

LESSON 2 BRITISH POLITICAL POWER – Activities

VOCABULARY EXERCISES

Exercise 1: Key terms in the UK political system - Match each **definition** with the correct **term**

Terms: the Prime Minister, laws, electorate, Royal Assent, unelected, legitimacy, monarch constituencies, a Member of Parliament (an MP), devolution, Shadow Cabinet parliamentary democracy; constitutional monarchy, First-Past-the-Post (FPTP)

1. The system where a king or queen is the head of state, but their powers are limited by a constitution.
2. A form of government where political power is held by elected representatives in Parliament.
3. The symbolic head of state in the UK.
4. The leader of the majority party in Parliament, appointed by the monarch.
5. The formal approval given by the monarch to a bill, making it a law.
6. The people who are eligible to vote in an election.
7. The voting system used in UK general elections, where the candidate with the most votes in a constituency wins.
8. The areas into which the UK is divided for electoral purposes.
9. A person elected to represent a constituency in the House of Commons.
10. The transfer of certain powers from the UK Parliament to elected bodies in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.
11. A group of senior opposition MPs who scrutinize and challenge government policies.
12. The House of Lords is described as this because its members are not chosen by the public.
13. The quality of being democratically elected or recognized by the people.
14. Rules or regulations created by Parliament and approved by the monarch.

Exercise 2: The role of the monarch -Fill in the blanks with the correct **word or phrase** from the list below.

Words/Phrases: King Charles III, head of state, ceremonial, symbolic, Prime Minister, Royal Assent, laws, political decisions

The UK is a constitutional monarchy, where the (currently is the but his role is and His main constitutional duties include appointing the (the leader of the majority party in Parliament) and giving to (a formality, as refusal has not occurred since 1708). The monarch does not make executive power lies with the elected government and Parliament.

Exercise 3: Parliament and government Match each **description** with the correct **term** (House of Commons or House of Lords).

1. Directly elected by the electorate.
2. Holds the most power in Parliament.
3. Provides expert scrutiny and revises legislation.
4. Acts as a check on the House of Commons.
5. Its unelected nature is often debated as a democratic limitation.
6. Ensures laws reflect the will of the electorate.

Exercise 4: Electoral system and devolution - Match each **term** with its **definition**.

devolution, constituencies, General Election, Shadow Cabinet, Member of Parliament (MP), majority party, First-Past-the-Post (FPTP),

1. The voting system where the candidate with the most votes in a constituency wins, even without a majority.
2. The areas into which the UK is divided for electoral purposes.
3. A person elected to represent a constituency in the House of Commons.

4. The transfer of certain powers from the UK Parliament to elected bodies in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.
5. A group of senior opposition MPs who scrutinize government policies.
6. An election held to elect Members of Parliament to the House of Commons.
7. The political party that wins the most seats in a General Election.

GRAMMAR EXERCISES

Exercise 1: Passive voice – The UK political system Rewrite the following sentences in the **passive voice**. Include the agent (by...) where necessary.

1. The monarch appoints the Prime Minister.
2. The House of Commons elects Members of Parliament.
3. The UK Parliament passed the Devolution Act in 1998.
4. The Shadow Cabinet scrutinizes government policies.
5. The electorate votes for their representatives in a General Election.

Exercise 2: Modal Verbs – Possibility, obligation, and advice - Fill in the blanks with the correct **modal verb** (can, could, may, might, must, should, have to).

1. The Prime Minister be a member of the House of Commons, but it is not a legal requirement.
2. The House of Lords delay legislation, but it cannot veto it permanently.
3. MPs represent the interests of their constituents.
4. The monarch refuse Royal Assent, but this has not happened since 1708.
5. The UK consider reforming the House of Lords to make it more democratic.
6. If the government loses a vote of no confidence, it call a General Election.

Exercise 3: political statements - Rewrite the following **direct speech** sentences in **reported speech**.

1. The Prime Minister said: "We will lower the voting age to 16."
2. An opposition MP argued: "This reform is undemocratic and unfair."
3. The Speaker announced: "We will now proceed to the vote."
4. A Shadow Minister stated: "The government is not doing enough to address voter turnout."
5. The monarch declared: "I give my Royal Assent to this bill."

Exercise 4: Conditional sentences – Political scenarios

Complete the following **conditional sentences** using the correct form (Type 0, 1, 2, or 3).

1. If the UK (adopt) proportional representation, smaller parties (have) more seats in Parliament.
2. If the House of Lords (be) elected, it (gain) more legitimacy.
3. The government (fall) if it (lose) a vote of no confidence.
4. If the voting age (be) lowered to 16, more young people (participate) in elections.
5. The monarch (not interfere) in politics if the UK (be) a true democracy.