the House of Commons
Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP

UK Government - test yourself

The Houses of Parliament are made up of two houses - name any one of the two.

What item, and symbol of Parliamentary Authority, is placed on the table in the middle of the Chamber?

How many constituencies are in the UK? Circle the correct answer

100 500 650

During an election, voters go to vote in polling stations. Give one example of the type of building used as a polling station.

The Prime Minister appoints judges. True or false.

True False

Members of The House of Lords consist of four groups. Name any two of these groups.

Check your answers at the back.

Local Government

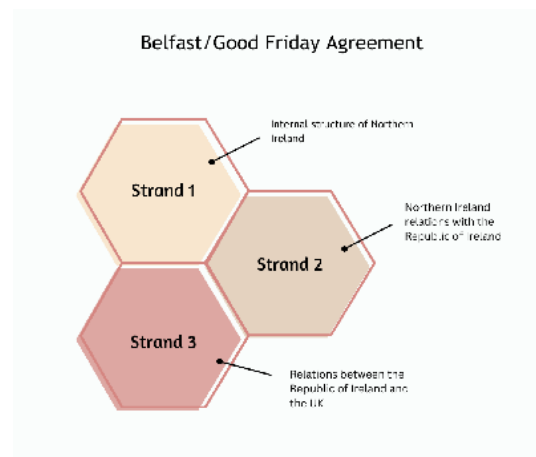
In Northern Ireland we are governed by a devolved government (established by the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement (1998). The Northern Ireland model is unique, it takes account of our political history. It is a power-sharing arrangement between the two main political communities in Northern Ireland - Unionist and Nationalist.

The positions of First Minister and Deputy First Minister are shared between the two communities. The two have equal powers and must come to an agreement on all decisions.

What is the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement?

The Agreement sought to build relationships between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, and between the UK and Ireland. It is divided into three strands:

- Strand One concerns the internal structure of Northern Ireland.
- Strand Two concerns Northern Ireland's relations with the Republic of Ireland.
- Strand Three concerns the relations between the Republic of Ireland and the UK.



Every household in Northern Ireland received a copy of the Agreement. In a referendum in May 1998, over 71% of the electorate voted in support of the Agreement. The Republic of Ireland also held a referendum on the same day. Over 94% of the electorate in the Republic of Ireland voted yes, showing support for the Agreement. Now the Irish Constitution recognises that Northern Ireland will remain in the UK for as long as the majority wishes. The first elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly took place in June 1998.

What is The Assembly and The Executive Committee?

Northern Ireland has an *Assembly* with 90 elected members, known as Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), from 18 constituencies.

The Assembly is the law-making body, made up of MLAs elected by the people of Northern Ireland. It meets in the Assembly Chamber of Parliament Buildings, in the grounds of the Stormont Estate in Belfast.

As the elected body, the Assembly holds the Executive to account, scrutinising Ministers' proposals for new Laws and operational decisions.

It also has a power-sharing coalition government, comprised of Ministers from the five main parties.

This is known as the Executive Committee.

The *Executive Committee* – or ‘Executive’ – is the Government of Northern Ireland’. The Executive Committee, made up of the First Minister, Deputy First Minister and 8 other Ministers, is a mandatory coalition, determined by a mathematical formula, based on party strength in the Assembly, known as the *D’Hondt* System. This ensures that both communities share these positions of power.

The Ministers in the Executive Committee are MLAs chosen by their parties. The Executive Committee meets in Stormont Castle, also in the grounds of Stormont Estate. Its work is co-ordinated by the First Minister and Deputy First Minister.

Parliament Buildings

Parliament Buildings, also known as Stormont, is the home of the Northern Ireland Assembly. There are several chambers or areas within the main building.



The Assembly Chamber is where the Assembly holds plenary meetings on Mondays and Tuesdays. It is also where MLAs:

- debate and vote on legislation;
- debate issues of concern to the people of Northern Ireland; and
- question Ministers about the work of Government Departments.

All this happens in public view. Anyone can sit in the Public Gallery to view these sessions.

The Senate Chamber is used as a committee venue. The room has retained its period features, and also contains cameras and microphones used to broadcast and record committee proceedings.

The Great Hall greets visitors as they arrive at Parliament Buildings. It is used as a central meeting area. It is a very busy space when the Assembly is in session, journalists conduct interviews and press conferences, people congregate before meetings, and visitors come to see the Assembly in action.

