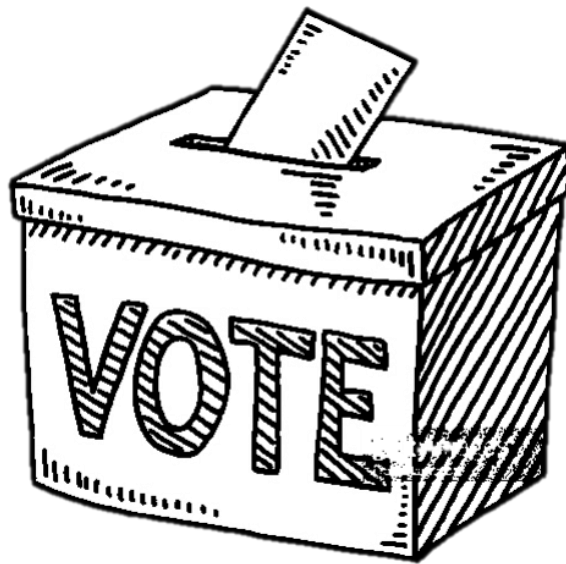


# **AQA GCSE**

# **Citizenship Studies**



# **Paper 1**

# **Knowledge**

# **Booklet**

*Updated: March 2023*

# 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- The published resources are becoming outdated.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 this to situations and issues. It is made a little harder, as it is in constant evolution, but it also makes it fun and interesting!
- **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! 😊**

**SORRY 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*

*1997 Devolution Scotland and Wales*

*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

Which Type of Democracy is Best?	
Direct	Representative
It is the <b>purest form of democracy</b> – it is the voice of all enfranchised citizens.	It is <b>practical and efficient</b> . Elections are held every few years in many societies, this means their logistical challenges and practical outcomes can be organised.
It <b>prevents a concentration of power</b> , 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.	Gives citizens <b>somebody to hold to account</b> 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 OPPORTUNITIES FOR UK CITIZENS TO PARTICIPATE IN DEMOCRACY? (PAPER 2)**

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

## **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.
- Apathy.
- Lack of information/knowledge about the political sphere.
- Representation in Parliament (microcosm) 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.
- Lack of ID e.g. in 2023 UK elections are requiring the electorate to show ID before receiving their ballot paper.
- Citizenship e.g. many refugees who do not hold full Citizenship are disenfranchised from voting.

# 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	The number of people who voted compared to the total number of people who could vote. In the 2019 GE it was 67.3%.
Voter Apathy	A lack of interest or concern about politics, resulting in political disengagement.

Increasing Voter Turnout	Overcoming Apathy
<p>Many people are <b>too busy</b> to vote during the week e.g. Thursday's.</p> <p>Therefore, to increase voter turnout the UK could <b>move voting to the weekend</b>. This would allow many people to vote who are prevented during so by work commitments during the working week. This is standard practice in <b>Australia</b>.</p>	<p>Many people lack <b>knowledge about politics thus fail to see its importance</b>.</p> <p>Therefore, to overcome voter apathy the UK could <b>ensure all citizens receive political education</b>. For example, increase amount of citizenship education within schools and put in place a life-long learning platform for those outside of formal education to access free, non-partisan, accessible and up-to-date politics information.</p>
<p>Many people do not vote due as <b>they simply choose not to go to the polling station</b>.</p> <p>Therefore, to increase voter turnout the UK could <b>make voting compulsory</b>. This would mean that people were required to vote by law. Moreover, a fine could be issued for those who do not vote. This is standard practice in <b>Australia and Belgium</b>.</p>	<p>Many people do not think <b>their views and characteristics are represented in politics</b>.</p> <p>Therefore, to overcome voter apathy, the UK <b>could increase the representativeness of parliament</b>. 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 e.g. non-proportional to proportional.</p>
<p>Many people <b>do not due to the polling station being located in an inconvenient place/opening times</b>.</p> <p>Therefore, to increase voter turnout the UK could <b>utilise methods of digital democracy – e-voting</b>. This would mean citizens could vote from the ease/comfort of their own home on an internet enabled device. This is used in Estonia.</p>	<p>Many people <b>do not think political decisions impact them</b>.</p> <p>Therefore, to overcome voter apathy, the UK <b>could utilise methods of digital democracy – online campaigns</b>. 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.</p> <p>Moreover, <b>more power could be delegated to UK nations and English regions</b> to allow greater localised political structures to emerge. This would allow for local problems to be seen and overcome. For example, Combined Authorities/City Regions.</p>

