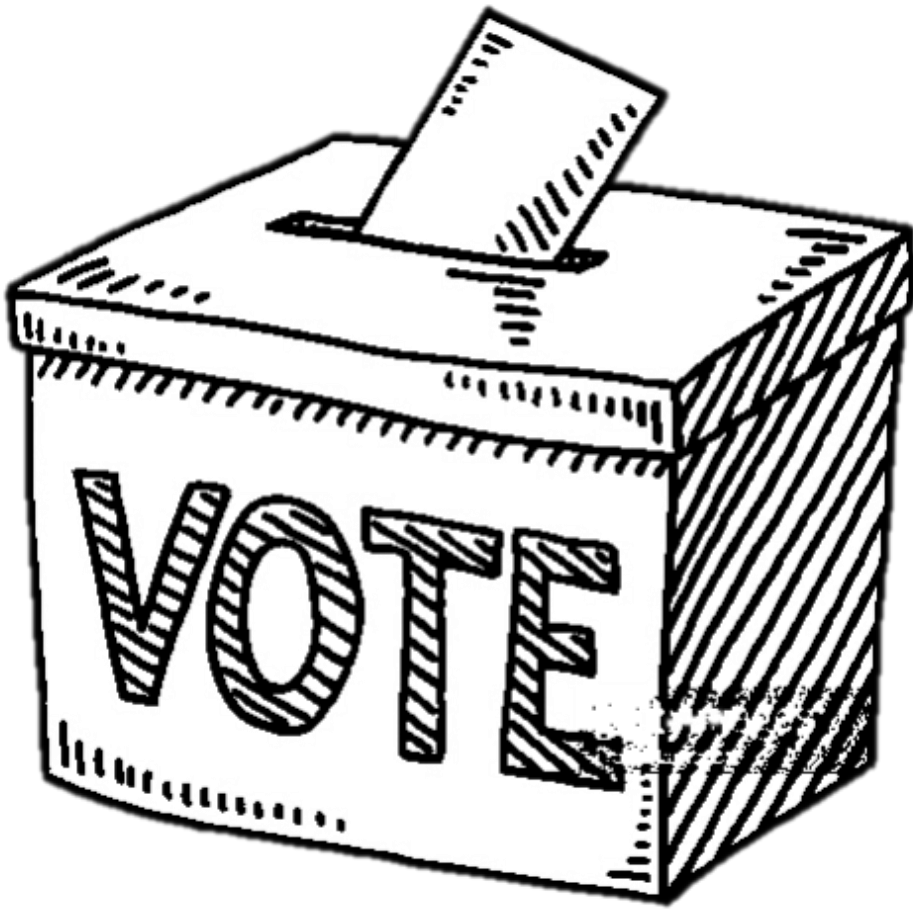


AQA GCSE

Citizenship Studies



Politics and Participation

Paper 1

Knowledge Book

WHY HAVE I GOT THIS BOOKLET?

- This booklet has been put together to ensure you have a reference to the specified content contained on your GCSE specification. Do not feel overwhelmed by the content, you know your stuff!
- It brings together all the work you have done across the PP unit and aims to **compliment** your personal notes, research and hard work over.
- It will give you the notes you have lost/missed due to absence etc.
- The published resources are becoming outdated.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET?

- Like all your GCSE subjects, Citizenship Studies is a rigorous and academic study. It requires you to know a collection of core content and then apply to situations and issues. It is made a little harder, but its constant evolution, but it also makes it fun!
- **Retrieval Practice:** use the technique of **look/read, cover, write/say, review** to see what you can remember about a particular topic.
- **Memory Dump:** use a section of the booklet to test your self. Pick a topic question, write/sketch what you can **remember** about the topic. Check the content using the booklet/notes.
- **Transform:** use the booklet to help when making your own revision notes/flash cards/quizzes etc.
- **Reference Point:** unsure about something? Have a read of the corresponding pages to see if it helps. If not, ASK!

I HOPE IT HELPS! 😊

APOLOGISES IN ADVANCE FOR ANY TYPOS.

WHAT IS THE CONCEPT OF DEMOCRACY?

The Different Types of Democracy

Democracy: a system of government whereby citizens in free and fair elections choose, via elections, those in charge/power.

Direct Democracy: where the people decide on all decision-making directly.

For example, **referendums - when citizens are asked to vote directly on a single issue.**

1975 EU Membership

2011 Voting System – FPTP to AV

2014 Scottish Independence

2016 EU Membership

This form of democracy is commonly used in Switzerland. For example, in September 2020 they held a referendum on 5 topics: free movement of people, military spending and paternity leave etc.

Representative Democracy: where the people/citizens elect representatives to make decisions on their behalf.

For example, **UK General Elections - when citizens are asked to vote to elect somebody to represent them in government.**

2010: Coalition

2015: Conservative

2017: Conservative

2019: Conservative

Should we be a more direct democracy? Yes-

No-

Which Type of Democracy is Best?

Direct

It is the **purest form of democracy** – it is the voice of all enfranchised citizens.

It **prevents a concentration of power**, as power is held amongst the people, not by a few elected officials. This may help people feel more represented and engaged in political discourse/activity.

Representative

It is **practical and efficient**. Elections are held every few years in many societies, this means their logistical challenges and practical outcomes can be organised.

Gives citizens **somebody to hold to account** when key decisions are needed/society is not functioning as it should. Those people are often highly educated and understand complex political issues and processes.

WHAT ARE THE VALUES THAT UNDERPIN DEMOCRACY?

Democratic Values: behaviours/actions which promote/allow democracy to take place.

Values	Definition	Way it Supports Democracy
Rights		
Responsibilities		
Freedoms		
Equality		
The Rule of Law		

WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR UK CITIZENS TO PARTICIPATE IN DEMOCRACY? (PAPER 2)

- Voting in Elections e.g. G/E, L/E, E/E etc.
- Voting in By-Elections e.g. when an MP/Councillor dies/steps down.
- Voting in Referendums e.g. EU.
- Joining a Political Party e.g. Greens, Labour.
- Join a Political Demonstration.
- Supporting/Signing a Petition.
- Contacting a MP/Local Councillor

Is the UK democratic enough?

Yes-

No-

WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS FOR UK CITIZENS TO PARTICIPATE IN DEMOCRACY? (PAPER 2)

- Distrust in the Establishment.
- Disenfranchised e.g. age, prisoner status.
- Disengaged e.g. find politics boring, lack of knowledge about the system etc.
- Representation in Parliament e.g. not feeling like your social group is in parliament e.g. social class, gender, disability, sexuality.
- Minority Party Support e.g. supporting a small party, with little hopes of election gains.
- Voting System e.g. FPTP often results in a two-party system, dominated by Conservatives and Labour.

HOW CAN APATHY BE OVERTURNED AND VOTER TURNOUT INCREASED?

Term	Definition
Disengagement	Not knowing, valuing or participating in the democratic process.
Disenfranchised	Not being allowed to vote and therefore restricted from participating in formal democracy e.g. being under 18, a prisoner.
Voter Turnout	
Voter Apathy	
Increasing Voter Turnout	
Many people are too busy to vote during the week e.g. Thursday's. How to change?-	Overcoming Apathy Many people lack knowledge about politics thus fail to see its importance. How to change?
Many people do not vote due as they simply choose not to go to the polling station. How to change?	Many people do not think their views and characteristics are represented in politics. Therefore, to overcome voter apathy, the UK could increase the representativeness of parliament. This would mean increasing the number of social groups e.g. LGBTQ+, disabilities and social classes. Moreover, reform the voting system, to ensure all political parties are represented and give all citizens a voice.
Many people do not due to the polling station being located in an inconvenient place/opening times. Therefore, to increase voter turnout the UK could utilise methods of digital democracy – e-voting. This would mean citizens could vote from the ease/comfort of their own home on an internet enabled device.	Many people do not think political decisions impact them. Therefore, to overcome voter apathy, the UK could utilise methods of digital democracy – online campaigns. To highlight the impact of both local and national politics on everyday life/decisions. This would highlight the importance of political decision making on and for all.

Digital democracy: the use of online methods e.g. the internet to allow/encourage citizens to get involved in the political process.