Who's who in the Northern Ireland Assembly

First Minister & Deputy First Minister
Ms Michelle O'Neill & Mrs Emma Little-Pengelly

Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs
Mr Andrew Muir

Department for Communities
Mr Gordon Lyons

Department for Infrastructure
Ms Liz Kimmins

Department of Finance
Mr John O'Dowd

Department of Education
Mr Paul Givan

Department of Health
Mr Robbie Butler

Department of Justice
Mrs Naomi Long

Department for the Economy
Dr Caoimhe Archibald

District Councils

As well as the Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive, there are eleven district councils with 462 councillors across Northern Ireland. Local councils are responsible for local services including:

- Local planning
- Waste collection and disposal
- Street cleaning
- Parks and leisure
- Cemeteries
- Economic development
- Off-street parking
- Arts, heritage and cultural facilities
- Registration of births, deaths and marriages

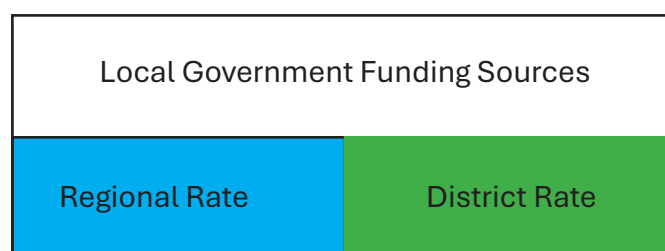


Councillors are elected in local elections; the most recent local elections in Northern Ireland were held on 4 May 2023.

Local government funding

Northern Ireland is the only region of the UK still to use the Rating System to fund its local government services. It is levied in 2 parts:

1. A REGIONAL RATE is determined by the Department of Finance to cover centralised services.
2. A DISTRICT RATE is determined by each District Council to cover its expenses.



Local Government - test yourself

What is unique about the Northern Ireland's devolved government.

The Good Friday Agreement is divided into three strands.

Complete the following sentence.

Strand Three concerns the relations between _____ and the _____.

How many MLAs make up the Northern Ireland Assembly? Circle the correct answer

18 90 720

What do the letters MLA stand for?

Who currently holds the following positions?

Minister for Department of Education _____

Minister for Department of Health _____

Give any two areas of responsibility of local district councils.

Check your answers at the back.

Living in Northern Ireland

It is a really exciting time to be a young person in Northern Ireland today. There are more experiences and opportunities than ever before to be encountered and enjoyed.

We have selected a few of the important topics relevant to yourselves as young people living in the UK and Northern Ireland at this time.

Learning to drive



Many young people look forward to learning to drive but there are some important things you need to know before you get behind the wheel.

Before you start learning to drive a car you must:

- have a valid provisional driving licence for Northern Ireland or Great Britain
- make sure the car you are learning in is roadworthy, taxed and insured
- display L plates on the front and rear of your vehicle
- drive under the supervision of a qualified driver who is at least 21 and has held a full licence for at least three years
- drive at a speed not exceeding 45mph
- not drive on a motorway

When can I get my provisional licence for a car?

You can apply for your provisional driving licence up to two months before your 17th birthday but the licence will not become valid until you are 17.

Most people learn to drive with a professional driving instructor. It is so important to learn how to drive safely right from the very start; it can be really hard to break bad habits.

Experience shows that a mixture of professional training as well as private practice can help learners perform better in their driving test.

Sitting your car driving test

The driving test in NI has two parts – theory test and practical driving test.



You can take your theory test as soon as your provisional licence becomes valid (from your 17th birthday) but you will not be able to book to complete your practical test until you have successfully passed the theory test.

The theory test has two elements – multiple choice questions and hazard perception.

The Highway Code is essential reading; many of the rules in the Code are legal requirements. Once you have successfully passed both parts of your driving test, you will be able to drive unaccompanied but you will still have a restriction on your speed – R plates. R plates should be displayed on the front and rear windows of the car you are driving and mean you are restricted to driving at no more than 45 miles per hour. R plates/restrictions are in place for one year from the date you successfully pass the practical driving test.

Insurance, road tax and MOT

It's a criminal offence to have a car without proper motor insurance. It's also illegal to allow someone to use your car if they're not insured to drive it.

Road Tax & M.O.T.:

You must also pay a tax to drive your car on the roads. This is called road tax and can be bought at a Post Office or online.

If your vehicle is over three years old you must take it every year for a Ministry of Transport (M.O.T.) test. You can do this at an MOT test centre. You will be given an M.O.T. certificate when your car passes the test. It's an offence not to have an M.O.T. certificate and if you don't have an M.O.T. certificate your insurance will not be valid.

Employment rights for young people

Generally young people aged under 13 years of age can only get a job in special circumstances. Once you are 13, you are allowed to do light work. This means you can't do a job that would interfere with your education or have affect your health and safety. An example of light work job would be a paper round.

The range of jobs you can do once you turn 14 increases but there are still some you are not allowed to do e.g. you can't work in a factory or building site.

There are lots of rules regarding the working hours of children especially during term time. These restrictions last until you turn 16 and have left school. At this point you would be classed as a young worker; this gives you more choice in the jobs you can do but there are still rules e.g. you will only be able to work for eight hours every day, or a total of 40 hours in the course of a week.

Once you are 18 or over you will have the same work rights as adults.

The National Minimum Wage (NMW)

There is no NMW for young people under 16 who are younger than the school leaving age. Once you are older than school leaving age you will be eligible for NMW – the rate depends on your exact age. The National Minimum Wage hourly rate changes each year in April.

Once you are 16 years of age and your earnings reach certain levels you will notice deductions from your wages – national insurance and income tax.