**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

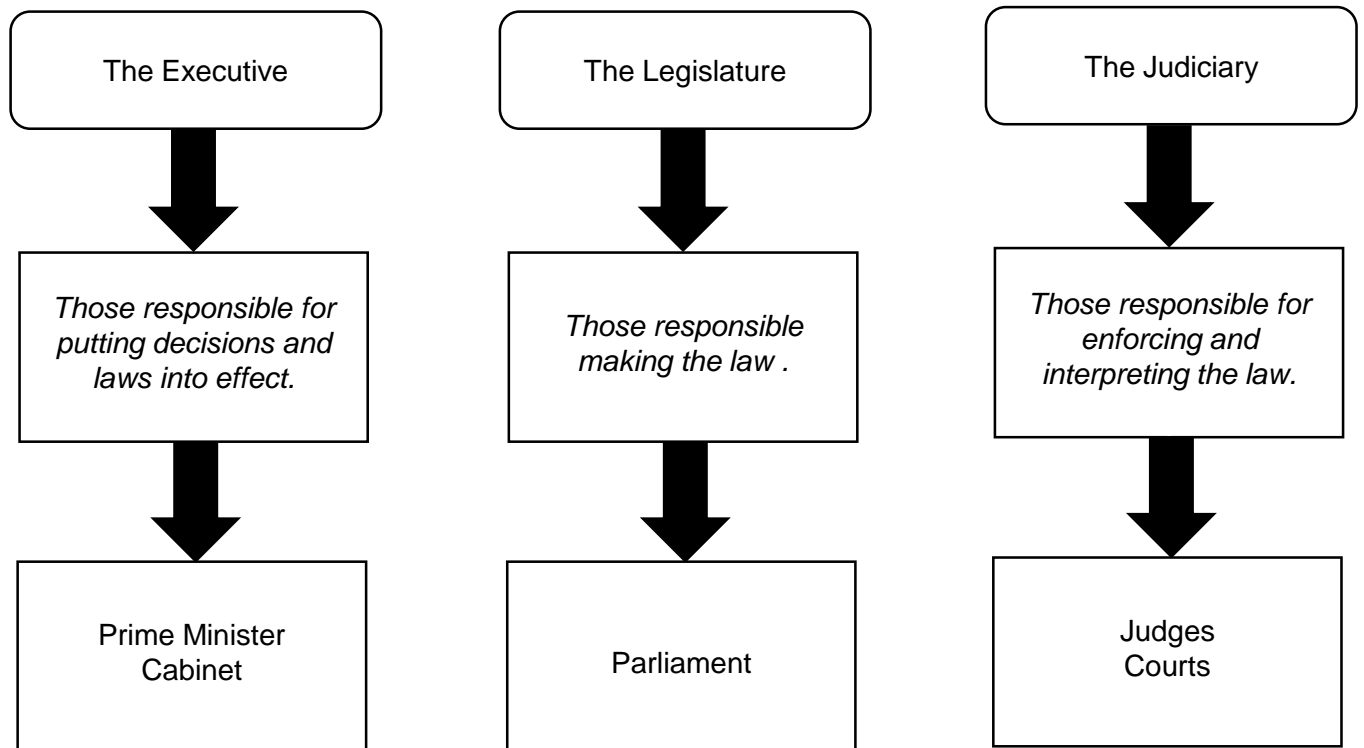
Social Media Channels

## WHAT VALUES UNDERPIN DEMOCRACY IN THE UK?

Many **liberal democracies** ensure their citizens are free from excessive government control and power.

Value	Definition	Example (UK)
Rights	Entitlements. They can be legal, social, political and ethical.	Right to Free Elections Right to Assemble
Responsibilities	Duties. Actions citizens should do.	Pay taxes Jury
Freedoms	The ability to speak, act or think as one wants.	Expression Movement Press
Equality	Equal treatment.	Equality Act (2010)
Rule of Law	Law applies equally to all people.	

## 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 scrutinising them.

## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE MONARCH?

The UK has a **constitutional 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 Monarch 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 Monarch'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 Monarch 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.

## WHAT IS THE WESTMINSTER PARLIAMENT?

Westminster Parliament is **bicameral** – this means it is comprised of **two chambers/houses**. These two Houses are the **House of Commons** and **House of Lords**.

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
650 MPs	800+
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
<b>Proposes</b> new legislation	<b>Scrutinises</b> new legislation
<b>Debates</b> government policy and legislation.	<b>Debates</b> government policy and legislation
<b>Votes to pass</b> government policy and legislation.	<b>Revises</b> government policy and legislation
<b>Scrutiny</b> of government – allows MPs and Opposition to <b>question</b> the PM e.g. PMQs/Urgent Questions.	<b>Propose</b> new legislation on uncontroversial issues.
<b>Holds financial privilege</b> – the House has <b>ultimate control</b> over money bills e.g. public finances.	<b>Hold debates</b> 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.

There is a desire by some for the Lords to be reformed further, even abolished. This is for many reasons, these include the way members are selected and the cost of expenses.



# HOW DOES PARLIAMENT WORK?

## Government

*Those responsible for the day-to-day running of the country.*

*In the UK this is decided by a General Election. The party who gain the most seats form a government with the party leader becoming Prime Minister.*



## 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 hold the government to account and scrutinise their work.*

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.

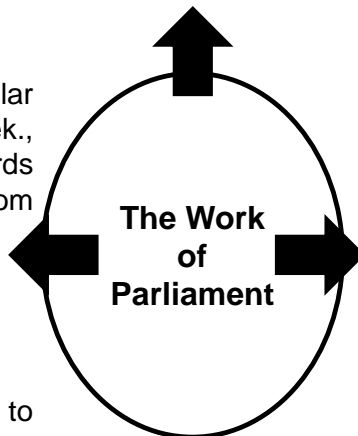
There are different types of committees:

#### 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! Especially in **national elections**.

Once the perspective 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 at least **18** and a British/Commonwealth Citizen to stand for office. You can't be a judge, police officer or a Lord Peer.

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 Prime Minister**, 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. This is known as a **Hung Parliament**. Although a government may attempt to **govern via a minority government**, typically, they will form a **coalition government**. This means **formally joining with another party to secure a working majority in the House of Commons**. For example, 2010 – Conservatives and Liberal Democrats. This type of government is much more popular in mainland Europe!

# 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	Conservatism	Socialism
Divisions	<p><b>One Nation Conservatism</b></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><b>New Right &amp; Thatcherism</b></p> <p>Reduce state intervention- 'roll back the state' and privatisation industries.</p>	<p><b>Old Labour</b></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><b>New Labour</b></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.

	<b>Liberal Democrats</b>	<b>Greens</b>
Ideology	Liberalism	Ecologism
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>

	<b>Scottish National Party</b>	<b>Plaid Cymru</b>
Ideology	Civic Nationalism Scottish Nationalism	Welsh Nationalism Socialist Democracy
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>

## HOW IS THE GOVERNMENT ORGANISED?

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

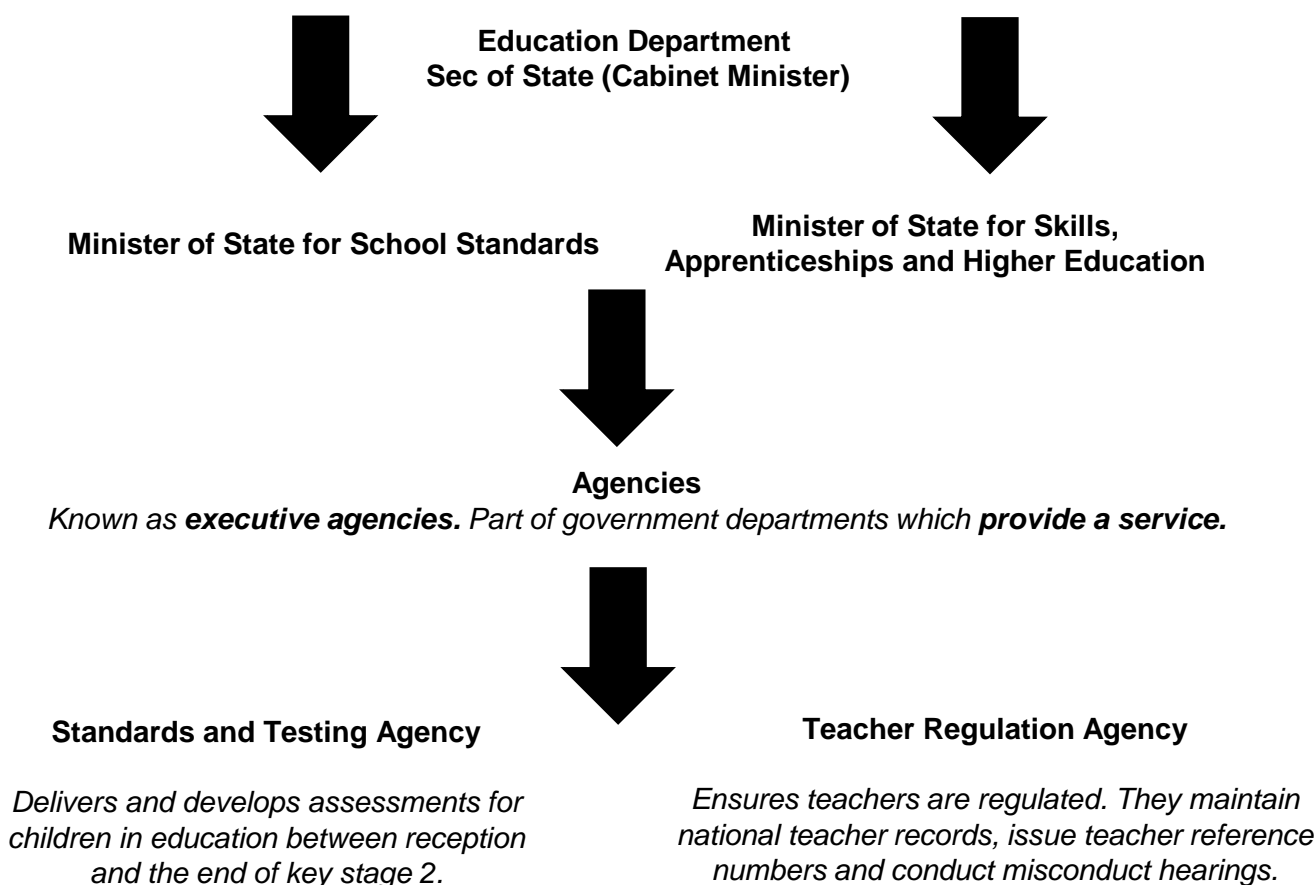
- Education
- Health
- Treasury
- Home Office
- Environment Food & Rural Affairs.