E-voting

Political Compasses

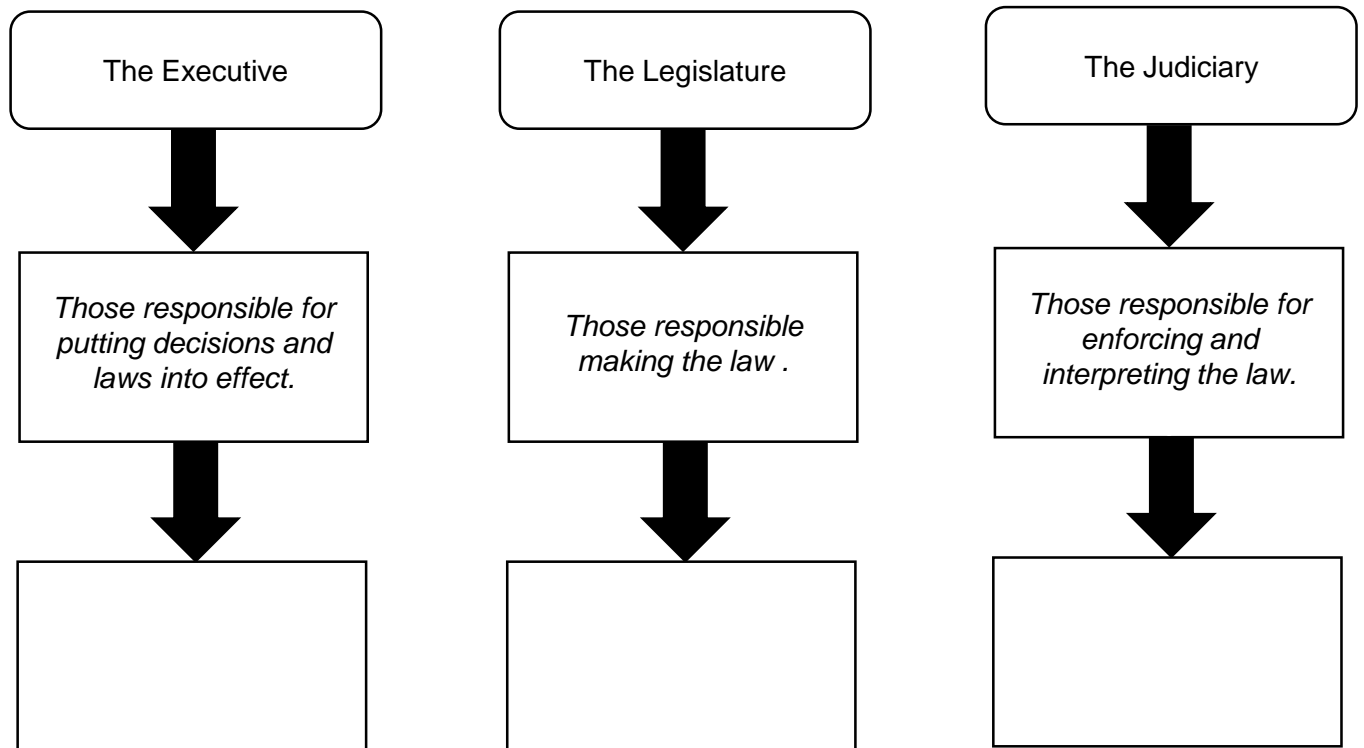
E-petitions

Online Campaigns

Party Broadcasts

Social Media Channels

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATURE AND JUDICIARY?



It is important that each of the executive, legislature and judiciary have a **distinct role**. This is to ensure **separation of powers & stop** one branch becoming too powerful and having the ability to make decisions in isolation. However, due to the structure and operations of UK parliament, there is a crossover between the executive and legislature (fusion of powers) – as those who propose laws are also part of securing them.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE MONARCH?

The UK has a c _____ **monarchy**, this means the power and role of monarch is **limited**, today their role is **mostly ceremonial**, however, they still carry out a number of important functions, including being the **Head of State**, this means they represent the UK worldwide and host international guests. The Monarch also:

Appoints a Government: the day after a General Election the Queen invites the leader of the party that won the most seats in the House of Commons to become Prime Minister and to form a government.

Open and Dissolve Parliament: each year the Monarch opens Parliament through the State Opening, marking the beginning of the Parliamentary year. Before a General Election, the Monarch dissolves Parliament (prorogation).

Deliver the Queen's Speech: the Monarch informs Parliament of the government's policy ideas and plans for new legislation in a speech delivered from the throne in the House of Lords. Although the Queen makes the speech the government draws up the content.

Royal Assent: when a Bill has been approved by a majority in the House of Commons and the House of Lords it is formally agreed to by the Crown. This is known as the Royal Assent. This turns a Bill into an Act of Parliament, allowing it to become law in the UK.

Should the monarchy be abolished? For and against-

WHAT IS THE WESTMINSTER PARLIAMENT?

Westminster Parliament is **bicameral** – this means-

Although both are important aspects of parliament each fulfil **distinct roles**, with their relationship being characterised by **scrutiny and accountability**. Whilst there is an understanding that the House of Commons is the 'more important' of the two, due to its **democratically elected membership**, the House of Lords is essential in **holding the government to account and scrutinising their work**.

The Composition of the Westminster Parliament	
House of Commons	House of Lords
How many MPs?	How many Lords?
Elected General Elections	Unelected Inherited Peerage from family. Life Peerage: appointed due to expertise by Government via a Committee Lord Spirituals appointed due to being Archbishop/Senior Bishops

The Roles of the Westminster Parliament	
House of Commons	House of Lords
Proposes new legislation	Scrutinises new legislation
Debates government policy and legislation.	Debates government policy and legislation
Votes to pass government policy and legislation.	Revises government policy and legislation
Scrutiny of government – allows MPs and Opposition to question the PM e.g. PMQs/Urgent Questions.	Propose new legislation on uncontroversial issues.
Holds financial privilege – the House has ultimate control over money bills e.g. public finances.	Hold debates on issues of national importance e.g. treatment of asylum seekers and refugees, GM Crops etc.

Whilst the House of Commons **holds much greater power** than the House of Lords. The work of the Commons has the legitimacy & consent of the people, whereas the Lords' power is undemocratic.

Over the years, the Lords' power and abilities have been reduced significantly, for example, the Lords cannot obstruct any proposal included in the government's manifesto – this is because the government were elected on this mandate.

Should the Lords be abolished? For-

Against-

HOW DOES PARLIAMENT WORK?

Government

Those responsible for

In the UK this is decided by a



Parliament

Those elected and appointed who ensure the interests of the public are considered by the Government. In the UK it is comprised of three elements: House of Commons, House of Lords and the Monarch.

They work to-

Parliament works in **three ways** to scrutinise the work of the government and make it accountable: **holds debates, issues parliamentary questions, assembles committees.**

Debates

Debates take place within the House of Commons and House of Lords to allow a discussion of policy, legislation and pressing issues. At the end of a debate, a division and vote can be taken. This will show the government the level of support an issue has.

Questions

Both Houses can question the government. This occurs via:

Question Time

This takes place at regular intervals throughout the week., During this time, Ministers/Lords will respond to questions from MPs/Peers.

Urgent Questions

Any MP can ask the Speaker to grant them an UG. This means a Minister has to respond to the question.

Prime Ministers Question Time

Takes place each Wednesday. The PM visits the Common and takes questions about the governments actions.

Committees

These are groups of MPs/Lords who come together to focus on a particular issue. They can be undertaken by both Houses independently or as Joint Committees working together.

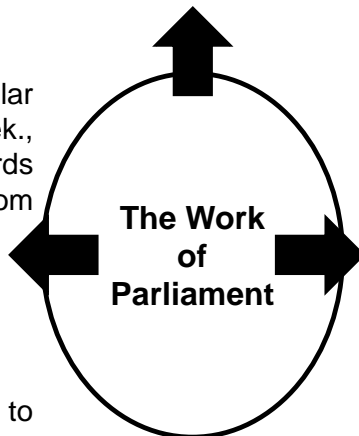
There are different types of committees:

General Committees

These are found in the House of Commons and primarily **consider the merits and demerits of draft legislation.** They will meet and examine a Bill line-by-line. They will compile a reports on its conclusions and amendments.

Department Select Committees

Work to check and report on the government. They will focus on a particular area of the government's work. They gather evidence and report back recommendations to the government.



WHO CAN STAND FOR ELECTION AND HOW ARE PARTY CANDIDATES SELECTED (MPS)?

A candidate will usually decide to stand to represent one of the **UK's political parties**. The UK operates a **multi-party system**. However, it is possible that the person could decide to be an **independent**, yet this is rare!

Once the prospective candidate has selected a party, they must seek its endorsement. They must be supported by existing members and pay a fee of around £500.

You must be –

Once accepted, you will begin to **campaign**. You will need to win the votes of those in the constituency you are hoping to represent. You may meet residents, hold hustings, run online campaigns etc.