National Insurance

Shortly before your 16th birthday, you will receive notification of your National Insurance number. Your employer will ask for your National Insurance number to make sure your National Insurance contributions and income tax paid are recorded against your name only.

National Insurance numbers are issued by the Department of Social Development. It is made up of letters and numbers and never changes.

Income tax

When workers earn more than a certain amount (called the tax threshold/personal allowance), they have to pay income tax. The standard personal allowance is £12,570; this means you do not have to pay tax on the first £12,570 you earn. Earnings above this amount are taxed at different rates depending on the amount.

Income tax and National Insurance are collected by HMRC on behalf of the government and are used with other taxes to fund so many aspects of life such as education, health, transport, social protection, defence and armed forces, public order and safety e.g. police and fire service, housing, industry, agriculture and employment etc.

Quick facts

In the UK, this is the age I am able to:

3

Join Girls' Brigade

13

Join Snapchat

16

Leave school
Receive my National Insurance number

17

Drive a car

18

Vote in a general election
Have a YouTube account

Living in Northern Ireland - test yourself

Complete the following statements.

Before you start learning to drive a car you must:

- have a valid provisional driving licence for _____ or Great Britain
- make sure the car you are learning in is _____, taxed and _____.
- display _____ on the front and rear of your vehicle.
- drive under the supervision of a qualified driver who is at least _____ and has held a full licence for at least three years.
- drive at a speed not exceeding _____.
- not drive on a _____.

Which publication is considered essential reading when preparing for a driving test.

At what age can you expect to receive your National Insurance number?
Circle the correct answer.

16 17 18

How much is the current tax threshold/personal allowance?

Check your answers at the back.

Girls' Brigade Knowledge

THE GIRLS' BRIGADE...

was formed in July 1965 by the union of three organisations:



The **Girls' Brigade**,
formed in Dublin,
Ireland, in 1893



The **Girls' Guildry**,
formed in Scotland
in 1900



The **Girls' Life
Brigade** formed in
England in 1902

All three organisations were designed to provide weekday activities for members of Sunday Schools and churches and an opportunity to develop mind, body and spirit in preparation for a life of useful Christian service and witness. As each of these organisations extended, companies were formed in many other countries, making Girls' Brigade a truly international organisation.

The Girls' Brigade is now found in over **50** countries and islands around the world. These include:

Australia	Ireland	Romania
Brazil	Jamaica	Scotland
Cayman Islands	Kosovo	Tanzania
Dominica	Malaysia	Uganda
England and Wales	Nigeria	Vanuatu
Ghana	Northern Ireland	Zimbabwe
Haiti	Papua New Guinea	

This isn't a full list – just some to give you an idea of where GB works!

As each country is so different in terms of culture, language, climate and people, Girls' Brigade reflects these differences too. In each country, Girls' Brigade is different in many ways but we do have some very important things in common:

The Aim

To help girls to become followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, and through self-control, reverence and a sense of responsibility, to find true enrichment of life.

The Motto

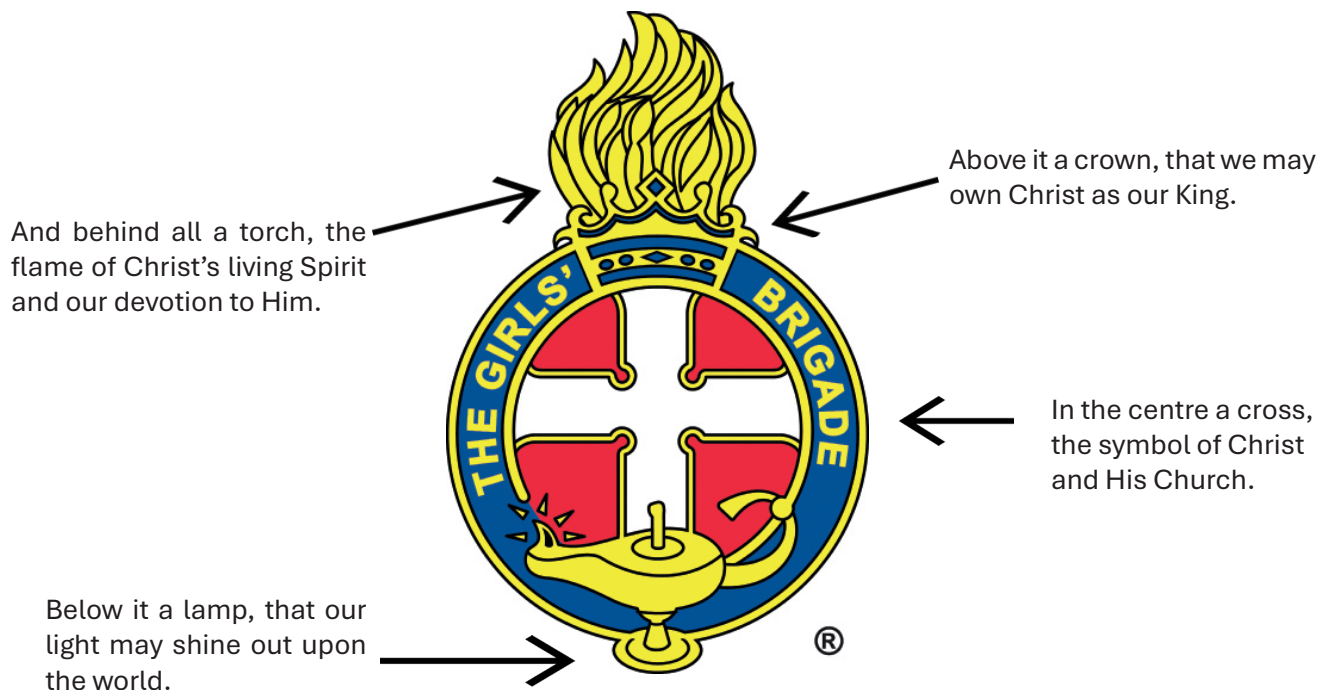
'Seek, Serve and Follow Christ'

