

The Houses of Parliament

1 Do the quiz.

1 England, Scotland and Wales together are called ...

A the United Kingdom.

B the British Isles.

C Britain.

2 The United Kingdom is made up of ...

A England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

B Britain, Ireland, Scotland and England.

C England, Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland.

3 The British Isles is ...

A a political group of countries.

B a geographical group of islands.

C the same as the United Kingdom.

4 The Uk is a

A Federal Republic

B Constitutional Monarchy

C Democratic Republic

5 The two main British political parties are ...

A the Labour Party and the Conservative Party.

B the Liberal Democrats and the Labour Party.

C the Conservative Party and the Liberal Democrats.

1 Read the text and match the headings **1–4** to the paragraphs **A–D**.

The Houses of Parliament



What do you know about the Houses of Parliament?

A

The Houses of Parliament are one of the most famous buildings in London. They are the meeting place for the House of Commons and the House of Lords, the two houses of Parliament of the United Kingdom. The real title of the building is the New Palace of Westminster. It stands on the River Thames, in the City of Westminster.

B

The first palace was built about 1,000 years ago by King William II. It was damaged by two fires and a bomb! One of the most famous people connected with the Houses of Parliament is Guy Fawkes. He tried to blow up the building with dynamite on 5 November 1605. People in the United Kingdom still celebrate this day with fires and fireworks.

C

The building is one of the centres of politics in the United Kingdom. It is where Parliament talks about the government of the United Kingdom's plans and makes new laws. The king or queen of the United Kingdom visits Parliament once a year and explains the Prime Minister's programme for the next year.

D

Part of the Houses of Parliament is the famous tower 'Big Ben'. It is one of the most popular tourist attractions in London, but in fact that is not the name of the building. The tower is actually called the Elizabeth Tower and Big Ben is the name of the bell inside the clock. No one knows exactly why the bell is called 'Big Ben'.

1 The building's purpose

2 An interesting fact

3 The building and where it is

4 The building's history

2 Read the text again. Are the sentences true or false?

1 The Houses of Parliament have two different names.

2 Guy Fawkes built the first palace.

3 The king or queen of the United Kingdom decides on new laws.

4 'Big Ben' is not the real name of the famous tower.

5 Two bombs damaged the old palace.

6 5 November 1605 is when the Houses of Parliament opened.

7 The name of the bell inside the clock is Elizabeth

8 The king or queen of the United Kingdom goes to the Houses of Parliament every year.