

LGBT Equality Quiz

(Can be used with 'Yes', 'No', 'Not Sure' cards as a Run-around Game, individually or in teams)

Q. 1/ The age of consent for young gay men and lesbians is the same as for heterosexual young people?

A - Yes

Bonus Questions:

- What year did it become equal?

A – January 2001, until then the age of consent for homosexual men was 18 while there was no statutory age of consent for lesbian sex.

- What was the legal age for consenting gay men before that?

A - It was during the government of Harold Wilson in 1967 that homosexuality was legalised at 21.

- Was sex between same-sex couples ever illegal in this country?

A – Yes, until the reign of Queen Victoria, gay sex was punishable by death.

History:

1290 first mention in English common law of a punishment for homosexuality; **1300** a treatise in England prescribed that sodomites should be burned alive; **1533** the Buggery Act introduced by Henry VIII brought sodomy within the scope of statute law for the first time and made it punishable by hanging and then the **1861** Offences Against the Person Act formally abolished the death penalty for buggery in England and Wales.

Q. 2/ The Sexual Offences Act 2003 is more 'gay friendly' than previous laws relating to such offences?

A - Yes

Bonus Questions:

- Can you say how?

A - The 2003 Act repeals the anti-gay sexual offences of buggery and gross indecency and operates in a gender and sexuality neutral way.

History:

In 1957 the Wolfenden Committee published its report. The Committee recommended that consensual homosexual behaviour, between men over the age of 21, should be decriminalised except in the armed forces.

1967 Sexual Offences Act came into force in England and Wales and decriminalised homosexual acts between two men over 21 years of age and 'in private.'

1994 House of Commons voted to reduce gay male age of consent to 18.

Q. 3/ gay, lesbian and bisexual workers have no legal rights if they suffer discrimination or harassment at work because of their sexual orientation?

A – No

Bonus Questions:

- What rights do LGB have?

A - From 1 December 2003, for the first time lesbian, gay and bisexual workers are legally protected from discrimination and harassment at work. The legislation bans discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation in employment and vocational training. This legislation specifically bans direct and indirect discrimination, harassment and victimisation because of sexual orientation.

Q. 4/ Can same-sex couples get married in this country?

A – They can have a civil partnership but can't get married in a church

Bonus:

- What year did this become legal?

A - In 2005 the Government announced that the first civil partnerships for same sex couples could be registered on 5 December, taking effect from 21 December (after the 15 day waiting period).

Q. 5/ Homosexuality is still illegal in about a third of the world's countries

A – Yes. No country in the world just criminalises lesbianism or female-female sex, usually all homosexuality or just male homosexuality is still illegal in about 70 (*by most accounts there are 193 countries in the world*) countries and/or even heterosexual sodomy (Sodomy is not just anal sex, it can also include oral sex, fornication or any sexual behaviour that does not lead to procreation or birth of a child within marriage).

Bonus Questions:

- Is there anywhere in Europe where it is illegal?

A – No

- Can you name any countries where it is punishable by death?

A – Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan, Iran, Saudi Arabia

Q. 6/ Is homophobic assault a crime?

A – Yes

Bonus Question:

- In what year did it become legally recognised and as part of what criminal law?

A - In 2003 homophobic assault became recognised as a 'hate crime'

7/ Are gay people allowed in the army?

A – Yes

Bonus Question:

- In what year was the ban lifted?

A – 2000