The Girls' Brigade Crest

The Aim, Motto and GB Crest are the same for Girls' Brigade members all around the world. We might not speak the same language, but we all wear the same badge.

There are **FOUR** important features within the crest that have special significance for us as Christians.





So what's different?

The uniform, language and programme content of Girls' Brigade varies from country to country. Take a look what the girls wear in Australia!



Girls' Brigade International & ICGB

Each GB country looks after its own affairs, but to link us all together we have an international organisation called **GIRLS' BRIGADE INTERNATIONAL (GBI)**. GBI was set up to co-ordinate the work of the organisation worldwide.

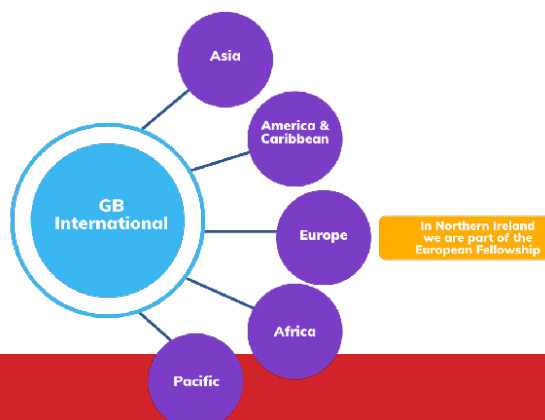
HOW DOES GIRLS' BRIGADE INTERNATIONAL WORK?

In the International scene, there are three levels to GB.

1. **National Councils/Governing Bodies** (i.e. the GB members in each country)
Each country has a National Council/Governing Body to oversee the work of Girls' Brigade in their particular country.
2. **The Girls' Brigade International Fellowships (GBIF)**
Countries within a geographical area have been grouped together to form a 'Fellowship', working together for encouragement, training, fellowship and extension.

There are five fellowships:

1. Asia
2. America & Caribbean
3. Europe
4. Africa
5. Pacific



3. Girls' Brigade International (GBI)

This is the world body of The Girls' Brigade. GBI functions as the coordinating and communication arm of the Girls' Brigade in the world, seeking to facilitate the introduction and development of The Girls' Brigade movement in all countries of the world.

GB met internationally for the first time in London in 1968. Representatives of all countries now meet once every four years at a meeting called the International Conference of The Girls' Brigade (ICGB).

The last ICGB conference took place in 2026 in The Cook Islands.

At these meetings various issues are discussed and plans made about how Girls' Brigade will operate until the next meeting. Between these meetings, International Office bearers meet or communicate regularly to discuss ongoing matters of mutual interest and finance.

Each country sends representatives to the International meetings, where a vote takes place as to who will take on various jobs for the worldwide work of GB.

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE BEARERS

International personnel are appointed for a four year term at the ICGB and can be reappointed for a further four year term.

International President

Coral Anderson
Australia



International Vice Presidents



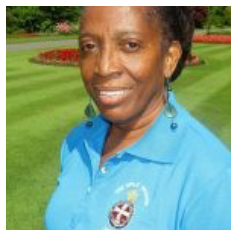
AFRICA

Mary Nyaga
Kenya



ASIA

Nancy Shaw
Hong Kong



AMERICA &
CARRIBEAN

Quindell Ferguson
Jamaica



EUROPE

Dr Amelia Heaford
England & Wales



PACIFIC

Kaylene Trembath
Australia

Focus on the European Fellowship

The Girls' Brigade European Fellowship is made up of the following countries:

England & Wales, Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

The Fellowship Executive meets three times a year and comprises the following:

- Chairperson (Dr Amelia Hereford)
- Vice Chairperson
- Youth Coordinator
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Director/National Secretaries of each country
- National Chair/President of each country
- One delegate from each member country
- Youth Representatives

The Fellowship Weekend, at which the AGM is held, takes place in June every year.

