

The UK's Main Political Parties

Conservative – The oldest political party in the UK. The party currently in power, led by Boris Johnson, the Prime Minister.

Labour – Set up at the beginning of the 20th century to represent workers. In power from 1997-2010. Currently led by Keir Starmer.

Liberal Democrats – Believe in individual freedom and spending more money on public services.

Protest and Pressure Groups

Pressure Groups - People who have strong opinions on a particular issue who try to influence what happens by putting pressure on MP's and people who make decisions. E.g. NSPCC/Greenpeace

Politics

Types of Government

Anarchy – a situation where there is no government.

Communism - the government owns the wealth of the country e.g. businesses, factories, transport and farms.

Democracy - the government is elected by the people.

Dictatorship - a country ruled by a single leader who has not been elected and may use force and fear to keep control.

Republic - A **republic** is a country that has no **monarch** (King or Queen). The head of the country is usually an elected president.

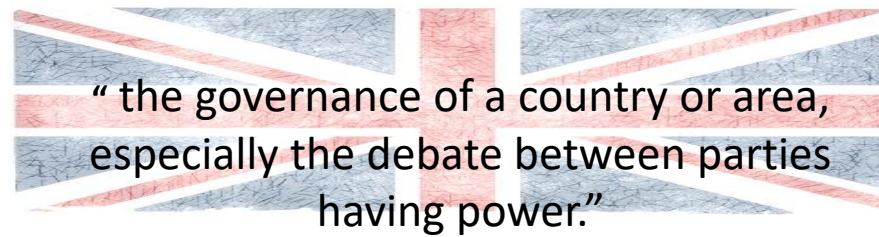
Federal - a central government shares power with a number of small local governments.

Parliament & the Cabinet

Parliament - An assembly of representatives that makes the laws in the UK. Parliament has 3 sections:

- The House of Commons
- The House of Lords
- The Monarch (Queen)

The Cabinet - made up of 20 of the most important ministers who are each in charge of a particular area.



MP's

MP = Member of Parliament.

There are **650** MP's in the House of Commons.

To be an MP you must be:

- Over 18.
- A British or Irish citizen.
- A commonwealth citizen who resides in the UK.
- Not a member of the House of Lords.
- Not Bankrupt.
- Not already working for the government or 'Crown' (e.g. police force, armed forces, civil servant, judge).

An MP needs the following skills:

- be able to speak in public,
- be a good listener,
- have good judgement,
- be responsible and reliable.

Examples of an MP's work:

- Meeting constituents
- Attending debates and voting.
- Hold committee meetings.