HOW IS A GOVERNMENT FORMED?

On election night you will be running for **1 of 650 seats**. You will need secure the most votes to win. This is because of the FPTP voting system.

Typically, to form a government, a political party needs to win a **majority in the House of Commons**, this equates to 326 seats (MPs).

If this is achieved, **the leader of the political party with the most seats, becomes _____**, after they have sought approval from the Monarch. The Prime Minister, is **not directly elected** and they still perform their role as **MP**.

However, sometimes a majority is not gained. **What happens?**

WHAT ARE THE KEY PHILOSOPHICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE POLITICAL PARTIES OPERATING IN THE UK GENERAL ELECTION?

Left Wing

Centre

Right Wing

Greens

Labour

Liberal Democrats

Conservative

Reform UK

SNP

Plaid Cymru

	Conservatives	Labour
Ideology		
Divisions	<p>One Nation Conservatism</p> <p>Bridge the gulf between rich and poor with state intervention, to help all sections of society.</p> <p>After being elected in 2020, Boris Johnson affirmed his philosophical outlook by saying: "This one nation Conservative Government..."</p> <p>New Right & Thatcherism</p> <p>Reduce state intervention- 'roll back the state' and privatisation industries.</p>	<p>Old Labour</p> <p>Redistribution of wealth, from rich to the poor. Democratic socialism – reform capitalism, not overthrow.</p> <p>Nationalisation of key services.</p> <p>Continual improvement of welfare state.</p> <p>Strong link to Trade Unions</p> <p>New Labour</p> <p>Move the party from the 'hard left' to 'centre left'. This reduced the powers/ involvement of Trade Unions, removed the promise of nationalisation and accepted that capitalism was the best way of creating wealth.</p> <p>Less emphasis on social class.</p>
Manifesto Pledges/ Policies	<p>'Get Brexit Done'</p> <p>Introduce a firmer and fairer points-based immigration system post-Brexit.</p>	<p>Deliver full-fibre broadband free to everybody in every home in our country by 2030.</p> <p>Abolish private schools.</p>

Typically promote change and reform.

Typically promote status quo and stability. Gradual reform if necessary.

	Liberal Democrats	Greens
Ideology		
Divisions		
Manifesto Pledges/Policies	<p>The key ideas of liberalism include; liberty, freedom from state interference; social justice, the removal of inequality; welfare this to support those in need to enable their freedom social reforms to support the rights of minorities and limiting the power of the government, this is through a strong constitution.</p> <p>Revoke Article 50, thus cancelling Brexit.</p> <p>Introduce a codified constitution.</p>	<p>Not a single-issue party. Has a full manifesto covering all areas of social life.</p> <p>Make Cannabis legal, from approved providers.</p> <p>End animal testing.</p> <p>Reform voting system from FPTP to a proportional system.</p>

	Scottish National Party	Plaid Cymru
Ideology		
Divisions		
Manifesto Pledges/Policies	<p>Scottish Independence</p> <p>Stopping Brexit – Scotland remaining an EU member</p>	<p>Welsh Independence</p> <p>Promote importance of Welsh Language</p>

Why do people get confused over politics? What influences a person on who they vote for?

WHAT IS THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS?

The proposing of new legislation (laws) is a **primary role of government**. Most new legislation is proposed in the House of Commons, although it can also be proposed in the House of Lords.

There is a **legislative process** within Parliament to introduce new legislation.



The Bill is **formally introduced/read for the first time** in Parliament by the Minister responsible for it. There is no debate. This is presented via a **White Paper**.



There is a **committee** formed and a line-by-line examination of the Bill takes place. The committee suggest **amendments** to the Bill.



The Bill has a **third/final reading** in its current House. After this it will go to the other House/Chamber.



The Bill must receive **Royal Assent** from the Monarch. This turns the Bill into Legislation (Law).



An **issue emerges within society or the idea for a new law is conceptualised**. This is outlined and introduced in a **Green Paper**.



The Bill is read for a **second time** in Parliament. There is a debate and vote on the Bill.



The Bill **returns to the House** it was first announced. There is a **second further debate/reading and deliberation** on its content and implications.



The Bill **ping-pongs** between the two Houses for amendments. These are then debated and voted upon. Typically, **both** Houses must agree on its final wording.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE SUPREME COURT?

The Supreme Court is the **final court of appeal** in the UK for civil cases, and for criminal cases **from England, Wales and Northern Ireland**. The Supreme Court **will not hear cases 'in the first instance'** – they need to have been heard in lower courts. Typically, cases need to be **of the greatest public or constitutional importance and affect the whole/significant portions of the population**.

The work of the Supreme Court is **instrumental in the development of law within the UK**. The rulings made can **set new legal rules (precedents)** which affect the case being tried but also future cases. Often, their work, **clarifies the meaning of the law**, if there is uncertainty about how it is applied.

The Supreme Court is often asked to undertake **judicial reviews**. These are **examinations by judges which review the actions of public bodies/officials to determine if their actions have been lawful**, if the review rules in favour of the public body, it may force them to rethink their actions.

Cases are heard by 12 of the countries most senior judges. They are known as **Justices**. They are selected based on **merit** and must have **previous legal experience**. A selection committee works to appoint Justices, the committee is comprised of senior law officers, the appointments **are not politically selected**. Their work is **independent of the government**.

When in session, cases **are heard by an odd number of Justices** – this is to ensure a unanimous decision.

Some the Supreme Court's most noteworthy cases include:

The Supreme Court & MPs Expenses: in 2010, the Supreme Court ruled that MPs should face legal trial over their fraudulent expenses claims, they ruled the issue was not covered by parliamentary privilege. This led to the imprisonment of David Chaytor.

The Supreme Court & the Prorogation of Parliament: in 2019, the Supreme Court ruled that Boris Johnson's decision to suspend Parliament (prorogation) for five weeks was unlawful. The Justices said it was wrong to stop MPs carrying out duties in the run-up to the Brexit deadline on 31 October. This encouraged Johnson to review his decision, and Parliament was brought back to session.

The Supreme Court & Uber: in 2021, the Supreme Court ruled that Uber drivers are workers, rather than self-employed drivers. This means that Uber have a responsibility to ensure drivers are given a minimum wage and holiday pay. Some legal commentators say this ruling could set a precedent for other industries in the 'gig economy' – forcing large scale change in worker rights and employment legislation.

The Supreme Court: in 2021, the Supreme Court ruled that Shamima Begum, a teen who left the UK to join Daesh, should not be allowed back in the UK to challenge the removal of her UK citizenship. The case was brought to the Supreme Court by the government who wanted to challenge a ruling given by the Court of Appeal who granted Begum the opportunity to come back to the UK to appear in-person at her citizenship hearing. Lord Reed, the SC President, said the Court of Appeal had "mistakenly believed that, when an individual's right to have a fair hearing... came into conflict with the requirements of national security, her right to a fair hearing must prevail. The right to a fair hearing did not trump all other considerations, such as the safety of the public".

Supreme court judges should make laws- not MP's- For-

Against-

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT ROLES WITHIN PARLIAMENT?

Name	Definition	Roles	Power	Examples
Prime Minister	The leader of the Government and party who wins the most seats at a general election. They oversee the day-to-day running of country.	Head of government and leader of country. Attend PMQs to explain actions/policy of the government.	Appoint the cabinet. Using the Power of Patronage can appoint life peers to the Lords.	
Cabinet	The team of 20+ MPs who are selected by the PM to lead on specific policy areas and oversee government departments.	Devise and implement policy on specific areas. Advise and warn the PM on decisions.	Implement policy on specific areas. Act as 'final court of appeal' if disputes between government departments.	
Minister* <i>*Members of Cabinet</i>	Frontbench government MPs who are appointed by the PM to lead on specific policy areas and oversee government departments.	Take individual ministerial responsibility for the policy, actions and conduct of their department. Answer questions during question time within the Common's/ Committees about the department's work/policy.		
Junior Minister	A MP who has specific responsibility within a government department, but is not in the cabinet.	Support the devising and implementation of policy on specific areas within their government department. Answer questions during question time within the Common's/Committees about the department's work/policy.		

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT ROLES WITHIN PARLIAMENT?

