

UK elects 22-year-old as a Member of Parliament

8th July 2024



A 22-year-old has been elected as a Member of Parliament (MP) in the UK's general election on Thursday. Sam Carling won the seat for North West Cambridgeshire by the slimmest of majorities. Mr Carling, from the Labour Party, narrowly beat the

incumbent Conservative Party candidate by 39 votes. He will now sit in Parliament in Westminster and represent the interests and concerns of the people in his Cambridge seat. At Westminster, he will be called the "baby of the House". This is the unofficial title given to the youngest MP. Carling, a science graduate from Cambridge University, called his victory a "political earthquake". He hopes his achievement will spur on young people to enter politics, and "tackle apathy".

Mr Carling said his interest in politics was sparked by the social and economic decline he saw in the UK. He grew up in what he described as "a very deprived area" in the north of England. This is an area the Conservative Party had promised to "level up" and turn into a "northern powerhouse". However, these lofty promises went unkept. Carling said: "I saw a lot of things getting worse around me. I was concerned about shops closing on local high streets that used to be a thriving hub and are basically now a wasteland." He hopes the newly-elected Labour Party will undo 14 years of Conservative misrule, sleaze and corruption. Britain's public services are in chaos and people are worse off than they were 14 years ago.

Sources: [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com) / [msn.com](https://www.msn.com) / [theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com)

Writing

Young politicians are better than old politicians. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

member of parliament / election / majority / incumbent / candidate / vote / apathy / politics / economic decline / deprived area / level up / wasteland / scandal / sleaze

True / False

- 1) The article says Sam Carling is the UK's youngest ever politician. T / F
- 2) Sam Carling won his seat by a huge margin. T / F
- 3) Sam Carling will be given the nickname "baby of the House". T / F
- 4) Sam Carling graduated with a law degree from Cambridge University. T / F
- 5) Sam Carling grew up in a very poor area of England. T / F
- 6) The Conservative Party did not level up the north of England. T / F
- 7) Sam Carling is happy that wastelands are now thriving retail hubs. T / F
- 8) The article says people are better off than they were 14 years ago. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. elected | a. vowed |
| 2. slimmest | b. worries |
| 3. incumbent | c. initiated |
| 4. concerns | d. current |
| 5. apathy | e. disorder |
| 6. sparked | f. indifference |
| 7. deprived | g. flourishing |
| 8. promised | h. voted in |
| 9. thriving | i. disadvantaged |
| 10. chaos | j. narrowest |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Is there any social and economic decline in your country?
- c) How can leaders level up deprived areas?
- d) Why don't politicians keep their promises?
- e) What do you know about American politics?
- f) What political scandals do you know of in your country?
- g) What sleaze and corruption do you know of in your country?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the young politician?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. by the slimmest of | a. graduate |
| 2. represent the interests and concerns | b. unkept |
| 3. a science | c. area |
| 4. a political | d. of the people |
| 5. tackle | e. and corruption |
| 6. sparked by the social and | f. apathy |
| 7. what he described as a very deprived | g. thriving hub |
| 8. these lofty promises went | h. earthquake |
| 9. streets that used to be a | i. economic decline |
| 10. misrule, scandal, sleaze | j. majorities |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of the politicians in your country?
- Would you be a good politician?
- Are young or old politicians best?
- Would you vote for a 22-year-old candidate?
- What do you know about British politics?
- What do you think of national elections?
- What attributes are needed to be a good politician?
- How important is it for young people to get involved in politics?

Spelling

- by the slimmest of irotmesija
- the umeinbnct Conservative Party candidate
- He will now sit in nmltaeriPa
- This is the fianfiuloc title
- a political akqteuaher
- enter politics, and tackle hypaat
- sparked by the social and economic leniecd
- a very evirpdde area
- high streets that used to be a nvihigtr hub
- are basically now a laswaetdn
- misrule, scandal, eelasz and corruption
- Britain's public services are in asohc

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Education

You think education is the most essential public service. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their services aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): tax collection, refuse collection or emergency services.

Role B – Tax Collection

You think tax collection is the most essential public service. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their services aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): education, refuse collection or emergency services.

Role C – Refuse Collection

You think refuse collection is the most essential public service. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their services aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): tax collection, education or emergency services.

Role D – Emergency Services

You think emergency services is the most essential public service. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their services aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): tax collection, refuse collection or education.

Speaking – Public services

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important public services at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| • Education | • Social care |
| • Healthcare | • Tax collection |
| • Housing | • Emergency services |
| • Security | • Refuse collection |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	F	5	T	6	T	7	F	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.