Your notes

GCSE Citizenship Studies: revision notes

Devolution and local government

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Devolution

- **Devolution** is the transfer of some powers from the UK Parliament to the nations. In 1998, laws set up the Scottish Parliament, the Welsh Assembly (now the Senedd) and the Northern Ireland Assembly (following the Good Friday Agreement).
- **Devolved powers** include health, education and transport. **Reserved powers** stay with Westminster, such as defence, foreign policy and immigration.
- England doesn't have its own parliament; English matters are decided by the UK Parliament.
- Results: different policies across the UK. For example, university tuition fees are different in Scotland.

Local government

- **Local councils** provide services such as schools, social care, bin collections, libraries, planning and local roads.
- **Councillors** are elected in local elections. Councils are funded by **council tax**, business rates and government grants.
- Some areas have directly elected mayors, such as the Mayor of London and **metro mayors** in city regions.
- Local government is close to the people it serves, but it is limited by budgets and national government decisions.

Participating locally

- You can contact **councillors**, attend council meetings, respond to consultations, join youth councils or stand for election.

Key terms

Devolution	The transfer of some powers from central government to the nations or regions.
Devolved powers	Powers given to the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish governments.
Reserved powers	Powers kept by the UK Parliament, such as defence.
Local council	An elected body providing local services.
Councillor	An elected member of a local council.
Council tax	A local tax paid by households to fund council services.
Metro mayor	A directly elected mayor for a city region.

Quick questions

Cover the answers and test yourself: remembering is what makes it stick.

1. What is devolution?
2. Which is a devolved power in Scotland?
3. Which power is reserved to the UK Parliament?
4. Which agreement led to the Northern Ireland Assembly?
5. Which part of the UK doesn't have its own parliament?
6. Which service is provided by local councils?
7. How are councillors chosen?
8. What is council tax?

Answers

1. The transfer of some powers from central government to the nations
2. Education
3. Defence
4. The Good Friday Agreement
5. England
6. Bin collections
7. They are elected in local elections
8. A local tax paid by households

What to do next

Practise 10 questions on this topic

Try 3 exam questions, with mark schemes

Read the lesson, one step at a time

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