Name	Definition	Role	Power	Example
<p>Member of Parliament (MPs)*</p> <p><i>*Frontbench and Backbench MPs</i></p>	<p>Somebody elected by a constituency to represent them in the House of Commons.</p>	<p>Represent constituencies e.g. meet, discuss and solve problems by holding surgeries.</p> <p>Take part in policy debates e.g. COVID restrictions, school-meal funding etc.</p>		
<p>Civil Service</p> <p>The most senior civil servant is the Cabinet Secretary.</p>	<p>Individuals employed by the Government who develop and implement policy and run government services. They are politically impartial.</p>	<p>Undertakes operational delivery of government policy by providing departments administrative, professional, specialist and technical support/expertise.</p> <p>Provides services to the UK public e.g. pay benefits/pensions, issue driving licences, official statistics (ONS) and run prisons.</p>		

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT ROLES WITHIN PARLIAMENT?

Name	Definition	Role	Power	Example
Parliamentary Ceremonial Roles				
Black Rod	A senior official in the House of Lords, responsible for controlling access to the Lords and organising major ceremonial occasions.	During the opening of Parliament, Black Rod bangs on the door of the Commons three times and summons MPs to hear the Monarch's speech. Organises access and maintains order in the House of Lords.		
Speaker	A member of the Commons and Lords who has been elected by other members to Chair debates in the House. They maintain order and ensure parliamentary rules are followed.	Call MPs/Peers to speak in Commons/Lords debates. Maintain order within a Commons/Lords debate e.g. asking members to be quiet, revoke comments.		
Whip	Those appointed within a political party to inform and organise members and the day-to-day business of Parliament.	Inform the party about party business. Ensure party loyalty and discipline, members to support and vote along party lines.		

HOW IS THE GOVERNMENT ORGANISED?

In order to govern effectively, governments are organised into **departments**. Each department is responsible for a **particular area of policy/management**, for example:

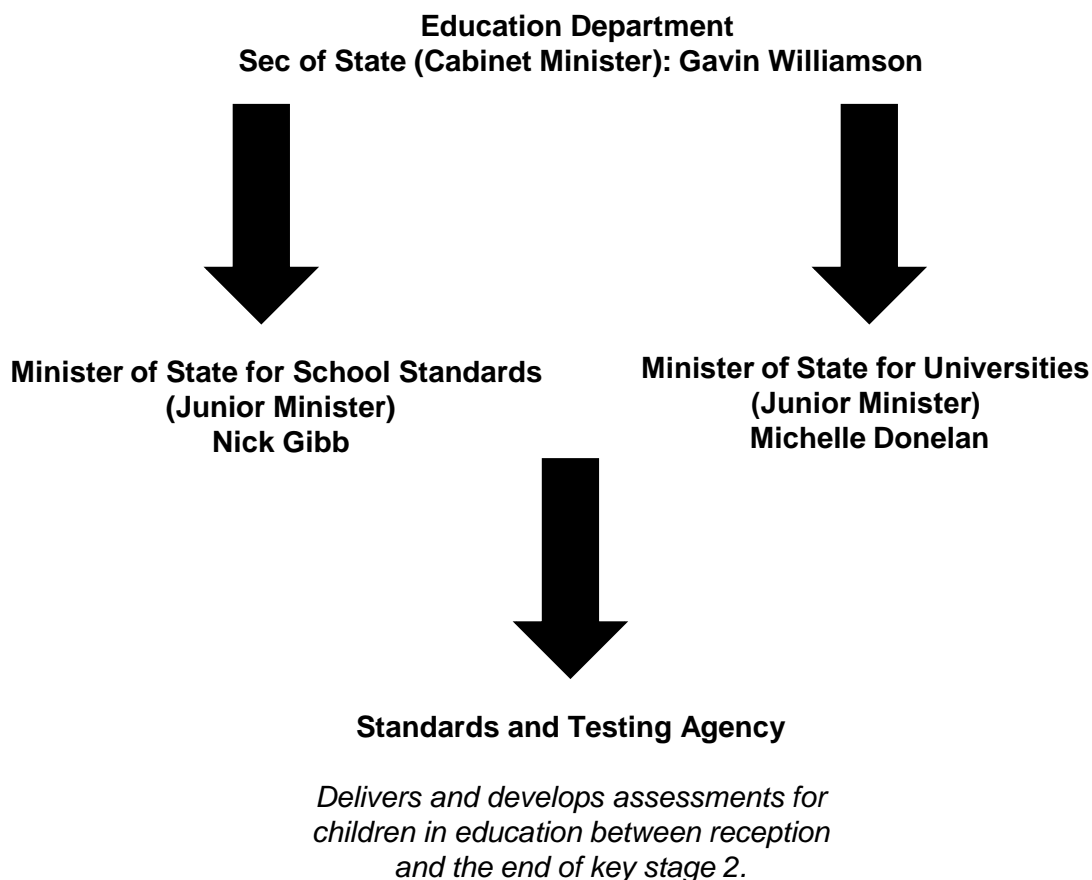
- Education
- Health
- Treasury
- Home Office

Departments are overseen by a **Minister/Secretary of State** and are supported by **Junior Ministers** who take specific responsibility for an area/issue within that department.

There are also **non-government ministerial departments**, which are **not** overseen by a government minister, rather they are headed by senior civil servants. They usually have a **regulatory or inspection function**. For example, Ofqual and Ofsted.

An **agency** is a part of a government department which provides government services. For example, Driving License Agency and Environment Agency.

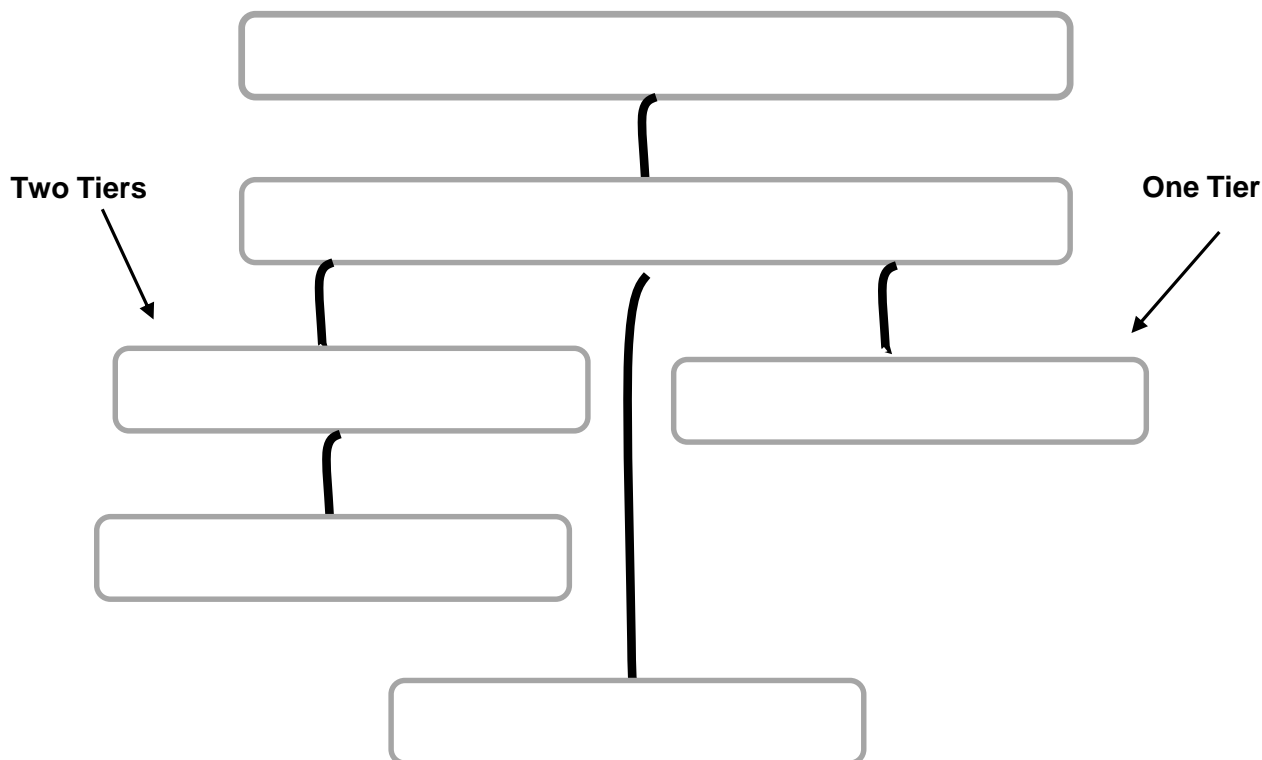
HOW IS THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ORGANISED?



WHAT IS LOCAL GOVERNMENT?

A **local council** is an example of a form of **local government**.

There are many different types of councils. The most common is a **two-tier system – county and district/borough**. However, some areas have a **unitary council**. The lowest tier of local government are **parish councils**.



