

Blueprint for Scottish independence

In September 2014 Scotland goes to the polls to decide whether or not to end a 307-year union with England and become independent



8.3%

Population of Scotland is **5.3 million** and accounts for **8.3%** of UK's **63.23 million** citizens (2012)

■ Currency:

Scotland will have to apply for EU membership and be formally required to adopt euro under terms of Maastricht Treaty. However, Scottish First Minister **Alex Salmond** (above) wants **sterling-zone** currency union to assist cross-border trade with Scotland's biggest trading partner



■ Income tax: *Institute of Fiscal Studies* estimates that bringing

£3,523

debt down to sustainable levels will require increase in basic tax rate from 20% to 28%.

Scotland's 2.4m basic-rate taxpayers will each pay extra £1,006 per year

£2,517

20% rate

28% rate

■ National debt:

Scottish government estimates that total UK debt will be £1.5 trillion in 2016-17. If debt is split according to per capita ratio (8.3%), Scotland will take on £124.5 billion debt burden. **Scottish interest rates estimated to rise 1.65% higher than UK borrowing costs**



■ North Sea oil and gas:

Estimated by Scottish government to be worth £1.5 trillion. **Revenue to be used to prop up economy**



■ Nuclear weapons:

UK's nuclear weapons to be removed in first term of independent Scotland

