

Types of government

Democracy= all people are equal and collectively hold power.

- Regular and fair elections
- Opportunities for all voters to participate
- A chance for citizens to stand for election
- Freedom for the media to report on the work of the government
- A separate legal system that can hold the government accountable
- **SEPARATION OF POWERS**

Direct democracy= all people take part in all decisions (Brexit vote)



Representative democracy= we are represented eg. MPs in UK.

VALUES= freedoms, rule of law, human rights, equality

Dictatorship - A system of government where there is rule by one person or group. E.g. Syria. FEW Human Rights

Theocracy - Where the government from the state is held by religious figures whose beliefs dominate the governmental system e.g. the Vatican

Parliament structure

1. House of Commons- voted in- 650 MPs
2. House of Lords- not elected
3. Monarchy- not elected- opens/ closes

Parliament, signs off laws

The HOC has the most power although in the past it was the monarchy!-

Civil Service

Impartiality means that civil servants cannot belong to a political party

Anonymity means they should not be identified or linked to policies

Permanence means they stay in their role regardless of who is in government

Bicameral Parliament

'two-Chamber'. - HoC + HoL.

By- election

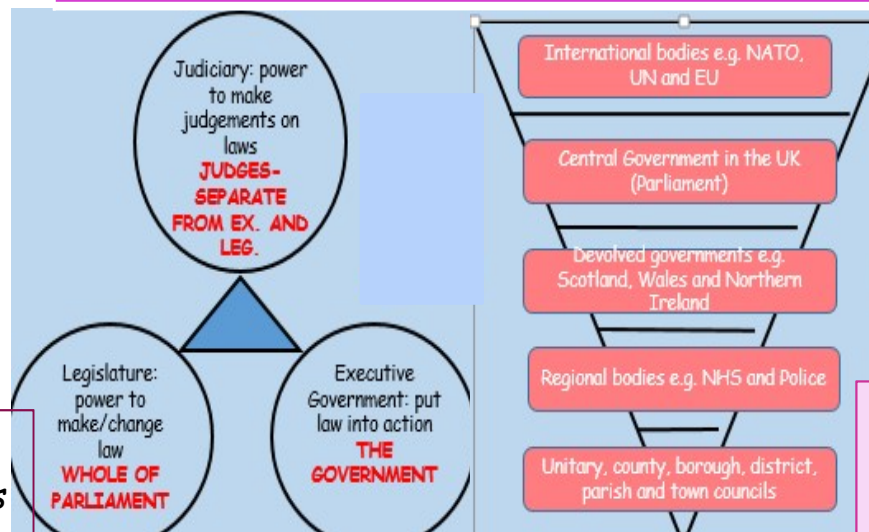
Replace MP/ councillor who died/ retired



Politics and Participation



Powers within the UK



SEPARATION OF POWERS- Our Judiciary is totally separate from our executive and Legislature.

Judges cannot be part of a political party of voted for.... Why not?

Voting

To vote- over 18, not in prison, not mentally ill

First past the post Non- proportional - the person/party with the highest number of votes wins

good points + bad points

Proportional representation - the number of votes for each person/party mean they get that % of seats

good points + bad points

Alternative vote - voters choose their first, second, third etc. choice and if there is no clear winner then they choice with the least is discounted and these voters second choice is chosen.

Socialism - associated with the Labour Party, based on common ownership, a belief in community and equality.

Conservatism - associated with the Conservative Party, based upon tradition, duty and authority and property. **Liberalism** - was associated with the Liberal Party which was concerned about human rights and individual liberty, freedom and tolerance and consent.

Devolution =power is given from the central government to local governments.

Eg. Scotland have their own parliament =decisions on Scottish issues e.g. education and healthcare. **BUT- ENGLISH VOTES FOR ENGLISH LAWS DEBATE EG. HS2- BUT, DOES THIS CREATE MORE PROBLEMS? IS IT DEMOCRATIC?**

Economy

Command= A national economy where all elements of the economic system are controlled by the government (China)

Market= A national economy where most of the economy is run by the private sector and the state owns and runs limited elements of it (USA)

Mixed= A national economy that has elements run and owned by the state and others run by the private sector (UK)

Issues on privatisation- eg. rail/ electricity used to be nationalised- now private companies.

What about private health care? Academies? What are benefits/ limitations of each?



Government spending

Where is their money from?