Combined Authorities

(overseen by directly Metro-Mayors, work with local councils to improve services in local areas)

WHAT SERVICES DO LOCAL COUNCILS PROVIDE?

Council Type	Area/Example	Services
County	A large geographic area e.g. Surrey County Council. County Councils are responsible for services across/impact entire county.	Education Social Care Transport
District/Borough	A smaller geographical area within a county e.g. Mole Valley District Council. District Councils are responsible for services which are smaller and localised.	Rubbish Collections Housing Leisure
Unitary	A large, typically city/metropolitan area e.g. Trafford Metropolitan Council. Unitary Councils are responsible for the delivery of all services across the area.	Education Housing Rubbish Collection
Parish	A small area and very localised area e.g. Handford Parish Council.	Allotments Clocktowers Christmas Lights

Many councils have a civic mayor or chairman of the council. They carry out ceremonial duties and chair meetings, but can't make decisions about council business. These are different to elected/ metro-mayors.

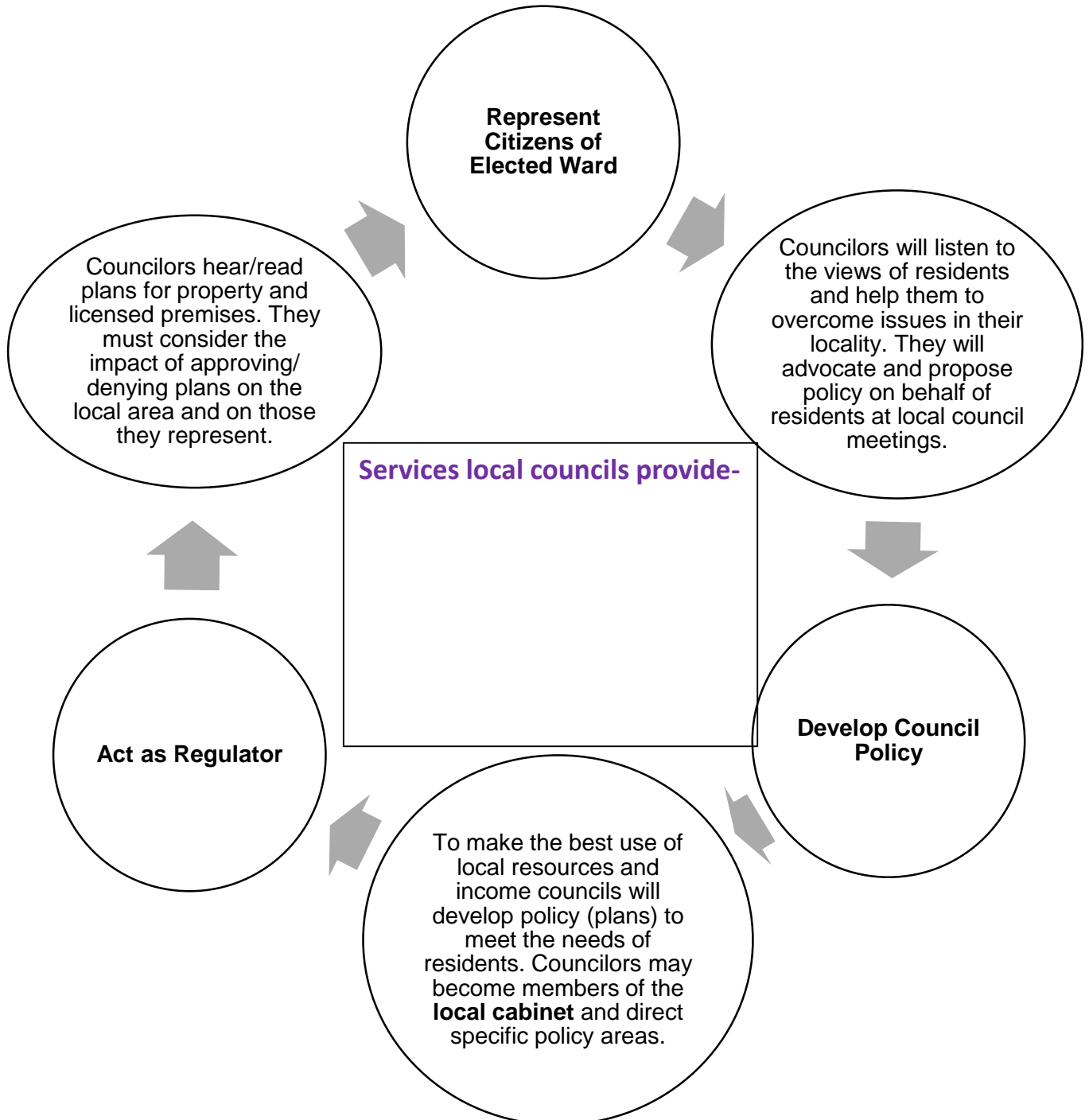
WHO RUNS LOCAL COUNCILS?

Local Councillors are the elected officials of Local Councils. They are **elected every 4 years**.

Council Officers are employed members of local government, who assist councillors putting their policy into practice.

To be considered for election in local government, the candidate must be **18+, a British or Commonwealth citizen, registered in the ward either as a resident or business owner and be officially nominated by 10 people in ward**.

WHAT DOES A LOCAL COUNCILLOR DO?



WHAT IS DEVOLUTION?

The transfer of some powers from the central Government in Westminster to the Welsh Senedd (Parliament), the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Scottish Parliament. More recently, it also incorporates the transfer of power to major UK cities and regions in England e.g. Manchester and Cornwall.

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT UK PARLIAMENTS?

Scotland	
Name of Government?	Scottish Government
Leader of Government?	
Governing Political Party?	
Name/Location of Government Building?	
How Many Representatives?	129 73 Constituency Members 56 Regional Members

Wales	
Name of Government?	Senedd Cymru (Welsh Parliament)
Leader of Government?	
Governing Political Party?	
Name/Location of Government Building?	Senedd Building, Cardiff
How Many Representatives?	60 Members 40 Constituency Members 20 Regional Members

Northern Ireland	
Name of Government?	Northern Ireland Assembly
Leader of Government?	Paul Givan Michelle O'Neill
Governing Political Party?	
Name/Location of Government Building?	
How Many Representatives?	90

Reserved Power: the issues that are still legislated by Westminster for all nations of the UK. For example, defence, foreign policy & immigration etc.

Devolved Power: the issues that are legislated by individual nations of the UK. For example, health, education and local government.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE ARGUMENTS SUPPORTING AND DISAGREEING WITH DEVOLUTION?

Support	Disagree
Gives individual nations/regions control over key devolved services . <i>This means.</i>	Devolution could confuse citizens about the powers/laws within their nation compared to others. For example, during COVID-19, different nations had different rules. This led to confusion and difficulty, especially if you wanted to go from one to another.
Allows for each nation/region to focus on the promotion of its culture & heritage . <i>For example,</i>	Creates extra expense for governments . For example, the building of parliaments, employing staff, running costs etc. There is a strong possibility that roles could be duplicated between Westminster and the other nations. Is this the best use of taxpayer's money?
Many argue that it helps engage citizens in politics as it makes local/regional officials more accountable and responsive to particular issues/needs.	Is it fair? Each country adopts a different approach to different issues. For example, each have a different education system (no HE tuition fees in Scotland). Different rules surrounding paying for medical care (prescriptions are free in the 3 nations, but not England) and different voting systems are used etc.
There are still many elements of UK governance reserved by Westminster . For example, there is an united agreement on foreign policy. Brexit. In 2021 ALL 4 nations will leave the EU, despite disagreement. Scotland & Northern Ireland voted to remain. The UK is still represented internationally as a whole e.g. UN, Commonwealth etc.	Devolution strongly challenges the notion of 'national identity' . If all 4 nations do things differently, are we really a United Kingdom? This may impact feelings of belonging and identity.

HOW ARE DEVOLVED NATIONS FUNDED?

The devolved nations are primarily funded by **Block Grants**, this is money given by the Westminster Treasury. Each year the **Barnett Formula** is used to adjust/change the funding level, these changes are largely driven by population sizes and spending in England on issues which are devolved.

Devolved nations also collect some tax from their citizens to fund services. Remember devolved nations do not have total control, there are reserved and devolved powers!

Devolution is good/ bad because...

WHAT HAS BEEN THE IMPACT OF DEVOLUTION IN ENGLAND?

As in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, devolution in England **has transferred and decentralised power from central Westminster to local regions.**

In many areas, much of this power has been given/transferred to **regional metro-mayors**. These are **directly elected during local elections, every 4 years** using a **supplementary voting system**.

