

Scotland rejects independence from U.K.

20th September, 2014



Scotland has voted to stay in the United Kingdom after rejecting independence in a historic vote on Thursday. Scottish people cast their ballots on whether

or not to be an independent country for the first time since 1707, when it joined the United Kingdom. Several polls in the weeks before the vote showed a small lead for the pro-independence campaigners. However, on the day, there was a clear victory for those wishing to stay part of the UK, with 55% voting 'No' and 45% voting 'Yes'. The referendum was the culmination of two years of intense campaigning by the 'Yes' and 'No' teams. Scotland's Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon told the BBC the result was "a deep personal and political disappointment".

The referendum was one of the most historic votes ever to take place in the U.K. The United Kingdom consists of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It would have been a dramatic moment had Scotland broken away. Pro-independence campaigners claimed Scottish people would have been better off as an independent nation. The "Better Together" campaigners, including the U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron, said Scottish independence would have been detrimental to Scottish interests. Despite the 'no' vote, Scotland will get more powers from the British government. Ms Sturgeon said she would work with "anyone in any way" to secure more powers for Scotland.

Sources: BBC / USA Today / Herald Scotland

Writing

All peoples wanting independence should get it. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

voted / historic / independent / campaigners / victory / personal / disappointment / England / Scotland / Wales / N. Ireland / dramatic / detrimental / powers / secure

True / False

- Scotland has been part of the UK for over 400 years. T / F
- Around 45 per cent of people voted for independence. T / F
- The campaigning for independence started 18 months ago. T / F
- Scotland's Deputy First Minister was very happy with the result. T / F
- The article says the referendum was the UK's most historic vote ever. T / F
- "Better Together" campaigners said a yes vote would harm Scotland. T / F
- Scotland will now get fewer powers from the British government. T / F
- Scotland's Deputy First Minister said she would work with anyone. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. stay | a. triumph |
| 2. rejecting | b. declared |
| 3. poll | c. occur |
| 4. victory | d. turning down |
| 5. culmination | e. harmful |
| 6. take place | f. vote |
| 7. claimed | g. concerns |
| 8. detrimental | h. remain |
| 9. interests | i. get |
| 10. secure | j. climax |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you know about the shared history of Scotland and England?
- Are you happy with the result?
- How important is it to vote?
- Do you think Scotland will be independent one day?
- What do you think of British democracy?
- What would have changed in the world if people voted 'yes'?
- Do you like watching election results as they come in?
- Which regions of the world do you think should get independence?

Breaking News English - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

1. a historic
 2. a small lead for the pro-independence
 3. The referendum was the
 4. two years of intense
 5. a deep personal and
 6. one of the most historic votes
 7. a dramatic
 8. Scottish people would have
 9. detrimental
 10. secure more
- a. campaigning
 - b. been better off
 - c. ever to take place
 - d. vote
 - e. moment
 - f. to Scottish interests
 - g. political disappointment
 - h. culmination
 - i. powers
 - j. campaigners

Discussion – Student B

- a) How are the UK and GB different?
- b) Do you think the UK is better with Scotland?
- c) Around 84% of people voted. What do you think of this?
- d) What do you know of the rivalry between Scotland and England?
- e) What are the differences between England and Scotland?
- f) Have you ever been disappointed with the result of a vote?
- g) What advice would you give to pro-independence supporters?
- h) What questions would you like to ask a person from Scotland?

Spelling

1. people cast their altlsob
2. svleare polls in the weeks before the vote
3. pro-independence cirpsagenma
4. The referendum was the ounlicmitan
5. esennit campaigning
6. deep personal and political apemptisnoidnt
7. one of the most ohctiirs votes
8. a trcmaaid moment
9. an independent anntio
10. nuinldcig the U.K. Prime Minister
11. lernmtatdie to Scottish interests
12. srecue more powers

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. d	3. f	4. a	5. j
6. c	7. b	8. e	9. g	10. i

Role Play

Role A – Strong economy

You think a strong economy is the most important thing for a newly-independent country. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them which is the least important of these (and why): a strong army, having plenty of natural resources or having nice neighbours.

Role B – Strong Army

You think a strong army is the most important thing for a newly-independent country. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them which is the least important of these (and why): a strong economy, having plenty of natural resources or having nice neighbours.

Role C – Plenty of natural resources

You think having plenty of natural resources is the most important thing for a newly-independent country. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them which is the least important of these (and why): a strong army, a strong economy or having nice neighbours.

Role D – Having nice neighbours

You think having nice neighbours is the most important thing for a newly-independent country. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them which is the least important of these (and why): a strong army, having plenty of natural resources or a strong economy.

Speaking – Pride

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the things that make you most proud of your country at the top. Change partners often.

- history
- language
- food
- army
- natural beauty
- people
- environmental policies
- sporting achievements

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.