

SOCIAL STUDIES — SCOTTISH HISTORY · P5–P7

# Achd an Aonaigh 1707 — Acts of Union

Knowledge Organiser — P5–P7

## The Union of 1707

1

### The Acts of Union (1707)

Scotland and England merged their parliaments to create Great Britain. The Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh was abolished; Scottish MPs joined the Parliament of Great Britain in Westminster. Scotland retained its own legal system, church (Presbyterian Kirk), and education system.

2

### The Darien Scheme (1698–1700)

Scotland's catastrophic attempt to establish a colony on the Darien Peninsula (Panama). Approximately 2,000 Scottish settlers died. The scheme cost Scotland approximately 20-25% of its total wealth and ruined the economy.

3

### Why Scotland accepted the Union

Economic desperation after Darien. English pressure (threat of trade restrictions). Bribes — 32 Scottish commissioners each received a sum of money (the 'equivalent'). Robert Burns later wrote of 'a parcel of rogues in a nation' (bought and sold for English gold).

4

### What Scotland kept

The Church of Scotland (Presbyterian, not Anglican). Scots law (different from English law). Scottish education system. These three 'pillars' maintained Scottish distinctiveness within the Union.

5

### The Scottish Parliament (1999–)

Following the 1997 devolution referendum, the Scottish Parliament was re-established at Holyrood, Edinburgh. Has powers over health, education, justice, taxation, and many other areas.



6

**Independence debate**

The SNP (Scottish National Party) campaigns for independence. The 2014 independence referendum: 55% voted No. Since Brexit (2016), support for independence has grown. A second referendum remains a live political question.