The Metro-Mayors oversee **Combined Authorities**, which coordinate the delivery of some services across a regional area e.g. **transport, housing and health and social care**. This means the budgets can be targeted to meet demands/needs in the region.

Some of the impacts of devolution include:

- The West of England's Metro Mayor has used powers to improve **transport services in the area**, increasing bus services by 6% - in rural areas such as Cornwall this has been instrumental in improving the mobility of residents.
- Part of The West of England's devolution deal, was that they got to keep **100% of Business Rates, that's an extra £6million**, the region has to invest in services e.g. flood defences.
- The West of England have **heavily invested in tourism** – this has allowed them promote their culture & heritage, strengthening the region's identity and attracting visitors which has boosted the economy.
- Manchester's Metro Mayor has taken control of the **£6billion** Health & Social Care Budget and has invested in mental health e.g. starting the 'Daily Mile' initiative and invested in mental health training for teachers. Other improvements have included: improving oral health, helping people quit smoking and improving stroke care.

Other examples of devolution deals include the founding of the **The Greater London Authority (GLA)** in 2000. It is comprised of the **Mayor** and the **London Assembly**.

Here, the Mayor is elected **every 4 years** and **acts as the executive of the GLA**. The Mayor develops policy for a wide range of areas, including: **arts & culture, sport, housing and young people**. There is an oversight of a **£17bn** budget for the following areas: **transport (Transport for London), fire service and policing**.

The Mayor is **held to account by the GLA – a 25 members body**, elected at the same time as the Mayor. These elections, combine **three different voting system**: The Mayor is elected via a **Supplementary System**; Constituency Members are elected via a **First Past the Post System** and London Wide Members are elected via an **Additional Member System**.

WHAT IS THE ENGLISH VOTES FOR ENGLISH LAWS DEBATE?

This causes tension as-

WHO CAN AND CANNOT VOTE IN ELECTIONS*?

Voting: the expression of an opinion and/or an act of collective decision making.

	England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland
General Elections	18	18	18	18
Local Council Elections	18	16	16	18
Devolved Parliament Elections		16	16	18
Referendums	18	18 (Brexit) 16 (Independence, 2014)	18	18
Metro-Mayoral Elections	18			

THE VOTING AGE DEBATE – SHOULD THE VOTING AGE BE LOWERED FROM 18 TO 16?

Yes	No

SHOULD PRISONERS BE ALLOWED TO VOTE? (LEGAL INCAPACITY)

Yes	No

SHOULD CITIZENS BE REQUIRED TO PASS A TEST TO VOTE?

Yes	No

*Members of the House of Lords cannot vote in UK General Elections but can in Local Elections.

WHAT IS THE ECONOMY?

The economy is **where goods and services create wealth**. It is typically measured by **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**.

The economy works in cycles, this means that within the economy there are natural fluctuations of **expansion (growth) and recession (decline)**.

A recession is a **period of economic downturn and negative GDP growth for a period of 6 months + (two economic quarters)**.

Healthy/Growing Economy	Declining/Recessive Economy
GDP is growing . This means	GDP is declining . This means that.
Employment is high . This means that people	Employment is low and unemployment is high . This means that

HOW DOES THE GOVERNMENT RAISE MONEY?

To carry out their manifesto pledges, allow for services to run and make improvements across society the government spend public money – this money is raised via a **tax system**. Taxes are a **compulsory contribution to the state by its citizens and businesses via income, profits and products**.

Tax	Definition	Collected
Income Tax	A tax paid on earnings, after you've met your personal allowance.	National Government
National Insurance	A tax paid on earnings that qualifies you for certain benefits including maternity pay and state pension.	National Government
Value Added Tax (VAT)	A tax paid by buying goods and services, typically 20%. Some things are excluded e.g. children's clothing, charity fundraising etc.	National Government
Excise Duties	A tax paid by buying specific goods e.g. cigarettes and alcohol.	National Government
Corporation Tax	A tax paid of the profits of a business.	National Government
Council Tax	A tax paid on domestic properties (places where you live). This goes to fund local-services.	Local Government
Business Rates	A tax paid of commercial properties (place which are used for work). This is split between local and national government. Although some localities keep 100% of BR.	National & Local Government

Should income tax be more staggered?

WHAT IS THE GOVERNMENT BUDGET?

The Budget is the **annual** statement by the Chancellor of Exchequer in the House of Commons which **outlines the state/health of the country's economy and any changes to the taxation system** e.g. tax increases.

The Chancellor of Exchequer will also give **Spending Reviews**, where they outline **government spending plans for different departments and bloc-grants for devolved nations**. These take place every 2-4 years.

The decisions made in the budget and spending reviews are **complex** and are impacted by a **multitude of factors**. The government must balance its expenditure with its income and difficult decisions are made regarding the allocation of public funds.

WHO GETS WHAT?

Every government department will be vying for the biggest allocation of funds it can get! There is no easy answer to who should and shouldn't get the most. Along with reacting to the world as it is, governments must also try to ensure they meet their manifesto pledges – after all, this is why they were elected.

PUBLIC VS PRIVATE SERVICES

Public spending is money spent by the government, often raised by taxes. The spending carried out is not done for profit, it is to provide goods/services for the population.

Privatisation is the process of running something for profit, rather than for the good of the public. Spending is undertaken, often for profit. Some government services have been/are being privatised. This is thought to encourage competition and drive-up standards.

SHOULD WELFARE GET THE MOST?

Spend	Cut
<p>If there was an adequate welfare system, it would provide a safety net for those who are most vulnerable within society. This would ensure they have a high-quality standard of living and would reduce the struggle and anxiety around finances improving health and well-being for all.</p> <p>For example, some political parties e.g. the Greens, would like to increase spending on welfare. They promised a Universal Basic Income for all citizens, a minimum of £89 per week (supported with extra payments for specific groups/individuals).</p>	<p>Individuals should be responsible for their own way in life. Some argue citizens shouldn't receive something for nothing, if they do, it may encourage a dependency culture, with citizens not motivated/encouraged to work etc.</p>
<p>If citizens have an income, they can spend any extra income in wider society, this is beneficial for the economy. Moreover, the Greens argue if a UBI was provided it would help to stimulate a Green New Deal/Economy.</p>	<p>If welfare spending is to increase, spending elsewhere will need to decrease. What is to be cut, to increase revenue for welfare spending?</p>

SHOULD HEALTH GET THE MOST?

Spend	Cut
<p>The NHS is a lifeline to many citizens within the UK. Without increased and sustained funding, it will not be able to cope with rising health issues within the population and address health inequality. For example, obesity, mental-health etc.</p>	<p>Some argue there should be a greater privatisation of the NHS. This means it services could be run by non-state agencies, sometimes for profit. This would reduce the large budgetary responsibility of the state and allow funds to be utilized elsewhere within society. Some suggest it may even increase care standards.</p>
<p>Chronic underfunding leads to employment gaps and gaps in knowledge and research. If the NHS received greater funding, it could plug the employment gap (recruit and fund more staff) and undertake research to benefit everybody (cancer cures, infectious disease research etc.)</p>	<p>If spending on the NHS is to increase, spending elsewhere will need to decrease. What is to be cut, to increase revenue for NHS spending?</p>
<p>Some argue spending should be increased on the NHS by the introduction of a hypothecated tax – this would be a tax specifically ringfenced for NHS. This would allow the public to easily see, how much is being spent on the service.</p>	

SHOULD EDUCATION GET THE MOST?

Spend	Cut
<p>Education is the bedrock of any society, increasing spending would ensure that citizens receive a high-quality education which would allow them to fully participate in the economy once they reach working age.</p>	<p>Some argue there should be a greater privatisation of the education. This means it services could be run by non-state agencies, sometimes for profit. This would reduce the large budgetary responsibility of the state and allow funds to be utilized elsewhere within society. Some suggest it may even increase education standards/achievement.</p>
<p>Increasing spending in education would equip citizens with the skills and knowledge to make informed choices later in their life, this could have a wider societal and economic impact. For example, if investment is made in high-quality PSHE and citizenship education whilst students are in school, they learn to live a healthy and safe lifestyle, potentially reducing the economic impact on services in later life e.g. health, crime etc.</p>	<p>If spending on education is to increase, spending elsewhere will need to decrease. What is to be cut, to increase revenue for education spending?</p>
<p>A high-quality education makes for a more egalitarian society. Hopefully, reducing inequality giving everybody an opportunity to make their own way in life, regardless of background etc.</p>	

SHOULD THE ELDERLY GET THE MOST?