The European Fellowship has a number of goals and objectives:

- Empower emerging leaders
- Communicate effectively
- Inspire discipleship
- Explore cultural relevance

Girls' Brigade Northern Ireland (GBNI)



GBNI Vision Statement

Girls' Brigade Northern Ireland will be recognised as a dynamic, relevant, Christ-centred organisation effectively reaching out to all girls to value, nurture and equip them for life.

The Structure

There are three tiers to our structure: Company, District and NI Level.

1

Company

A local 'unit' governed by a church/mission.
Members include: Chaplain, Captain, Officers,
Sub-Officers, Associates and girls aged 3-18.

2

District

Companies grouped by location,
governed by a District Executive

3

GBNI

Three main bodies:
Trustee Board
Brigade Council
GBNI Youth Forum

COMPANY LEVEL

A local 'unit' governed by a church/mission. The church leadership has ultimate responsibility for the operation of the GB in its church and it should be managed in the same way as other youth groups in the church.

Its members include: Chaplain, Captain (red lanyard), Officers (blue lanyard), Sub-Officers, Associates and girls aged 3-18.

DISTRICT LEVEL

Companies are grouped in local areas to form Districts. There are currently 15 Districts in Northern Ireland. Each District is governed by an Executive that is responsible to the GBNI Trustee Board for the general running of the District within the Constitution and Rules of Girls' Brigade NI.

The District Executive elects office bearers from amongst its members to fill key roles:

- ▣ Chairperson
- ▣ Chaplain
- ▣ Commissioner (wears a gold and white lanyard)
- ▣ Assistant Commissioner (wears a red and white lanyard)
- ▣ Secretary
- ▣ Treasurer
- ▣ Prayer Co-ordinator
- ▣ Two District Youth Representatives
- ▣ One representative to each NI team

NI LEVEL

Trustee Board

The Trustee Board is a voluntary Board of Directors that governs GBNI by providing leadership for the organisation. Its members have legal responsibility for the organisation and are ultimately accountable for the activities of GBNI. Members are elected by the Brigade Council and up to three places are allocated to young people as Board Youth Representatives.

Who's who in GBNI? (as of September 2026)



Heather Lindsay
President



Lorraine Murtagh
Vice - President



Tracey Davies
Chairperson



Caroline Hawthorne
National Secretary

Chaplain -
currently vacant

Brigade Council

This is a representative body of GBNI. The Council is made up of two representatives from each of the 15 Districts. The Council meets throughout the year for fellowship, training, discussion and decision-making regarding the ministry and strategic direction of GBNI.

“We’re not keeping this to ourselves, we’re passing it along to the next generation - God’s fame and fortune, the marvellous things he has done!” Psalm 78:4 (The Message)

What is the GBNI Youth Forum?

- All GB girls and young women aged 14-25 years are part of the GBNI Youth Forum.
- It is a place where as a GB member you can:
 - Share your ideas and opinions of GB.
 - Help develop and support GB to be even better!
 - Influence decision at a regional and national level on the issues and topics that matter to you.
 - Contribute to wider GB initiatives; for example social media content, resources to equip and inspire others, events and youth led activities etc.
 - Share your faith and encourage others.
 - Meet other GB girls outside your own company and district.

How and when does the Youth Forum meet?

- The Youth Forum meets regularly throughout the year; both in person and using video-conferencing platforms.

All meeting dates are shared on our social media; you don’t need to book a place, simply drop in or send us an email for more details (youthforum@gbni.co.uk)

Youth Forum leadership

The Youth Forum leadership is a group of young leaders, appointed by their district, aged 18-25, who act on behalf of every member of the forum to help their voice contribute to GBNI decisions.

- Each district can appoint two District Youth Representatives.
- The GBNI Trustee Board can appoint up to three young women to act as a Youth Representative on the GBNI Trustee Board.

For more information on how you can get involved:

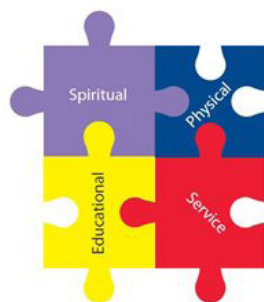
- Email youthforum@gbni.co.uk;
- Contact your District Youth Forum Representatives;
- Leave us a comment on our blog.
- Follow us on Facebook - www.facebook.com/gbniyouthforum
- Follow us on Instagram - [@gbniyouthforum](https://www.instagram.com/gbniyouthforum)

Our Programme, sections & awards

The Girls' Brigade programme is based on the following verse:

"And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men." Luke 2:52

All age groups are given the opportunity to achieve goals and growth in each of the four aspects of the programme. It is made up of four themes:



- **Spiritual** – Understanding the basics of Christian faith and coming to a personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, growing in the relationship and coming to understand God's will for life.
- **Physical** – Learning how to care for oneself and participate in physical activities.
- **Educational** – Increasing knowledge and understanding – developing new skills which will equip girls for adult life.
- **Service** – Learning to relate to others and to work as part of a team. Showing care and compassion to others in the home, community and church.

