

The quick quiz on housing: answer sheet

1. When are you legally allowed to leave home in Scotland?
 15 16 17 18 19 20
2. If you are 16 or 17 and have to live away from home, you should be able to claim job seekers allowance if you're not working. How much do you get each week?
 £27.45 £34.60 £45.50 £57.45
3. If you are 18 to 24 and actively looking for work, how much job seekers allowance are you entitled to each week?
 £27.45 £34.60 £45.50 £57.45
4. What is the basic personal weekly allowance for a single parent aged 16 or 17?
 £27.45 £34.60 £45.50 £57.45
5. Where would you find out this kind of information?

Your local jobcentre. The benefit figures quoted above are for 2006 and will change over time. For up to date information visit www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk

Myth or reality?

A If you want to get a house from the council or a housing association they can usually sort you out with a nice place in a good area in about a month.

Myth – it can take a long time, even years, to get a nice place in a good area from a council or housing association.

B If you're renting from a private landlord and on a low income, then you don't have to worry about rent.

Myth – if you receive housing benefit it may not cover the cost of your whole rent, particularly if the rent is above average for the area you are living in.

C All flats for 16 and 17 year olds come with a free servant who does all the cooking and cleaning, puts out the rubbish, tidies up and makes sure you get up in the morning.

Myth!

D Most young people who leave home at 16 or 17 have a brilliant time in their flat and have loads of parties

Myth – many young people who leave home early struggle to cope and as many as one in three can fail in their first tenancy. Young people in this situation often say they wish they had not left home so soon.

E When you move into a council or housing association house or flat it comes with carpets, furniture and kitchen stuff. You only have to supply the telly and extras.

Myth – some council or housing association houses or flats come with carpets, but rarely furniture and never kitchen stuff. You normally have to supply everything yourself. Some furniture projects can help or sometimes you can get a council grant so it's worth asking the council about what is available.

F If you have your mates round to your place and they cause a serious disturbance, you as the tenant are responsible and it could lead to you being evicted.

Reality – you are responsible for the noise levels coming from your home. Serious complaints could lead to an ASBO and you could be evicted.