Spend	Cut
The UK has an aging population , the ONS predicts that by 2050, 1 in 4 citizens in the UK will be aged 65 +. As citizens grow older, their needs change and specific services are required/demanded. For example, geriatric health and social care, pensions etc.	Old age is something that can/should be planned for! Why should the state fund the elderly when during their working life, they could prepare for this life course stage? For example, private pensions, private health and social care etc.
Some argue there maybe a moral imperative to help those who are elderly . They have lived and served the country all their working life, they should be able to live a comfortable and supported lifestyle post-retirement.	If spending on the elderly is to increase, spending elsewhere will need to decrease. What is to be cut, to increase revenue for elderly spending?

HOW DOES THE GOVERNMENT MANAGE ECONOMIC RISK?

Risk management is the process by which the government **identify, assess and prioritise** different types of risks and threats to the UK. Once these have been identified, a plan will be devised to minimise and negate the impact on UK society/economy.

Some of the risks to the UK include:

- Population demographic e.g. too few/too many births/deaths
- Adverse Weather
- Climate Change
- Technological changes/innovations
- Disease/Illness
- Terrorism and security (including cyber terrorism/security)
- International relations
- Resource scarcity e.g. oil, food etc.
- I think _____ should get more money because....

WHAT is the Risk Factor?	HOW will the Risk Factor IMPACT the UK and the UK Economy?	WHAT has been the UK Government's Risk Action Strategy?	Has the Risk Action Strategy been SUCCESSFUL?
<p>Climate Change</p> <p>Long-term change in the average weather patterns.</p> <p>For example, hotter temperatures, increased rainfall etc.</p>	<p>Interrupt business trading due to extreme weather patterns e.g. flooding.</p> <p>Impact global supply and demand chains e.g. availability of food imports.</p>	<p>The UK Government produces a National Adaptation Programme. This considers the impact of climate change on the UK and the UK economy:</p> <p>Improve flood management systems, to protect coastal populations and businesses.</p> <p>Monitor river and coastal erosion around key infrastructure sites e.g. gas, electricity and nuclear networks.</p> <p>Increase funding for upgrades on rail networks where needed.</p> <p>Monitor sites for landslides and invest in technology to tackle these.</p>	<p>☺: the government does invest in flood defences, to try and stop damage caused by flooding e.g. in 2020 Bury had a £40 million investment.</p> <p>☹: flood defences often fail, due to lack of maintenance/ upgrading e.g. Environment Agency Data finds that many UK flood defences are 'almost useless.'</p> <p>☺: government agencies work to monitor and track flooding e.g. the Environment Agency and their Warning Information System.</p>
<p>Disease</p> <p>Something which negatively affects the structure or function of all or part of an organism.</p> <p>For example, influenza disease, new and emerging infectious diseases and animal disease etc.</p>	<p>Mass illness and absenteeism.</p> <p>Disruption to normal social life and services e.g. employment, consumption habits, service sector. This means less spending, equating to less tax being collected.</p> <p>Welfare spending increase by government e.g. COVID-19 and Furlough.</p> <p>Increase demand on public services, meaning an increase in investment by the government.</p>	<p>The UK Government's National Risk Register suggests:</p> <p>Carry out simulations of diseases/pandemics to see/model the effects e.g. 2016 Exercise Cygnus.</p> <p>Collaborate with international partners on prevention, detection and research, and is taking every practical step to ensure that the UK is prepared to limit the internal spread of a pandemic. For example, WHO.</p> <p>Purchase and stockpiling appropriate medical countermeasures.</p> <p>If an animal disease e.g. food and mouth, bird flu etc, cull stock, vaccinate animals, stop imports.</p> <p>Promote importance of vaccine against disease both in the UK and for those traveling abroad e.g. malaria.</p>	<p>☹: despite warnings, COVID-19 highlighted how unprepared the UK was – they lacked PPE and responded too slowly.</p> <p>☺: government offered financial assistance to those struggling.</p> <p>☺: rolled out multiple different vaccines.</p>

WHAT VOTING SYSTEMS ARE USED IN THE UK?

Voting Systems: *the method/way by which citizens elect representatives. The systems which translates votes into seats.*

Non-Proportional Voting Systems

A system of voting whereby the number of **seats gained** is decided by who **wins the most votes**.
Winner takes all!



First-Past-the-Post

Proportional Voting Systems

A system of voting whereby the number of **seats gained** relates to the percentage of **votes won**.



**Additional Member System
Supplementary Vote
Single Transferable Vote
Party List (Open & Closed)**

Types of Voting Systems: Non-Proportional Voting Systems

First-Past-the-Post

The system used in **UK General Elections and England & Wales Local Council Elections**.

Electors cast a single vote by marking a X next to their favoured candidate. Each constituency elects 1 MP. The winner is decided by a **plurality of votes** – simply the person who has the most. Sometimes known as ‘winner takes all’.

TYPES OF VOTING SYSTEMS: PROPORTIONAL VOTING SYSTEMS

Additional Member System (AMS)

This is used to elect the parliaments of _____, **and the London Assembly**. It is a **hybrid system** as it combines two systems – FPTP and the Party List System.

It gives the elector **two votes**: one for a constituency MP and one for a regional/party politician. The second vote **'tops up'** representatives adding **additional members**, making the vote more reflective of wider political choices, thus, making the result more proportional.

Single Transferrable Vote (STV)

This is used to elect the **parliament and members of the European Parliament in** _____.

This is where voters place candidates in number order. To win, the candidate **must achieve a quota of votes to win**. Votes both in excess and below the quota are reattributed/transferred. This means all votes count.

Supplementary Vote (SV)

This is used to elect _____ in England and Wales and the **Police and Crime Commissioner**.

Voters have a first and second choice candidate. To win, a candidate must receive over 50% of the votes. If no candidate reaches 50%, the two candidates with the highest number of votes remain. This eliminates all other candidates.

The second preference of the eliminated candidates are counted and transferred to the two remaining candidates.

The candidate with the most votes at the end of this process is elected.

EVALUATING NON-PROPORTIONAL VOTING SYSTEMS: WHAT ARE ITS STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES?

Strengths

Simple:

Mainstream:

Weaknesses

Discriminatory:

Unrepresentative:

EVALUATING PROPORTIONAL VOTING SYSTEMS: WHAT ARE THEIR STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES?

Strengths

Representativeness:

Parties:

Majority Vote

Weaknesses

Complex:

Weak Governments:

Lack of personal representative:

WHICH VOTING SYSTEM IS USED WHERE?

	England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland
General Election	FPTP	FPTP	FPTP	FPTP
Devolved Parliament Election		AMS	AMS	STV
Local Authority/ Council Elections	FPTP	STV	FPTP	STV
Metro-Mayor	SV			
Police and Crime Commissioner	SV			
London Assembly	AMS			
European Parliament	Closed List	Closed List	Closed List	STV

WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT?

The European Parliament in conjunction with other EU agencies, **scrutinises** EU laws and EU budget proposals and **ensures EU Member States are upholding democracy**.

HOW DOES THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT OPERATE?

The Parliament is led by an **elected President**, currently an Italian politician, **David-Maria Sassoli**. The President oversees the parliament, **chairing plenary sessions**, **representing the Parliament internationally** and **signing/passing the budget**, once members have approved it.

The Parliament is **based across three countries**: Luxembourg, France and Belgium. Most MEPs work across France and Belgium.

The Parliament operates via **committees and plenary sessions**.

Members meet in committees, who specialise in an area of policy/law and work together to **scrutinise possible legislation**. Committees cover all EU interests e.g. Human Rights, Environment, Fisheries, Equality etc.

Members all join in plenary sessions to **vote on proposed legislation**.

WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT?

Members of the European Parliament (**MEPs**) are elected by citizens across EU Member States. These elections take place **every 5 years**.

Members **must be elected using a proportional voting system**, the system can be decided by each member state. Additionally, the number of MEPs each country has is also **proportional to their population** – Germany has the most with 96 and Malta the least with 6.

As of January 2021, with the UK leaving the EU, there are **705 MEPs** – representing members across 27 EU states.

HOW ARE MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTED?

