

Section 4: Exploring Charters Sample Worksheet

Answer the questions on the samples of text in the boxes provided

European Charter of Fundamental Rights, 2000

Article 14

Right to education

- 1. Everyone has the right to education and to have access to vocational and continuing training.**
- 2. This right includes the possibility to receive free compulsory education.**
- 3. The freedom to found educational establishments with due respect for democratic principles and the right of parents to ensure the education and teaching of their children in conformity with their religious, philosophical and pedagogical convictions shall be respected, in accordance with the national laws governing the exercise of such freedom and right.**

What right is being granted? Who is getting the right?

What style is the text in? For example, is it an official style (formal), or friendly style (informal)? Give examples of language used that back up your answer.

Charter of Robert II to the Burgh of Banff

Robert, by the grace of God, King of Scots, to all good men of his whole land, clergy and laity, greeting. Know ye us to have granted...to our faithful burgesses and community of the burgh of Banff, inhabiting the said burgh, present and to come, all our burgh of Banff, with its pertinents, for fifty merks of sterling to be paid yearly by the burgesses themselves and the community continuously inhabiting the said burgh, to us and our heirs, at the feasts of Whitsunday and Martinmas in winter, by equal portions

What right is being granted? Who is granting the right and who is getting it?

What has to be paid in return for the right? When does it have to be paid?

What style is the text in? For example, is it an official style (formal), or friendly style (informal)? Give examples of language used that back up your answer.

Stonehaven Fundamental Charter, 1624, lines 24-27

“It is speceallie condeshended that the s[ai]ds Noble Earll his bealxies (1)...shall in ane woyce pronunce [and] give out sentence in all actions civill conferring the comone weill(2) and ... the s[ai]ds Inhabitants to mak choyse of the s[ai]ds balxies yearly termly (3) or quarterly (4) as they shall think ex[p]edient [and] the hail amesiments(5) to be employed to the common weills fors[ai]d Alenarly (6)...”

1 Bailies – the Baron’s deputies in a Burgh of Barony. Can also be municipal officers.

2 Commonweal - the good or welfare of the public, town, or community

3 Termly - on the term days: Martinmas (11 November) and Whitsunday (15 May)

4 Quarterly – every 3 months

5 Amercements – fines

6 Alenarly – exclusively

Translation

“It is specially agreed that the said noble Earl and his bailies ... shall pronounce [i.e. make declarations] and give out sentence on all civil actions applying the commonweal in one voice [i.e. together] and ... the said inhabitants are to choose the said bailies yearly, termly, or quarterly, as they think proper to their needs, and all of the fines they collect are to be used exclusively for the commonweal ...”

What right is being granted? Who is getting the right? What restriction is there on the town fines?

What style is the text in? For example, is it an official style (formal), or friendly style (informal)? Give examples of language used that back up your answer.

What sort of language do you think charters use?