ATTENDANCE AWARD

The Girls' Brigade annual session must be at least 26 weeks duration. To gain an attendance award the following is required:

- **Explorers (from age 3)**
A total of 19 attendances at company meetings of Explorers including worship/spiritual session.
- **Juniors, Seniors, Brigaders & Associates**
A total of 22 attendances at company meetings, including company Bible class.
- **Officers, Captains & Reserves**
A total of 22 attendances at company meetings and attendance at Sunday worship (with consideration for those who are required to work on Sundays, particularly essential services).

OPEN BIBLE AWARD (OBA)

Who is the Award for?

Explorers, Juniors, Seniors, Brigaders and Associates can all achieve this Award.

How is it achieved?

Girls must attend Christian Sunday Worship on at least 22 occasions during the 26 week GB Session. Sunday Worship can include Sunday School, Church, Youth Fellowship, Praise Service, Youth Rally and special services. The OBA can be awarded for attendance for 1 – 15 years.

Explorers

EXPLORERS (aged 3-7 years)

For Explorers aged 3 and 4, there is an Under 5s Resource Book to help leaders adapt the Explorer programme to make it more suitable for this younger age group. The only badge awarded for this section, is for attendance.

For Explorers aged 5 – 7, the officers can prepare a programme with the aid of the Explorer Programme Book. This will help Explorers work towards their Star Award and learn more about finding Jesus as their Saviour and Lord.

Explorer Star



Each part of the Explorer Star represents a part of the badgework programme. At the centre are the letters GB, which stand for Girls' Brigade but also for God's Book and we should centre all work on the Bible and all else can radiate from this starting point. The star points are named after jewels as below:

Emerald – Exploring – God's world and discovering its beauty.

Sapphire – Self and Service – learning about themselves and others.

Topaz – Talents and tasks – Using the gifts God has given.

Amethyst – Activity.

Ruby – Riches – enjoying music, stories, poems, arts.



Explorer Ceremonial Uniform

- Navy GB tunic with woven Brigade badge, company title underneath, in gold lettering on navy.
- Red, long sleeved jumper.
- Navy pants.
- White knee socks.
- White pe slippers.
- Red ribbon to tie back long hair.



Wearing Explorer Awards

- Explorer Stars (Bronze and Silver) to be worn on the right side of the tunic opposite the GB crest and in line with the 'V' neck.
- Highest Attendance Award to be worn directly underneath company title, in line with the bottom of the GB crest.
- Open Bible Award to be worn beside the Attendance Award with OBA closest to the 'V'.
- If available, 125th Anniversary badge should be placed at the point of the 'V' on the tunic.



Juniors

JUNIORS (aged 8-10 years)

Junior Circle Award

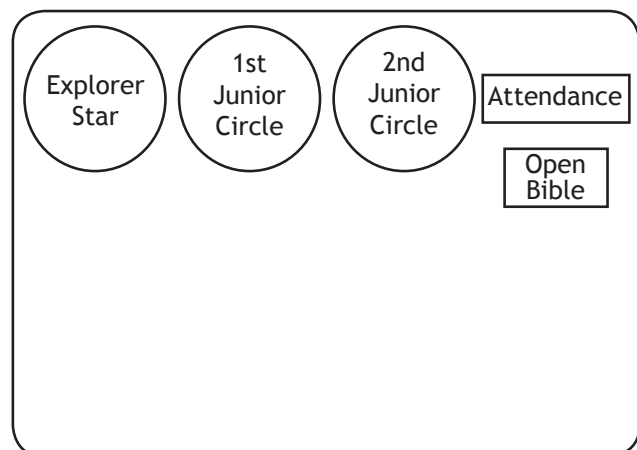
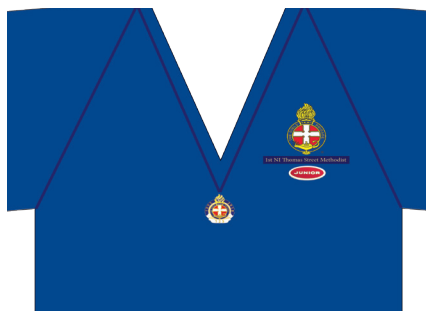
Through the Junior Programme Book, officers can help girls work towards their Junior circle award by covering the four themed parts of the programme. Each colour used in the Junior badge represents a section of the programme:

- White – Spiritual
- Blue – Physical
- Yellow – Educational
- Red – Service



Junior Ceremonial Uniform

- Navy GB tunic with woven Brigade badge, company title underneath, in gold lettering on navy.
- White short sleeved GB blouse.
- Navy GB Sweatshirt (v-neck) with Brigade Crest on left side and company title underneath, gold lettering on navy.
- Section badge worn on sweatshirt, below company title.
- Navy pants.
- White knee socks.
- Plain black flat shoes.
- Armband on left arm.
- Navy ribbon to tie back long hair.



Armband diagram for 3rd year Junior

Seniors & Brigaders

SENIORS (aged 11–13 years) and BRIGADERS (aged 14-18 years)

Through the PSALT Files, Officers can prepare a programme that encourages girls to hear God's Word and apply it to every aspect of their day to day lives.

