Your notes

GCSE Citizenship Studies: revision notes

The UK and the wider world

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International organisations

- The **United Nations** (UN), founded in 1945, promotes peace, security and human rights. The UK is one of five permanent members of the UN **Security Council**, with the USA, China, France and Russia, each with a **veto**.
- **NATO** (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation), founded in 1949, is a military alliance. An attack on one member is treated as an attack on all.
- The **Commonwealth** is a voluntary association of 56 countries, most of them former parts of the British Empire.
- The Council of Europe (separate from the EU) protects human rights through the European Convention on Human Rights.
- The World Trade Organization (WTO) sets rules for trade between countries.

The UK and the EU

- The UK joined the European Economic Community in 1973 and left the European Union on 31 January 2020, after the 2016 referendum.
- The UK now trades with the EU under the Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

The UK's role

- The UK gives **international aid**, takes part in peacekeeping, and uses diplomacy and **sanctions**.
- The UK helps resolve conflicts, for example through the UN, but decisions about military action are controversial.

Key terms

United Nations	An international organisation promoting peace, security and human rights.
Security Council	The UN body responsible for peace and security, with five permanent members.

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Veto	The power to block a decision.
NATO	A military alliance of North American and European countries.
Commonwealth	A voluntary association of 56 countries.
Sanctions	Penalties such as trade restrictions used to pressure a country.
International aid	Help given by one country to another.

Your notes

Quick questions

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

1. When was the United Nations founded?
2. How many permanent members does the UN Security Council have?
3. What is NATO?
4. How many countries are in the Commonwealth?
5. When did the UK leave the European Union?
6. What is a veto?
7. What are sanctions?
8. Which organisation protects rights through the European Convention on Human Rights?

Answers

1. 1945
2. 5
3. A military alliance of North American and European countries
4. 56
5. 31 January 2020
6. The power to block a decision
7. Penalties such as trade restrictions to pressure a country
8. The Council of Europe

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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