- tax or borrowing money

Tax= income tax, national insurance and VAT.

Duties- alcohol and tobacco

Corporation tax is paid by companies based on their profits

Council tax

SHOULD INC. TAX BE

CHANGED?

What do they spend on?

Military, social security-

Pension- risen. Now must have own pension.

Housing benefit- bedroom tax?

Universal Credit- top up low incomes- issues

Child benefit- £50k cap,

NHS, Education- privatised?

MP ROLES- REPRESENT CONSTITUENTS IN PARLIAMENT

Working in Parliament

- Dealing with constituency correspondence and issues
- Raising issues affecting their constituency
- Attending debates and votes on new laws
- Attending functions both relating to their party politics and their political interest

Working in their Constituency



- Many MPs leave the House on Thursdays and return to their constituencies
- They hold surgeries (drop-in meetings) where they can meet their constituents and discuss problems
- Also attend functions in the local area for schools, businesses etc.

PMQs - Prime Minister Question time is when MPs from each party have a chance to ask the PM questions (on anything!)

Clerk of Parliaments

Most senior official in the House of Lords. They are appointed by The Crown as head of the permanent administration.

Commons Deputy Speakers

Deputies that are also elected. They sit in on any committee of the whole house and if the first cannot sit then the second or third sits instead.

Lord Speaker

Elected and are responsible for chairing the debates in the Lords chamber and offering advice on procedure.

Senjeant at Arms

Responsible for security and keeping order within the commons.

The Speaker

Elected by fellow MPs and chair the debates and decide who speaks etc.

Clerk to the House of Commons

Advisor to the House of Commons and manages contracts and leases of HOC property.

Black Rod

Responsible for security and ceremonial events e.g. calling MPs to hear the Queens speech.

Whips

Appointed by each party they are responsible for making sure MPs turn out and vote how the party want them to vote.

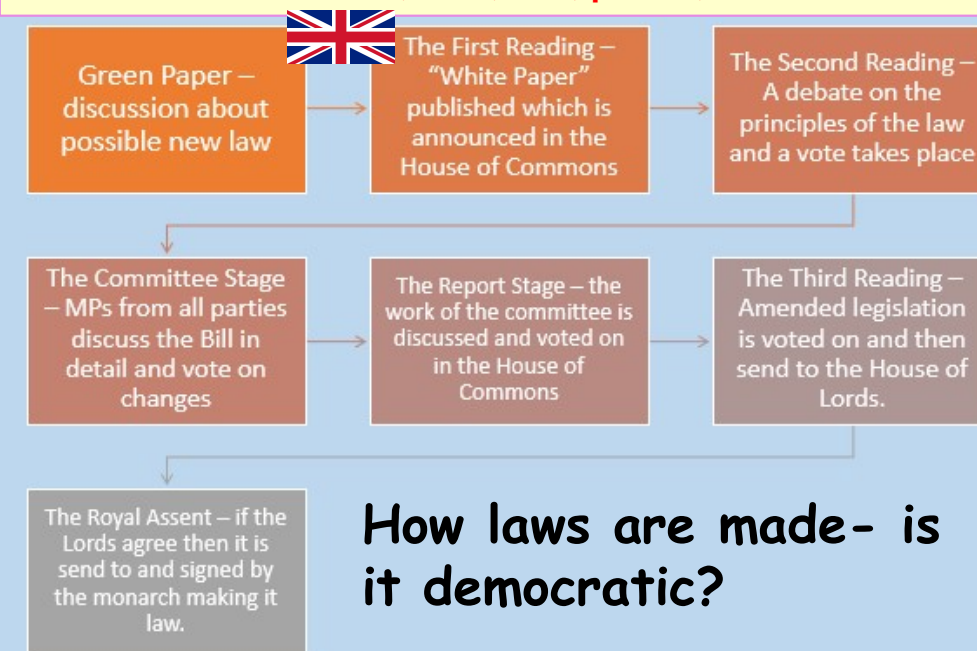
Frontbenchers and Backbenchers

Where people sit and how important they are. Front are ministers or shadow ministers. Back are not ministers or are the opposition spokespersons

Sovereignty of Parliament- laws can only be made/ changed in Parliament- has this reduced?

British Constitution= uncodified (not written down- +ives? -ives? Can change eg. change voting age.

Constitution= monarch, HoC, HoL, police, civil service



How laws are made- is it democratic?