Departments are overseen by a **Minister/Secretary of State** and are supported by **Ministers of State/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?



### **The Civil Service**

Helps the government of the day develop and implement its policies as effectively as possible. They do this by undertaking practical and admin work e.g. issue benefits and staff prisons.

They are **politically impartial and independent**. They are overseen by the **Cabinet Secretary**.

## 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 & Shamima Begum:** 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".

**The Supreme Court and 'indeyref2':** in 2022 the Supreme Court heard a case pertaining to the possibility of a second Scottish Independence referendum. They ruled that Scotland could not hold a second referendum without the consent of Westminster – something Westminster, would not give.

## 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 & other govt responsibilities.	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.	Chancellor of the Exchequer  Home Secretary  Secretary of State for Education
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.		Secretary of State for Education  Secretary of State for Health  Secretary of State for Defence
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>Graham Brady</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>		<p>Cabinet Secretary</p> <p>National Crime Agency</p> <p>Office for National Statistics</p>

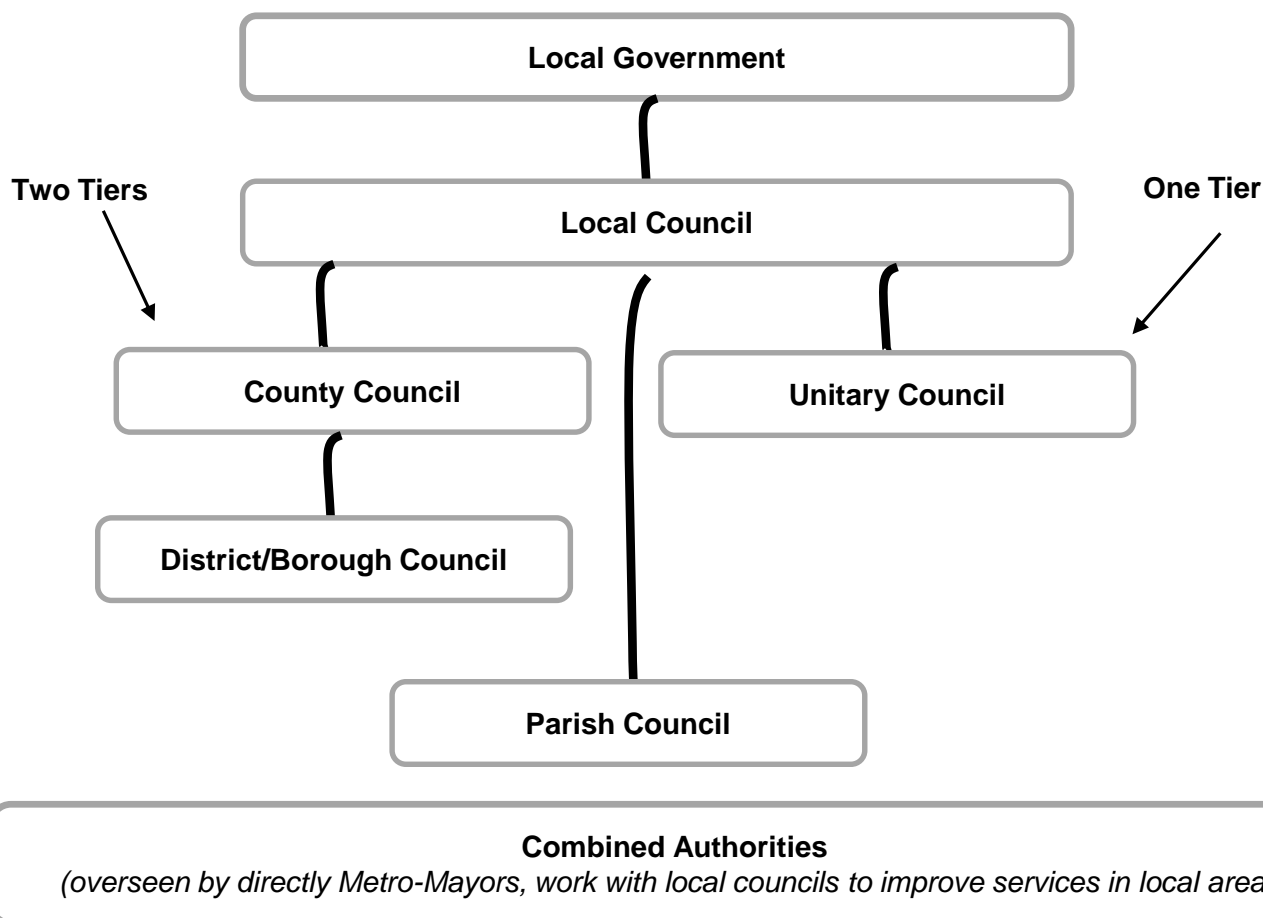
## WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT ROLES WITHIN PARLIAMENT?

Name	Definition	Role	Power	Example
<b>Parliamentary Ceremonial Roles</b>				
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.  They work both in the Lords and Commons.	Inform the party about party business.  Ensure party loyalty and discipline, members to support and vote along party lines.		