It provides various topics for leaders and girls to choose from, including suggestions on how to approach the topic, activities and ideas for including a spiritual application for each topic.

The letters PSALT stands for Practical and Spiritual Applications for Living Today.

Senior Circle



Seniors work towards gaining each Senior Circle by completing the four themed parts of the programme each year.

Brigader Triangles and Brigader Brooch

Brigaders work towards gaining their Brigader Triangles and finally their Brigader Brooch (the highest company award a girl can gain).



Each year the girl works towards gaining 10 points, each subject is worth 2 points, with the exception of the GB Scripture Course which merits 4 points for those with an 80% attendance at the course. A total of 40 points is required to obtain the Brigader Brooch. At least 6 points must be from each of the 4 themed areas of the programme.

The Brigader Programme is built on the words of St Paul as found in 1 Corinthians 10:31b (NIV)

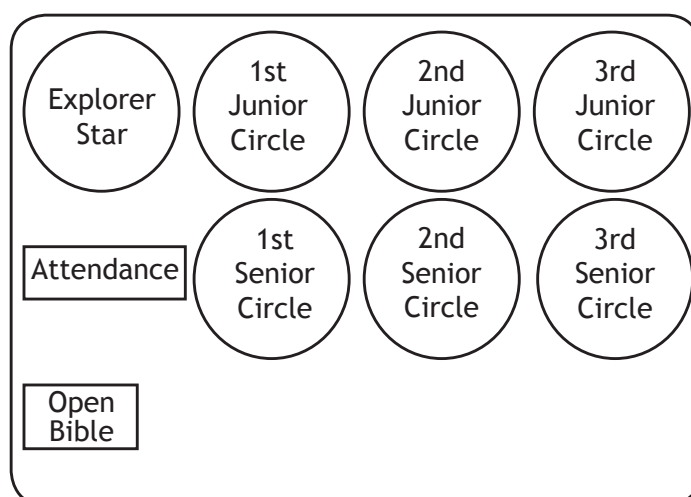
“Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”

Seniors and Brigaders Ceremonial Uniform

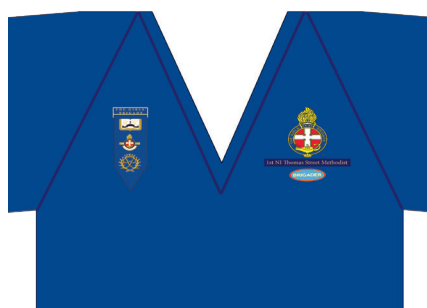
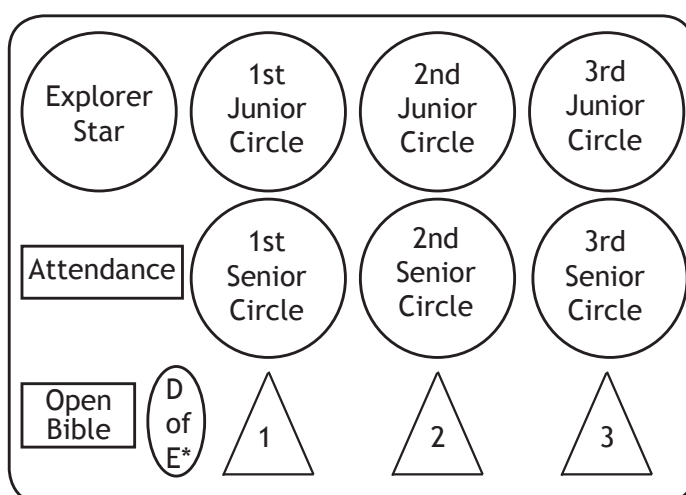
- Navy GB skirt (knee-length).
- White short sleeved GB blouse.
- Navy GB Sweatshirt (v-neck) with Brigade Crest on left side and company title underneath, gold lettering on navy.
- Section badge worn on sweatshirt, below company title
- Plain black tights.
- Plain black flat shoes.
- Armband on left arm.
- Navy ribbon to tie long hair back.



Armband diagram for 3rd year Senior



Armband diagram for Brigader, prior to award of the Brigader Brooch



Brigader sweatshirt with Brigader ribbon



Brigader ribbon
Badges from top:
Open Bible Award
Brigader Brooch
Gold Duke of Edinburgh

Leadership roles

Chaplain

The Chaplain is responsible for the overall spiritual and pastoral leadership of the company affiliated to his/her church/mission. He/she is responsible to the leadership body of the church and may be an ordained minister, deaconess or other people appointed by the oversight of the church/mission. The Chaplain is the highest ranked Officer in the company.

Captain

The Captain is a Commissioned Officer and a committed Christian appointed by the church and trained by Girls' Brigade. She is responsible to the Chaplain and is responsible for all the members in her company. The Captain's main role is to coordinate, plan and lead the work of the company.

