**Brexit** (notes taken from the BBC News website, 5th December, 2018)

**Brexit vote in Parliament 11 December**

An extremely important vote is due to take place in Parliament at the start of next week, on 11 December.

Members of Parliament (MPs) will be voting on whether or not they support the Brexit deal that Prime Minister Theresa May has agreed with European Union (EU) leaders. She has spent many months putting together this deal, which outlines what the relationship between the UK and the EU will be like in future.

On Wednesday 14 November, she had a five-hour meeting with her top ministers and they all agreed on the deal, although some of them weren't happy with it and left their jobs as a result. Once this happened, she needed the 27 EU leaders to sign off on it too. They did this on 25 November.

Now, she needs MPs in the UK Parliament to sign off on it too. They will be voting to support or reject:

(1) the EU withdrawal agreement, which sets out what will happen when the UK leaves the EU on 29 March 19

(2) An accompanying political declaration, which outlines what the UK's relationship with the EU will be like once a special period of transition comes to an end, which is currently due to happen at the end of 2020.

The all-important vote is to take place in on 11 December. This vote is important as Mrs May needs MPs to give their approval to her deal in order to go ahead with her Brexit plans.

Without a majority of them doing this, she cannot make Brexit happen how she would like it to. She has said: "I believe with every fibre of my being that the course I have set out is the right one for our country and all our people." She has also said that she knows that the deal isn't perfect, though. "I never said this deal was perfect, it was never going to be. That is the nature of a negotiation," she said. "We should not let the search for a perfect Brexit prevent a good Brexit."

**Why did people vote to leave?**

There are lots of reasons why adults in the UK voted to leave the EU.

For example, some people believe that the European Union holds the UK back from doing business elsewhere around the world, they don't like that the UK has to follow rules that are voted on by other countries, and have to pay money into the EU spending pot. Plus they feel the UK should have more control over who is allowed into the country and who isn't. Other people think that being in the EU brings many benefits to the UK, but the referendum ended with the Leave side getting the most votes.

**Will there be another referendum?**

Some people, senior politicians and groups have called for another referendum now depending on what deal Theresa May can strike with the EU. They say that now people have more information about what Brexit might mean for the UK, there should be another vote. Others say the result of the 2016 referendum should be respected and that voters have had their final say. Prime Minister Theresa May has said she has no plans to call for another vote and the decision to leave is final.

**What happens if Parliament votes against the deal?**

There are a number of possible scenarios if MPs vote to reject Mrs May's Brexit deal.

The main ones that people are talking about are:

1. No deal

The UK could head towards a 'no deal' Brexit. This does exactly what it says on the tin - we would leave the EU having failed to reach an agreement about how we leave the group.

This would also mean no transition period. Our relationship with the EU would suddenly and abruptly end.

Without plans in place, border checks could be re-imposed (which would be an especially big deal on the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland), and transport and trade between the UK and the EU could be severely affected. Adults may not be able to drive in EU countries without a special driving permit and it could cost more money to use your phone abroad in Europe.

Mrs May has refused to rule out a 'no deal' Brexit if Parliament votes against her deal, but Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn told ITV that "nobody is going to allow 'no deal'".

2. New deal

One alternative is Mrs May could try to present another deal to MPs for them to vote on, which could require her to go back to EU leaders to renegotiate. There isn't really very much time left to do this though, unless the government asks for Brexit to be delayed - but EU leaders would have to agree to this.

Mrs May has made it very clear that the deal she has presented now is the best deal that the UK is going to get. The EU's chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier has also said Mrs May's Brexit plan "is the only possible deal".

If Conservative MPs get enough support to say that the party does not have confidence in their leader Mrs May, then a new Conservative leader could try to renegotiate a deal with the EU, but they would also have very little time to do this.

3. General election

Another outcome - which Labour says should happen if the deal is rejected - is another general election, in which UK adults vote for a new government. This is what Mr Corbyn is really pushing for. It looks unlikely, though, as it wouldn't bring any government much closer to solving the Brexit issues in the time left.

4. Another referendum

For this to be an outcome, the government would need to be convinced it needs to happen and a majority would need to vote in support of this in the House of Commons, where MPs vote on issues.

At the moment, it doesn't appear that the majority of MPs would vote for another referendum to happen. Mrs May is also completely set against another referendum happening at the moment, so either she would need to change her mind - or be replaced.

If it was decided the UK should have another referendum, legislation would need to be passed and there would be a period of time between that happening and the referendum taking place. This would mean there would have to be a delay to Brexit - and that would require all 27 EU member states and the UK to agree to that happening.

**So what now?**

There have been some important votes in Parliament over the last few days.

One vote saw MPs back calls to give them a direct say in what happens if Mrs May's deal is rejected next week.

So now, everyone is waiting to see what happens in Parliament on 11 December.

Mrs May is currently trying to persuade all MPs that her deal is the right deal for the UK and to support her when the vote comes around soon.

She has said she is committed to seeing the process through and has urged Parliament to sign off on the deal. She explained that the British public "do not want to spend any more time arguing about Brexit".

The problem is that in the UK Parliament, for issues to be decided on, there needs to be a majority of approval - and there doesn't appear to be a majority of approval for any outcome at the moment, including the deal that is currently on the table.

Currently, the BBC understands that some politicians from the Conservative, Labour, SNP, Liberal Democrat, Plaid Cymru and Green parties are involved with coming up with a plan (amendments to what is being proposed) that would try to rule out a no-deal Brexit, which - they hope - would get a majority vote. It would not be legally binding though, but it would an indication of what the majority of Parliament wants to happen.

The amendments will be selected by Commons Speaker John Bercow on 11 December.

We don't know what is going to happen at the vote on 11 December or indeed with any possible amendments. But one thing we do know is that if MPs do vote against the Brexit deal, Mrs May and her government will be in a very tricky position.