## 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**.



## 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*.

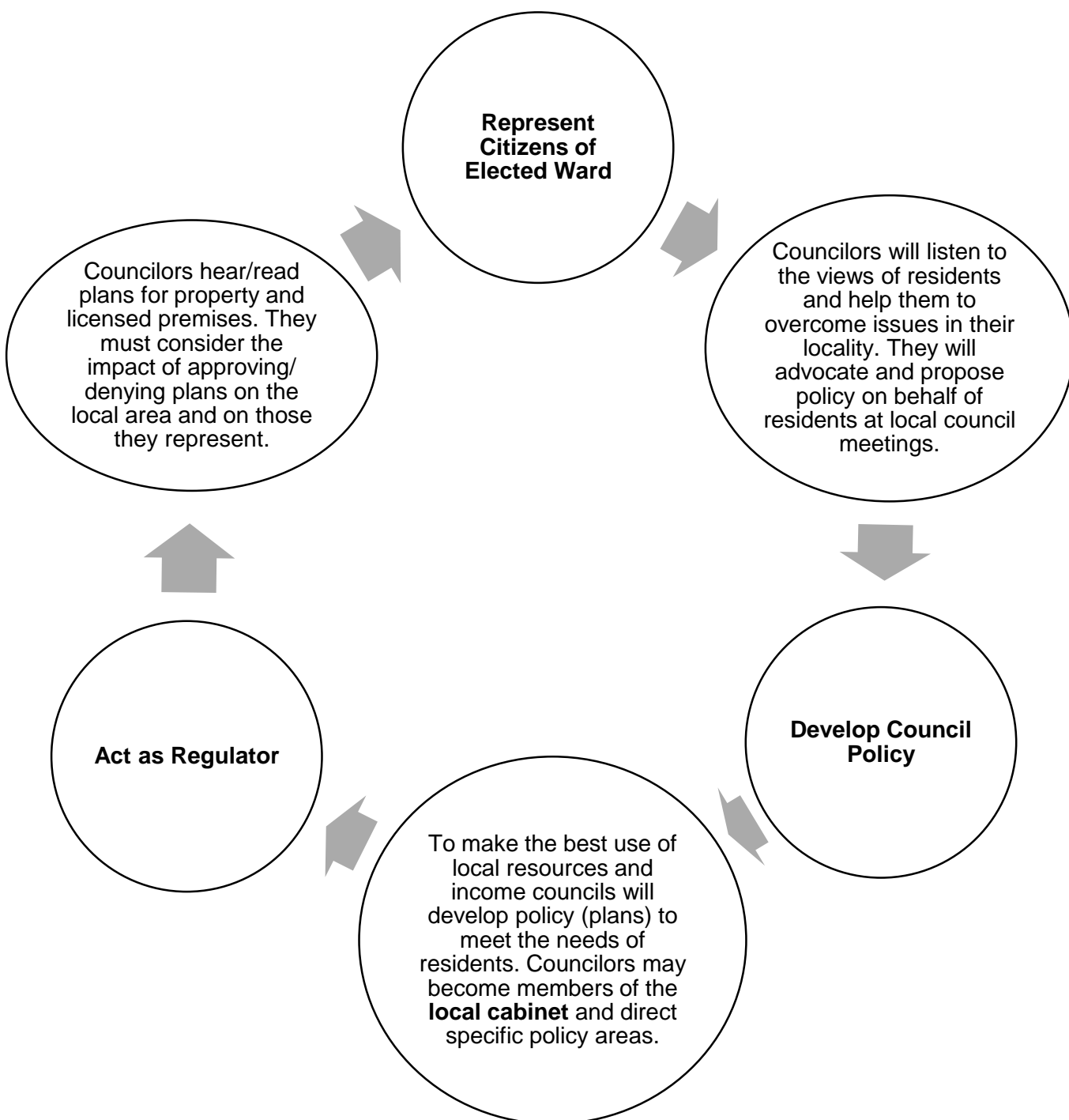
## WHO RUNS LOCAL COUNCILS?

Local Councillors are the **elected officials of Local Councils**. They are **elected every 4 years**. This is done differently, across different Councils.

Council Officers are **employed members of local government**, who assist councillors putting their policy into practice. They do not necessarily change when council control does.

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/delegation 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/delegation to major UK cities and regions in England e.g. Manchester and Cornwall.

## WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT UK PARLIAMENTS?

<b>Scotland</b>	
Name of Government?	Scottish Government
Leader of Government?	
Governing Political Party?	Scottish National Party (SNP)
Name/Location of Government Building?	Holyrood, Edinburgh
How Many Representatives?	129 73 Constituency Members 56 Regional Members

<b>Wales</b>	
Name of Government?	Senedd Cymru (Welsh Parliament)
Leader of Government?	Mark Drakeford (First Minister of Wales)
Governing Political Party?	Labour
Name/Location of Government Building?	Senedd Building, Cardiff
How Many Representatives?	60 Members 40 Constituency Members 20 Regional Members

<b>Northern Ireland*</b> <i>*Currently, not sitting.</i>	
Name of Government?	Northern Ireland Assembly
Leader of Government?	
Governing Political Party?	
Name/Location of Government Building?	Stormont, Belfast
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 <b>control over key devolved services</b> . This means each nation/region can tailor these for their specific circumstances/needs, using local expertise and knowledge. For example, during COVID-19, each UK nation had slightly different responses due to differing infection rates in their country.	Devolution could <b>confuse citizens about the powers/laws within their nation</b> 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 <b>promotion of its culture &amp; heritage</b> . For example, UK nations/regions can develop specific culture, heritage and tourism policies to promote their individual nations/regions e.g. Scottish history, Welsh language etc. This often leads to a boost in tourism, benefitting both the local and national economy.	Creates <b>extra expense for governments</b> . 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 <b>engage citizens in politics</b> as it makes local/regional officials more accountable and responsive to particular issues/needs.	<b>Is it fair?</b> 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 <b>still many elements of UK governance reserved by Westminster</b> . 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 <b>internationally as a whole e.g. UN, Commonwealth etc.</b>	Devolution <b>strongly challenges the notion of 'national identity'</b> . 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!

## WHAT IS SOME OF THE HISTORY OF IRELAND?

The island of Ireland is divided into two: Northern Ireland and Ireland or the Republic of Ireland.

The Christian faith has and remains very important in Ireland. Today, Ireland is a multi-faith country, which lots of different religions within its land mass.

Northern Ireland is one of the UK's **devolved nations**.

The Republic or Ireland is an independent nation and remains part of the **European Union**.

Its most recent history includes '**The Troubles**'. A period of conflict in Northern Ireland that lasted about 30 years, from the late 1960s until 1998.

Beginning as early as the 17th century, two groups emerged in Ireland with **differing political and religious outlooks**.

Catholics predominantly consider themselves Irish and hold **nationalist views - they want an independent Ireland free from British control**.