Officer

A Commissioned Officer is a committed Christian of at least 18 years of age, appointed by the church and trained by Girls' Brigade. She is responsible to the Captain and responsible for members appointed to her care by the Captain. An Officer's main role is to assist and support the Captain in the running of the company.

Sub-Officer

A Sub-Officer is a young leader of at least 16 years of age, appointed by the church and trained by Girls' Brigade. She is responsible to the Captain and her role is to provide practical assistance with the younger girls in the company and to act as a link between girls and Officers. A newly trained Sub-Officer needs to serve her company for at least two sessions before going on to complete Officer training.

Associate Leaders and Members

An Associate is at least 18 years old, appointed and trained, if applicable, by the church. In practice, you may have an Associate who is a company member or an Associate who is helping with leadership. (see definition below).

Associate Members

An Associate Member is someone over 19 years of age. The option of being an Associate Member is restricted to young people who are already members of the company and wish stay on as members rather than undertaking a leader role. There is no formal programme for this kind of participation but Associate members may choose to follow a programme from the Brigader resource or have something less formal. Associates may take part in activities organised for them at District and GB NI Level, such as choir and PE competitions. Associates are eligible to receive attendance awards.

Associate Leaders

An Associate leader is at least 18 years of age. The role is flexible and could include leadership/supervision duties. An Associate taking on leadership duties should be regarded as a non-commissioned leader working in the company on a regular basis. Associates are responsible to the Captain.

LEADER UNIFORM

Officer's Ceremonial Uniform

- Navy Officer's Suit.
- Lanyard (Captain wears red and Officers wear blue).
- White short sleeved GB blouse with a lapel badge on the right lapel.
- Plain black tights (no greater than 15 denier).
- Plain black shoes – heel no greater than 2".
- Navy ribbon to tie back long hair.



Sub-Officer's Ceremonial Uniform

Same uniform as a Brigader except navy GB Sweatshirt has yellow piping and no Brigader Section badge is worn.

Associate Uniform

- Navy 2 piece skirt (knee length)
- White open-neck short sleeved blouse
- Navy V neck sweatshirt with Brigade crest on left side and company title underneath, in gold lettering on navy.
- Section badge worn on sweatshirt, below company title.
- Plain black tights.
- Plain black flat shoes.
- Navy ribbon to tie back long hair.



GB knowledge - test yourself

Girls' Brigade was formed in July 1965 by the union of which three organisations.

State the motto of the Girls' Brigade.

How often is the ICGB International conference held?

Coral Anderson is the current International Vice President for Africa. True or false?

True

False

In a District , there are a number of Office Bearer roles. List any two of these roles.

Describe the six elements of the Explorer ceremonial uniform.

How many points in total are needed in order to achieve the Brigader brooch?

Circle the correct answer.

20

25

40

Correctly label the three badges on this Brigader ribbon.



Check your answers at the back.

Test yourself answers

MONARCHY AND FLAGS

56

any two from this list: Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Ghana, Malaysia, Nigeria, Cyprus, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, Malta, Zambia, The Gambia, Singapore, Guyana, Botswana, Lesotho, Barbados, Mauritius, Swaziland, Tonga, Western Samoa.

Remembrance Sunday

False

It is a distress signal.

UK GOVERNMENT

House of Lords or House of Commons

The Mace

650

Public building eg. school, church hall or community centre

True

Any two of Hereditary Peers, Life Peers, The Law Lords and The Lords' Spiritual.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

It is a power sharing model to take account of our unique political history.

Strand Three concerns the relations between the Republic of Ireland and the UK.

90

Members of Legislative Assembly

Education - as per current notes

Health - as per current notes

Any two of

- Local planning
- Parks and leisure
- Off-street parking
- Registration of births, deaths and marriages
- Waste collection and disposal
- Street cleaning
- Cemeteries
- Economic development
- Arts, heritage and cultural facilities

LIVING IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Before you start learning to drive a car you must:

- have a valid provisional driving licence for Northern Ireland or Great Britain
- make sure the car you are learning in is roadworthy, taxed and insured
- display L plates on the front and rear of your vehicle
- drive under the supervision of a qualified driver who is at least 21 and has held a full licence for at least three years
- drive at a speed not exceeding 45mph
- not drive on a motorway

The Highway Code

16

£12,570

GIRLS' BRIGADE KNOWLEDGE

The Girls' Brigade, The Girls' Guildry and The Girls' Life Brigade.

Seek, Serve and Follow Christ

Every 4 years

False

Any two of:

- Chairperson
- Chaplain
- Commissioner (wears a gold and white lanyard)
- Assistant Commissioner (wears a red and white lanyard)
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Prayer Co-ordinator
- Two District Youth Representatives
- One representative to each NI team

Explorer uniform:

- Navy GB tunic with woven Brigade badge, company title underneath, in gold lettering on navy.
- Red, long sleeved jumper.
- Navy pants.
- White knee socks.
- White pe slippers.
- Red ribbon to tie back long hair.

40 points

From top - Open Bible Award, Brigader brooch, Gold Duke of Edinburgh award.