



Task: UK Government and Politics



What is an election?

We live in a **democratic country**, which means that we can all have a say in how the country is run.

The United Kingdom is divided into **650 different areas**, called **constituencies**. The people who live in each area choose a **Member of Parliament (MP)** to represent their views in the **House of Commons**.

This usually happens at a **general election**. There are also elections for other institutions, such as local councils and the European Parliament.





What does it all mean?

Constituency

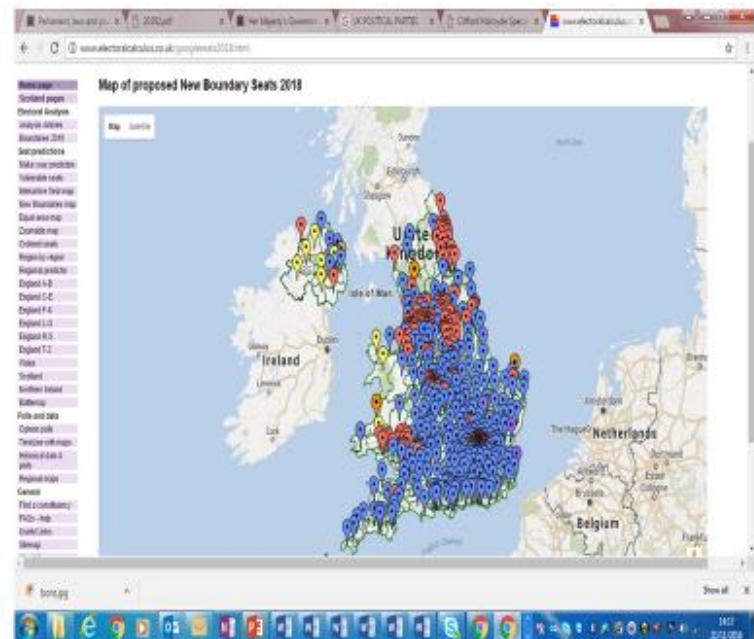
The UK is divided into 650 different areas, called constituencies, where the public elect candidates to be their MP.

General election

A general election is when the electors of the country cast their votes to elect Members of Parliament (MPs).

Prime Minister

The Prime Minister is the leader of the government



How does voting work?

People vote for things all the time from local government elections and family decisions to TV programmes like The X Factor.

In a general election voting is voluntary. You must be aged 18 or over and a British, Irish or Commonwealth citizen to vote.

Each voter gets one vote, which they give to one of the candidates standing for Parliament in their local constituency.

Voting takes place by secret ballot (in private) in school halls and other public buildings across the UK.

The candidate with the most votes becomes the local MP





Did you know?

The United Kingdom has three main political parties – **Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrats** – and a number of other smaller parties and independent candidates.

The Prime Minister is usually the leader of the political party that wins the most seats at a general election and he or she forms the government.

Active Citizens: Political Parties

How many UK political parties can you name?

Do you know which political party each of these symbols is for?

	Conservatives	Plaid Cymru			Scottish National Party (SNP)
Labour					
	Liberal Democrats		Green Party		



So what is Parliament?

What does Parliament do?

- It spends half of the time deciding on the rules of the country by **making and passing laws to deal with our constantly changing society.**
- It **collects money from taxpayers**, which the government uses to carry out its work: all government money comes from us when we pay taxes like income tax and VAT. This is spent on things like **schools, hospitals, emergency services, the legal system and the armed forces.**
- It checks (scrutinises) that the government is doing its job properly by MPs and Members of the House of Lords asking awkward questions and forming committees to keep an eye on what it is doing.
- **Debating:** MPs meet up and discuss the major issues of the day





What government does

The government manages the country.

It is made up of about 100 MPs and Members of the House of Lords.

They usually belong to the same political party as the Prime Minister or the two political parties which have formed a coalition government.



Clifford Holroyde Skills Base
Home Learning Task 8
Week Commencing 13/11/17




The Cabinet

The most important committee in government is called the Cabinet. The prime minister selects its members and chairs their meetings.

ACTIVITY 1

1. Look at the list of Cabinet members.
3. Use the internet to support you with your research. Fill the table below and see how much of it you can complete. I have given you an example to get you started.

Cabinet member	Choose a current image of this MP and insert here	Current job title	Recent news stories involving this person
Teresa May MP			
Boris Johnson MP.			
Amber Rudd MP (Con)			
Philip Hammond MP (Con)			