Protestants identify largely as **British and unionist**, meaning they wish to remain linked to the **United Kingdom**.

**HOWEVER, THERE ISN'T AN EXACT DIVIDE, AND THE CONFLICT IS EXTREMELY COMPLEX AND CANNOT BE REDUCED TO ONE SINGLE FACTOR.**

A significant milestone in ending the Troubles was the **Belfast Agreement/Good Friday Agreement**. This was signed on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1998.

Northern Ireland **must share power** between 'Nationalist' and 'Unionist' parties.

As a result of the Brexit referendum vote, issues have emerged regarding **trade** between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. One key factor is **customs checks**, and ensuring that there is no 'hard' boarder between the two countries, this has important historical rationales and potential contemporary ramifications.

To overcome issues, **the Northern Ireland Protocol** was negotiated and introduced during Brexit talks.

However, this quickly become unsatisfactory and failed to address issues. It led to the **suspension of the Northern Ireland Assembly** in February 2022, as the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) resigned in protest of the Northern Ireland Protocol.

In March 2023, the **Windsor Framework** was suggested to try and overcome trading issues and restart the Northern Ireland Assembly.

## 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.**

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 city/regional devolution in Manchester:

- 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.
- Buses have come under the control on the Metro-Mayor and bus fares have been reduced by 50%. This is hoped to encourage greater usage to encourage people into the city centre and has been in response to the cost of living crisis faced by residents.
- The local problem of homeless has been addressed by the Mayor. Who has invested parts of the Social Impact Bond funds into programmes such as 'Bed Every Night and 'Housing First. These programmes hope to get people off the streets and tackle to structural/systematic causes of homelessness.

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.

In 2022, North Yorkshire and York signed a devolution deal. This is hoped to give the region greater local power via a Mayor, funds to improve infrastructure and build more homes.

## WHAT IS THE ENGLISH VOTES FOR ENGLISH LAWS DEBATE?

The call for any legislation which **only** impacts England to be voted and scrutinised on and by English MPs only – this typically covers devolved matters.

This would bring comparability between the devolved nations, as English MPs **DO NOT** get to vote on matters which **ONLY** impact Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

This has been in place since 2015 and each Bill is considered by the Speaker and then classed as **EVEL** if needed.

This was removed in 2021, but still part of the specification for 2023 examinations.



## 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
The <b>right to vote is a basic human right</b> , there is no logical reason why only those who are 18+ should be enfranchised. Are 16/17 year olds REALLY that different at 18s? Is this not merely an arbitrary construct of responsibility?	However, if the vote is given to those who are 16, what about those who are 14? If the voting age is lowered, <b>where do we stop</b> with the minimum requirement? Is it not a slippery slope?
Young people are <b>now/increasingly educated in school e.g. citizenship studies, politics</b> etc. this education informs young people about politics equipping them with the knowledge and understanding to take up their democratic right. Many of those ware 18+ did not have this education but are still enfranchised. This is not fair!	However, <b>many young people still do have access to this education</b> , for example, not all schools fulfil their legal requirement to teach citizenship. Some young people may not approach the act of voting with the maturity and seriousness it deserves.  Many are too immature for the responsibility of deciding who is in power. Afterall, young people are easily susceptible to the influences of adults, peers and the mis/disinformation found on social media.
Allowing 16/17 years olds to vote is <b>a method by which to increase political participation</b> , this may increase voter turnout, making election results a fairer and more representative reflection of society.	However, <b>there is no way to determine if voter turnout will increase</b> , after all, the ballot is secret. Yet, the polls we do have suggest voter turnout among the young is low.
Those who are <b>16-17 years old will be affected by the decisions by those in power first-hand</b> e.g. education policy, geopolitical relations etc. Some may even have families and work the legally permitted 35 hours per week.	The 2014 Scottish Independence Referendum Report even states: “the referendum turnout among 16–17-year-olds still reflects the general tendency for younger voters to be less likely to make it to the polls.

## SHOULD PRISONERS BE ALLOWED TO VOTE? (LEGAL INCAPACITY)

Yes	No
<p>By removing a prisoner's right to vote it be argued <b>they are being doubly punished for their crime!</b> Voting is a basic human right; prisoners have already had their right to liberty removed, why remove their right to vote too? Crime and prison reform are usually manifesto topics, surely those facing these issues have a right to have a say on how they should be treated?</p>	<p>However, loosing the right to vote isn't an extra punishment, <b>it is part of being imprisoned.</b> Many argue that prison should take both liberty and the franchise away from criminals, it is one punishment, loosing your liberty also means losing your right to vote!</p>
<p>There is strong evidence to suggest the <b>criminal justice system is institutionally racist.</b> Therefore, disenfranchising prisoners is going to reduce the voice and political input of some sections of society more than others, this is discriminatory and deeply unfair.</p>	<p>Those who have committed the most serious and heinous crimes e.g. murder, rape etc. have taken life and caused lifelong harm and suffering to others, <b>why should they have the right to vote?</b></p>
<p>By giving prisoners the right to vote, <b>it encourages them to engage with social issues</b>, many of which appear to be root causes of crime e.g. poverty, exclusion, substance misuse etc. By voting, it gives prisoners an opportunity to raise their voice and reform society, making it better from them on their release and potentially preventing others turning to crime.</p>	

## SHOULD CITIZENS BE REQUIRED TO PASS A TEST TO VOTE?

Yes	No
<p>It will ensure those <b>who are voting are informed and engaged in political issues/debates.</b> This could ensure that the election results is the rest of serious consideration, not decided on a whim or by somebody following the crowd and/or their sphere of influence.</p>	<p>However, it <b>places more barriers on voting, potentially decreasing voter turnout and increasing voter apathy</b> among the population. Removing the right to vote from some! This would mean the outcome of the vote would only be representative of a very small sample. Is this democratic? Many may even suggest elitist?</p>
<p>Other <b>rights citizens enjoy come with restrictions and requirements</b> e.g. driving tests, citizenship tests. So why shouldn't something as important as voting?</p>	<p>It will take a <b>large amount of bureaucracy</b>, time and money to implement. Elections are already complex, why make it more so? Could the taxpayer money spent on this process, be put to better use elsewhere e.g. reducing poverty, improving health etc?</p>
<p>Voting opportunities such as referendums require a <b>high level of knowledge</b> to make an informed decision. Passing a test to demonstrate this, is the only fair way this can be achieved.</p>	<p><b>Will the test be fit for purpose?</b> How do you operationalise political concepts and ideologies? Is it as simple as knowing your local MP? Or will citizens be required to summarise the ecological ideology behind the Green Party etc?</p>

\*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)/Gross National Income (GNI)**.