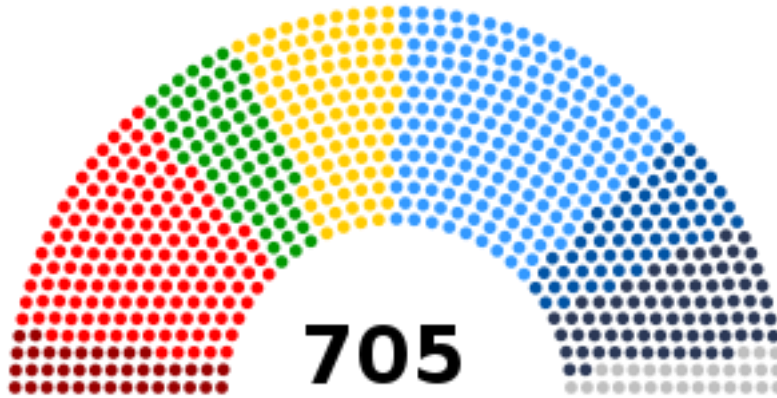
In England, Scotland and Wales MEPs were elected using the **proportional system of Closed Party Lists**. This works in the following way:

- England is divided into **9 regions** (e.g. Northwest, Yorkshire etc) whilst Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are treated as **1 region per nation** – this gives a total of **12 regions**.
- Based on its population size, the UK were allocated **73 seats** in the 2019 elections. These seats were divided across the UK, again based on population size e.g. North West = 8 MEPs.
- At the polling station, electors are asked to vote using a ballot, the ballot lists parties and candidates. Candidates are listed in party order preference – this list cannot be changed by the elector – hence the name, closed party!
- The proportionality becomes apparent at vote counting. The **d'Hondt System** is used to count and assign seats. Seats are assigned in proportion to votes won, not via plurality or majority – like FPTP.
- Northern Ireland uses the **Single Transferable Vote system** to elect MEPs. This sees voters rank their candidates in preference order. A quota is set, those candidates who meet the quota are elected and if seats remain, these are then filled via transferred votes from either a winning or eliminated candidates.

HOW IS THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ARRANGED?

Once elected, MEPs **do not sit in national party alliances**. Instead, they form **transnational political groups** along similar ideological perspectives, not national interests. There is also the option to sit in an independent group.

Currently there are **seven transnational groups** – spanning across the political spectrum.



Due to the way MEPs are elected, it is usual for parties who do not win/win very small number of seats in General Elections, to do well in MEP elections. This may encourage people to vote, as their vote will be counted, and thus candidates placed in positions of power and are able to enact change.

Advantages of being in European Parliament-

Advantages of not being in European Parliament-

WHAT IS THE BRITISH CONSTITUTION?

Constitution: *the laws, rules and practices that stipulate the relationship, power and institutions of the state and citizens. It provides a framework for the political system.*

Institution (Part)	How it FORMS a Constitution (How it provides a framework of governance)
The Government	
The Prime Minister	
The Cabinet	
Parliamentary Sovereignty	
Legislature	
The Opposition	
Political Parties	
The Monarch	
Citizens	
The Police	

Institution (Part)	How it FORMS a Constitution (How it provides a framework of governance)
The Judiciary	
The Civil Service	

WHAT ARE EXAMPLES OF HOW THE BRITISH CONSTITUTION IS CHANGING?

Parliamentary Sovereignty	<p>Devolution-</p> <p>EU-</p> <p>Human Rights Act-</p> <p>Supreme Court-</p>
The Opposition	<p>Can the opposition really oppose a government with a large majority?</p> <p>How about people power- digital democracy?</p>
Political Parties	<p>Do all parties get a chance in FPTP?</p>

WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THE UK CONSTITUTION?

Uncodified – no single source. Instead, rules and principles for governance are found in different places.

*This contrasts with **codified constitutions**, where there is a single authoritative document e.g. USA, India.*

Unentrenched – aspects can be changed without the need for special procedures. Elements of the constitution have the same status as other laws.

*This contrasts with **entrenched constitutions**, where special procedures are needed for amendments, making them rigid and difficult to change. In the USA, a 2/3 majority is needed for constitutional amendments.*

SHOULD THE UK'S CONSTITUTION BE CODIFIED?

Codified	Uncodified
Greater clarity-	However, much of the British constitution is written, it is just in different places. These sources do already provide a clear insight into the rights of citizens e.g. Human Rights Act (1998) and powers of government (the Cabinet Manual). Why does it need to be in one place?
Harder to make changes-	However, codification and its subsequent entrenchment would make the British constitution inflexible . This would result in a long process to allow for change, citizens may become dissatisfied with the time it takes.
Judges would make decisions on changes to constitution-	However, would it not be better if those elected by the citizens have the final say? Are the judiciary a representative body of Britain's population or a very elite circle of people?
Would it make people more interested in politics?	

HOW DOES POLITICAL PARTICIPATION WORK OUTSIDE OF THE UK?

EDI ASPECT	UK	USA (Democracy)	North Korea (Non-Democracy)
Classification	Full Democracy 16/167	Flawed Democracy 25/167	Authoritarian Regime 167/167
Electoral Processes	General Elections at least every 5 years . Citizens 18+ elect MPs to represent them in Parliament.	Presidential Elections at least every 4 years . Citizens 18+ elect the President via a process involving the Electoral College. Citizens also elect members Congress, these are held in some form every 2 years .	Elections for the Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) at least every 5 years . From the SPA a Presidium is selected. This is where of the decision-making takes place and members are typically from the Kim family or very close allies. However, these are largely show elections . With only one candidate ever really a possibility, to vote against the hereditary Kim dynasty is seen as treasonous. North Korea is a one-party state . Currently the country is lead by Supreme Leader: Kim Jong-un .
Political Pluralism	The UK has a diverse political spectrum . There are 10 political parties found in the House of Commons.	The USA is dominated by two political parties – Republicans and Democrats. Many argue it is a two-party system . These are at the opposite ends of the political spectrum.	There are 3/4 political parties in North Korea. However, there is very little difference between them. They mostly share the same ideology and are all part of the umbrella organisation Democratic Front for the Reunification of Korea .
Civil Liberties	Civil liberties are protected in the UK by a number of different pieces of legislation e.g. Human Rights Act (1998) UNDHR UNCRC	Rights and constitutionally protected in the USA . UNDHR	The Constitution of North Korea recognises and supports rights of its citizens. Yet, Human Rights Watch claims that NK is <i>one of the world's most repressive states. The government restricts all civil and political liberties for its citizens, including freedom of expression, assembly, association, and religion.</i>

	UK	USA (Democracy)	North Korea (Non-Democracy)
Civil Liberties	<p>UK citizens are largely free to move internally and internationally. They must hold a passport and comply with visiting country immigrations laws and local customs. There have been some large-scale changes to immigration since Brexit.</p> <p>Reporters without Borders, ranked the UK 35/180 in its World Press Freedom Index, 2020. There are moderate levels of censorship, typically for the protection of minors and national security. The media is free to be critical and hold those in power to account.</p> <p>Internet access is widely available – although there is a digital divide/digital poverty.</p> <p>Citizens have the right to assemble and hold protests e.g. COVID/BLM. There have been restrictions since 2020 due to COVID-19 Lockdown Measures.</p> <p>The UK is a member of the International Labour Organization and does have many legal protections on worker rights and Trade Unions are prominent.</p>	<p>US citizens are largely free to move internally and internationally. They must hold a passport and comply with visiting country immigrations laws and local customs.</p> <p>Reporters without Borders, ranked the UK 45/180 in its World Press Freedom Index, 2020. There are moderate levels of censorship, typically for the protection of minors and national security. The media is free to be critical and hold those in power to account. There have been recent misuses of the media by those in power e.g. Trump, spreading mis/disinformation and using it to ignite division within the country.</p> <p>Race inequality is a prominent issue in the USA – with large divisions between ethnic groups. For example, there are high levels of police brutality against Black Americans.</p> <p>Citizens have the right to assemble and hold protests e.g. COVID/BLM. This right was vehemently expressed when protesters stormed the Capital in 2020.</p>	<p>Freedom of movement is heavily restricted by North Korea's government – to leave the country, permission is needed and for those who do try to leave and are caught, they are labelled as 'defecators' and charged with "treachery against the nation".</p> <p>Reporters without Borders, ranked NK 180/180 in its World Press Freedom Index, 2020. Levels of censorship are extremely high – media outlets are run by the state e.g. The Korean Central News Agency. There is a high degree of political propaganda.</p> <p>Internet access is heavily restricted and only permitted with prior authorisation.</p> <p>State surveillance is common and social media access is not permitted.</p> <p>The freedom of assembly is not permitted (e.g. gatherings, protests), they are subject to severe punishment, including prison sentences.</p> <p>Forced labour is the normal, with very little consideration given to the workers rights. Many are forced into jobs by the government and only one Trade Union is permitted in North Korea - General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea – this is under government control.</p>