British Political System

Like all _____, the UK separates its three most important political powers and maintains three different institutions to represent them. The legislative body is the _____ of _____, the executive is the _____, and the judicial system's main body has been the newly created _____ since 2009.

The legislative power is represented by the Houses of Parliament, but in fact almost entirely by its lower part, the _____ of _____. The Commons has got 659 members or _____ (Members of Parliament). Each of them represents a particular area in the country called a _____. Thus, the territory of the UK is politically divided into _____ different constituencies.

If anybody wants to be the MP of a given constituency, they first have to declare themselves as _____. It's not necessary for a candidate to belong to any _____ _____ though with the financial and political support of a party, it's much easier to have a chance to win and become an MP. After becoming candidates, they have to pay a deposit of _____ pounds, which is possible to get back if they receive at least _____% of the votes. Then they can start their _____: hold meetings, stick up _____ on walls and hoarding boards, or go _____, that is, going from door to door and asking the householders who they intend to vote for and try to convince them.

To be eligible to vote in the UK, one must be a _____ citizen, at least _____ years old, and be on the _____ register, which is compiled in each constituency. Convicted _____, members of the _____ of _____, and mentally ill people cannot vote.

The election or _____ day is set by the _____ on the recommendation of the _____ _____. Elections must be held at least every _____ years, but mostly they are held earlier than that. For example, in 2001, and then in 2005, the _____ government decided to call the election four years after the previous one. In 2017, the _____ government called a _____ election hoping to increase its party's majority. However, it was a _____ for the Conservatives, losing seats and resulting in a _____ parliament.

The day of the election is always a _____. As it is a normal weekday when most citizens have to work, polling stations are open from _____ am to _____ pm. The

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only people for whom it is a holiday are _____, as most _____ are used as polling stations.

After being ticked off on the register, the voter gets a _____ paper. They take it to the polling booth, where they cast their votes by ticking the name of the _____ they wish to represent them in the House of Commons. Then they slip the ballot paper into the _____ box and go home to wait for the results. After _____ o'clock, all the ballot papers are taken to a central place where they are _____. The candidate who gains the _____ of all votes will be the winner and will represent the constituency in the House of Commons until the next _____.

Turnouts – the actual proportion of all voters who appear at polling stations – have changed over the last few elections. In _____ it was 77%, five years later it was _____%, then in 2001 it dropped to _____%, but since then it has increased, reaching almost _____% in 2017. If an elected MP dies, resigns or becomes unable to perform their duties, _____-elections are held. These can take place at any time and of course, only in the _____'s constituency.

Candidates winning the elections go to work in _____, in the _____ of _____. It's a huge building containing offices, restaurants, libraries, committee rooms, and two debating chambers: one for the House of Commons and another for the _____ of _____. Unlike the _____ debating chamber, which has a semi-circle shape, the House of Commons has a _____ shape. There are two rows of _____ facing each other, with the Speaker's chair in the middle of the chamber. On the Speaker's _____ sit the MPs of the _____ party, while on the Speaker's _____ sit the MPs of the _____.

The first row on each side is taken by the members of the _____ (on the right) and the members of the _____ _____ (on the left). These members are also known as _____. Behind them sit those MPs who have no particular functions, known as _____. Though the number of elected MPs is 659, the chamber isn't big enough to provide a _____ for every one of them.

The Commons meet _____ days a week, from Monday to Friday. Daily business starts at _____ with a common _____, followed by a process known as _____

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_____, when MPs can ask Cabinet ministers questions. Wednesday is a special day because the _____ _____ answers the questions then, though only for _____ an hour. At 15.30, a _____ usually starts on a proposal for a new _____.

The law-making process begins with the formal announcement of a _____, after which it is _____ and voted on in the Commons. If the bill is accepted, it is sent to the _____ of _____, where it goes through the same stages. The final moment comes when, after the Lords have voted for the bill, it receives a _____ _____ from the monarch and becomes an _____ of _____.

Members of the upper house, the House of Lords, are not _____. They are either appointed or sit by _____. These latter ones are the _____ peers, whose number has decreased recently to _____. The life peers are appointed members, usually ex-Prime Ministers or respected politicians. There are also _____ bishops known as Lords Spiritual.

The executive power in the UK is represented by the _____. This word has two meanings: a wide one, which includes all politicians who run the daily business of government, and a narrow one, referring to only the _____. The _____ has about _____ members, including influential Secretaries such as the _____ Secretary, _____ Secretary, and the _____ of the _____. Members of the Cabinet must meet at least once a week at _____ _____ Street, the official home of the _____ _____.

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