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 <b>growing</b> . This means that the country's <b>output</b> is high e.g. manufacturing and service sector etc.	GDP is <b>declining</b> . This means that the country's <b>output</b> is low e.g. there is lack of demand for manufacturing or the service sector cannot operate.
Employment is <b>high</b> . This means that people have jobs and are working. In turn, this creates <b>taxes</b> for the government and there is likely to be <b>high levels</b> of consumer spending – people have disposable capital to spend.	Employment is <b>low</b> and unemployment is <b>high</b> . This means that many people do not have jobs. In turn, this means that the government collect <b>less taxes</b> and it is likely that there are <b>lower/low</b> levels of consumer spending as consumers do not have disposable capital.

## 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**.

Citizens in the UK pay several different taxes:

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, alcohol, biofuels.	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

## 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 <b>safety net</b> 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 <b>should be responsible for their own way in life</b>. Some argue citizens shouldn't receive something for nothing, if they do, it may encourage a <b>dependency culture</b>, with citizens not motivated/encouraged to work etc.</p>
<p>If citizens have an income, <b>they can spend any extra income in wider society</b>, 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. <b>What is to be cut, to increase revenue for welfare spending?</b></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 <b>greater privatisation</b> 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 <b>leads to employment gaps and gaps in knowledge and research</b>. 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. <b>What is to be cut, to increase revenue for NHS spending?</b></p>
<p>Some argue spending should be increased on the NHS by the introduction of a <b>hypothecated tax</b> – 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 <b>bedrock of any society</b>, 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 <b>privatisation</b> 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 <b>with the skills and knowledge to make informed choices later in their life</b>, 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. <b>What is to be cut, to increase revenue for education spending?</b></p>
<p>A high-quality education <b>makes for a more egalitarian society</b>. 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 <b>an aging population</b> , 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 <b>something that can/should be planned for!</b> 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 <b>moral imperative to help those who are elderly</b> . 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. <b>What is to be cut, to increase revenue for elderly spending?</b>

## 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 e.g. very high snow fall, very low/high temperatures.
- Climate Change
- Technological changes/innovations
- Disease/Illness
- Terrorism and security (including cyber terrorism/security)
- International relations
- Resource scarcity e.g. oil, food etc.

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><b>Climate Change</b></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 <b>National Adaptation Programme</b>. 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><b>Disease</b></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 <b>National Risk Register</b> 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 **Scotland and Wales, 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 Northern Ireland**.

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 **Metro Mayors** 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.

**As of 2023, both Metro Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners will be elected using FPTP.**

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

### Strengths

**Simple:** these systems are **easy to understand and operate**. There is only one choice to make, and this is executed in a simple manner, e.g. an X on a ballot paper. The result is then announced relatively quickly. Therefore, this system could increase participation as electors understand how to participate in democracy and will know how their vote counts.

**Mainstream:** these systems often underrepresent **extreme parties**. These parties sometimes promote racist, xenophobic and extreme views. These do not uphold the values of democracy, especially the British Values of mutual respect and tolerance of others etc.

### Weaknesses

**Discriminatory:** the system reduces politics to a bi-party spectrum and often doesn't allow for smaller parties to represent their voters. Long term, any voter who identifies with the non-majority parties may feel that there is no chance of their view being represented, and this could reduce voter turnout, political participation and political disengagement. Moreover, this system often creates safe seats, and this could potentially lead to MPs becoming complacent in their work/role, resulting in constituents not being represented fairly.

**Unrepresentative:** in this system MPs often fail to accrue 50% of a constituency vote. Therefore, calls into question the representative nature of the system. In the 2019 GE, Graham Brady only achieved 48% of the votes, meaning 52% did not vote for him!

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

### Strengths

**Representativeness:** democracy is about people power. Proportional systems more fairly **reflect what the electorate want** because the seats are linked to the % of votes secured. This may make the electorate feel their vote counts/matters, encouraging them to engage in the political process.

**Parties:** often affords **smaller parties more seats/chances of governance** e.g. through AMS offering the voters two choices. Depending on its ideology, this could be beneficial for wider society. For example, the Greens and their focus on climate change a Green Deal.

**Majority Vote:** some proportional systems require the winning candidate to achieve 50%+ of the voter share, this is a true representation of the people, as the **majority** are represented.

### Weaknesses

**Complex:** these systems are often **very complex**. If the electorate doesn't understand how the system works/how to vote – it may lead to a decrease in political participation.

**Weak Governments:** these systems often **lead to coalitions being elected**. Some argue these are not strong governments and lead to ineffective decision making, unlike FPTP which often lead to strong, stable one-party governments.

**Lack of personal representative:** some proportional systems (e.g. STV) give voters multi-member constituencies, this may **reduce their connection with an individual political**, making them feel like their views are not represented/listened to.

**WHICH VOTING SYSTEM IS USED WHERE?**

	<b>England</b>	<b>Scotland</b>	<b>Wales</b>	<b>Northern Ireland</b>
General Election	FPTP	FPTP	FPTP	FPTP
Devolved Parliament Election		AMS	AMS	STV
Local Authority/ Council Elections	FPTP	STV	FPTP	STV
Metro-Mayor	FPTP (2023)			
Police and Crime Commissioner	FPTP (2023)			
London Assembly	AMS			

# 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	<p>This is the group of people citizens elect giving them power and the mandate to run the country. By doing so, they establish the law and run key societal institutions e.g. the health and education system.</p> <p>They uphold the political system of democracy by engaging in debates and scrutiny of their policy.</p>
The Prime Minister	<p>The PM is leader of the government, they are selected by being the leader of the party with the most votes in the General Election.</p> <p>They are responsible for the government's actions and the day-to-day running of the country. Often leading on the implementation of new law/policy, directed by the electorate and manifesto promises.</p>
The Cabinet	<p>The Cabinet are the most senior MPs in government. There are 20+ who work together, leading government departments and implementing policy.</p> <p>They are accountable for their department's actions and are often subject to scrutiny via the Opposition, Urgent Questions and citizen engagement e.g. petitions.</p>
Parliamentary Sovereignty	<p>The key element of the constitution. <b>Stipulating that Parliament is the supreme source of law in the UK.</b> This means that Parliament has the final say on all laws and must have the ability to revoke previous laws.</p>
Legislature	<p>The branch of government responsible for introducing legislation (laws) into society.</p> <p>These laws are introduced, debated and continually scrutinised by parliamentary debate, questions, committees and citizen engagement e.g. demonstrations.</p>
The Opposition	<p>The party who received most votes after the government, form the Opposition/Shadow Government.</p> <p>They play a key role in scrutinising the actions of the government in power, regularly holding them to account and challenging their actions e.g. PMQs, Urgent Questions, Parliamentary Debates etc.</p>
Political Parties	<p>The UK's multi-party system highlights the UK's democratic nature – there were 70 parties who stood at the 2019 General Election, these represented varying ideologies. If elected, these come together, to work for the electorate to ensure the country is run effectively.</p>
The Monarch	<p>The Monarch is the Head of State, playing an important role in the UK. The Monarch undertakes a number of important ceremonial roles/duties e.g. giving royal assent to laws, opening parliament, welcoming overseas visitors etc.</p>
Citizens	<p>In the UK citizens are those who elect the government and are the group the constitution is there to protect e.g. by ensuring their rights in legislation – the Human Rights (1998). Living in a representative democracy, UK citizens elect parliamentarians to represent them. If they feel those in power are not representing them, they can use an array of methods to ignite social change e.g. campaigning, petitions, demonstrations etc.</p>
The Police	<p>The police enforce the laws of the legislature, keeping the country safe and that order is ensured. Forces are overseen by a Police and Crime Commissioner who is elected into power by citizens.</p>

Institution (Part)	How it FORMS a Constitution (How it provides a framework of governance)
The Judiciary	<p>The branch of government which implements and makes judgements on legislature. They uphold the law and ensure it works for the benefit of citizens to keep them safe and punish wrong doers. They can also use the judiciary to challenge those in power e.g. judicial reviews etc.</p> <p>The Supreme Court is the highest court in the land.</p>
The Civil Service	Those employed to carry out the work of the government. They are a group of experts, recruited for their knowledge and skills to implement the policy demands of the government. They are politically impartial and do not represent one party, they serve the Crown.

## WHAT ARE EXAMPLES OF HOW THE BRITISH CONSTITUTION IS CHANGING?

Event	Impact
Devolution	<p>Led to power being delegated from UK GOV, PM and Cabinet to UK Nations and later, UK City Regions.</p> <p>Some say this challenges constitutional institutions as it takes away some of their power, roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>Devolution also introduced electoral reform, with the introduction of systems of proportional representation.</p> <p>However, parliamentary sovereignty remains. Westminster could revoke Devolution if they desired.</p>
Establishment of the Supreme Court	<p>Took the S/C out of the House of Lords, which some suggested a too close relationship with the Executive. For example, the Lord Chancellor (Head of Judiciary ) was a Cabinet Minister. This doesn't give the impression of a clear separation of powers.</p> <p>The Constitutional Reform Act (2005) ensured the following:</p> <p>Offered a clearer separation of powers.</p> <p>Established a Judicial Appointment Commission. A non-political committee.</p> <p>Recent rulings by the Supreme Court have directly challenged the work of the Govt and in some cases have even influenced (not told) political change. For example, prorogation of parliament in 2019.</p>
Brexit	<p>Brexit was the UK's exit from the EU. It impacted relations between different UK Nations e.g. some voted Remain, whilst others Leave. The functioning of political parties was impacted e.g. many manifestos of the 2019 election focused on Brexit. Moreover, later decisions led to the suspension of the Northern Irish Assembly (e.g. NI Protocol).</p> <p>The referendum outcome led to the x2 resignations of Prime Ministers – David Cameron and later Theresa May. Some say it gave the Conservatives their majority in 2019, due to their clear political promises.</p> <p>Brexit has been a catalyst for much citizen power/activism. For example, petitions, demonstrations, judicial reviews etc.</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.

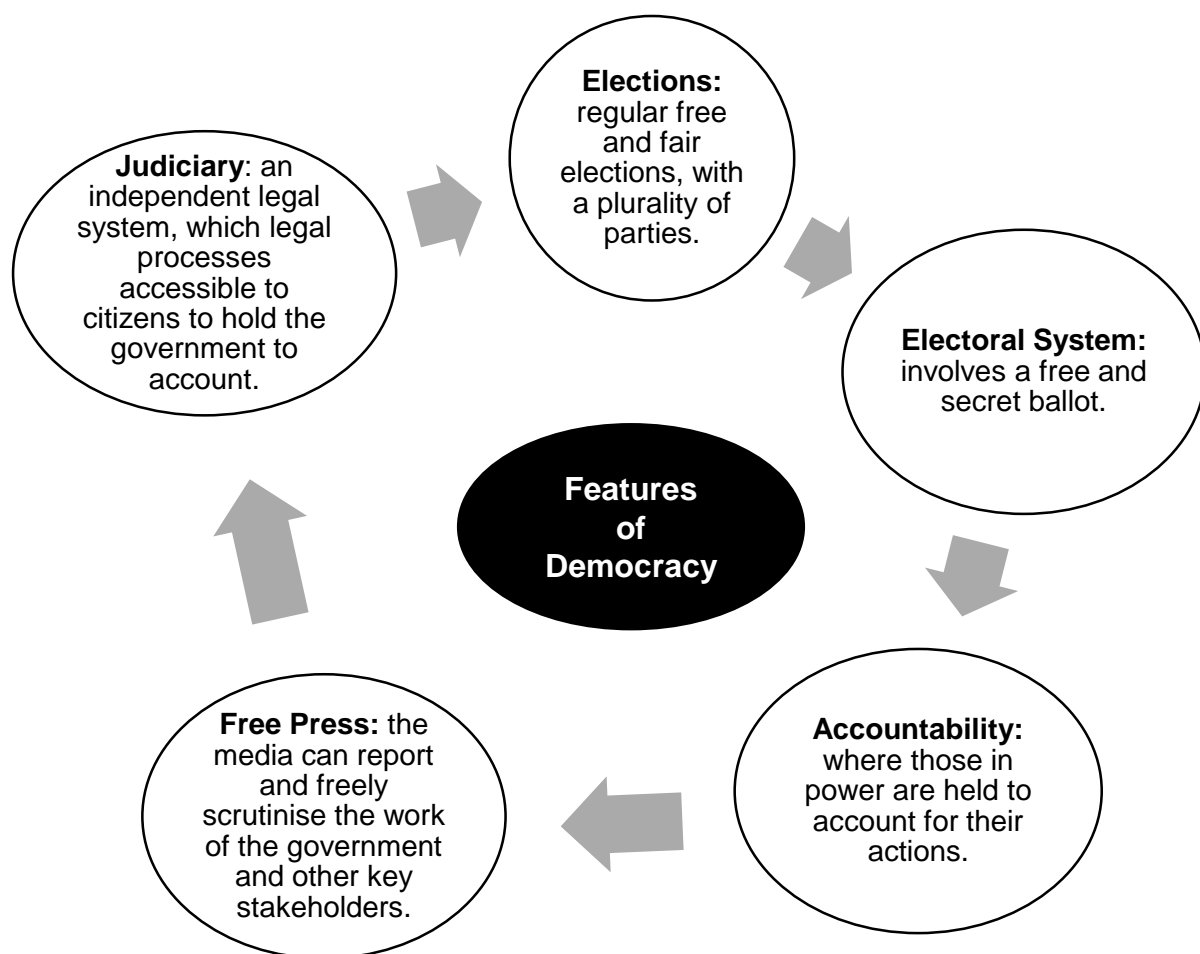
*This contrasts with **entrenched constitutions**, where special procedures are needed for amendments, making them rigid and difficult to change. In the USA, a 2/3 majority is needed for constitutional amendments.*

## SHOULD THE UK'S CONSTITUTION BE CODIFIED?

Codified	Uncodified
<p>Codifying the constitution would bring <b>greater clarity</b> around the rights of citizens and powers of government. It would provide an accessible source of knowledge for all to understand how they are governed.</p>	<p>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). <b>Why does it need to be in one place?</b></p>
<p>It is likely that with codification, will come entrenchment. <b>This would mean that there is a clear and set procedure for large-scale change.</b> It wouldn't result from the whim of a government.</p>	<p>However, codification and its subsequent entrenchment would make the British constitution <b>inflexible</b>. This would result in a long process to allow for change, citizens may become dissatisfied with the time it takes.</p>
<p>If codified a body of judges (possibly the Supreme Court) would be the arbitrators of constitutional disputes. <b>These would be legal experts, with the knowledge to make just and legal rulings.</b></p>	<p>However, would it not be better if those elected by the citizens have the final say? <b>Are the judiciary a representative body of Britain's population or a very elite circle of people?</b></p>
<p>If codification was to become a reality, <b>it would allow for a rethink of Britain's political values &amp; encourage mass education of political processes.</b> This could improve political participation and engagement.</p> <p>A YouGov Poll in 2018 shows that 65% of respondents supported Britain moving to a written constitution. This is because it provides clear legal rules within which government ministers and civil servants are forced to act.</p>	

## WHAT ARE DIFFERENT TYPES OF GOVERNMENT?

Type of Government	Meaning
Absolute Monarchy	Power is held and transferred by a royal line.  Brunei.
Dictatorship	Power is held by one person or group.  Belarus
Military Dictatorship	Power is held by the military.  Often a 'military junta' occurs, where a group of military officers take control and run a country.  Myanmar
Theocracy	Power is held by religious figures whose beliefs dominate the government system.  Iran
One Party State	Power is held by one political party.  China



# HOW DOES POLITICAL PARTICIPATION WORK OUTSIDE OF THE UK?

EDI ASPECT 2022	UK	USA (Democracy)	North Korea (Non-Democracy)
Classification	Full Democracy 18/167	Flawed Democracy 30/167	Authoritarian Regime 165/167
Electoral Processes	General Elections at least <b>every 5 years</b> . Citizens 18+ elect MPs to represent them in Parliament.	<p>Presidential Elections at least <b>every 4 years</b>. Citizens 18+ elect the President via a process involving the Electoral College.</p> <p>Citizens also elect members Congress, these are held in some form <b>every 2 years</b>.</p>	<p>Elections for the Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) at least <b>every 5 years</b>.</p> <p>From the SPA a <b>Presidium</b> is selected. This is where of the decision-making takes place and members are typically from the Kim family or very close allies.</p> <p>However, these are largely <b>show elections</b>. With only one candidate ever really a possibility, to vote against the <b>hereditary Kim dynasty</b> is seen as treasonous.</p> <p>North Korea is a <b>one-party state</b>.</p> <p>Currently the country is lead by <b>Supreme Leader: Kim Jong-un</b>.</p>
Political Pluralism	The UK has a diverse <b>political spectrum</b> . There are <b>10 political parties</b> found in the House of Commons.	<p>The USA is dominated by <b>two political parties</b> – Republicans and Democrats. Many argue it is a <b>two-party system</b>.</p> <p>These are at the opposite ends of the political spectrum.</p>	<p>There are <b>3/4</b> political parties in North Korea.</p> <p>However, there is very little difference between them. They mostly share the same <b>ideology</b> and are all part of the umbrella organisation <b>Democratic Front for the Reunification of Korea</b>.</p>
Civil Liberties	<p>Civil liberties are <b>protected in the UK</b> by a number of different pieces of legislation e.g.</p> <p>Human Rights Act (1998)</p> <p>UNDHR</p> <p>UNCRC</p> <p>Equality Act (2010)</p>	<p>Rights and <b>constitutionally protected in the USA</b>.</p> <p>UNDHR</p>	<p>The Constitution of North Korea recognises and supports rights of its citizens.</p> <p>Yet, Human Rights Watch claims that NK is <i>one of the world's most repressive states</i>. <i>The government restricts all civil and political liberties for its citizens, including freedom of expression, assembly, association, and religion.</i></p>



	UK	USA (Democracy)	North Korea (Non-Democracy)
Civil Liberties	<p>UK citizens <b>are largely free to move internally and internationally.</b> 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><b>Reporters without Borders</b>, ranked the UK <b>24/180</b> in its <b>World Press Freedom Index, 2022.</b> 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 <b>digital divide/digital poverty.</b></p> <p>Citizens <b>have the right to assemble and hold protests</b> e.g. COVID/BLM/Environment. There have been restrictions since 2020 due to COVID-19 Lockdown Measures. However, crackdowns are taking place e.g. Sentencing Bill.</p> <p>The UK <b>is a member of the International Labour Organization</b> and does have many legal protections on worker rights and Trade Unions are prominent.</p>	<p>US citizens <b>are largely free to move internally and internationally.</b> They must hold a passport and comply with visiting country immigrations laws and local customs.</p> <p><b>Reporters without Borders</b>, ranked the UK <b>42/180</b> in its <b>World Press Freedom Index, 2022.</b> 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><b>Race inequality is a prominent issue in the USA</b> – with large divisions between ethnic groups. For example, there are high levels of police brutality against Black Americans.</p> <p><b>Citizens have the right to assemble and hold protests</b> e.g. COVID/BLM. This right was vehemently expressed when protesters stormed the Capital in 2020.</p> <p>Citizens have the right to <b>lobby</b> their representatives.</p>	<p>Freedom of movement is <b>heavily restricted</b> 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 <b>'defecators'</b> and charged with <b>"treachery against the nation"</b>.</p> <p><b>Reporters without Borders</b>, ranked NK <b>180/180</b> in its <b>World Press Freedom Index, 2022.</b> Levels of <b>censorship</b> are extremely high – media outlets are <b>run by the state e.g. The Korean Central News Agency.</b> There is a high degree of <b>political propaganda.</b></p> <p>Journalists are sometimes <b>imprisoned.</b></p> <p>Internet access is <b>heavily restricted</b> and only permitted with prior <b>authorisation.</b></p> <p><b>State surveillance</b> is common and <b>social media</b> access is not permitted.</p> <p>The <b>freedom of assembly</b> is not permitted (e.g. gatherings, protests), they are subject to <b>severe punishment, including prison sentences.</b></p> <p><b>Forced labour</b> is the normal, with very little consideration given to the workers rights.</p> <p>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>

