

A. COMPLETE THE TEXT WITH THE FOLLOWING WORDS:

CONSTITUTION - DEMOCRACY - CONSTITUENCIES - STATE - REGISTER -
GOVERNMENT - PARLIAMENT - ELECTIONS - DIVISION -

General facts

The British government system is basically based on the 1._____ of power: the legislative is represented by the 2._____. The executive is represented by the Prime Minister and finally the judiciary is represented by the courts of law. The Monarch is part of the Parliament but nowadays he/she has only a ceremonial role. The monarch does not take important decisions about how the government is run.

The United Kingdom is a parliamentary 3._____ with a constitutional monarchy. This means that a king or queen is the head of 4._____; and a Prime Minister is the head of 5._____. The people vote in 6._____ for Members of Parliament (MPs) to represent them. The leader of the party which gets the majority of seats in the Parliament becomes the Prime Minister. All the country is divided into electoral 7._____ these are a kind of electoral districts. Every five years elections are held to choose members of Parliament to represent people interests. Every one over 18 years old can vote. People have to 8. _____ to vote.

The United Kingdom doesn't have a single, written 9._____. Instead of being one formal document, the British constitution is formed from various sources including statute law, case law made by judges, and international treaties.

B. COMPLETE THE TEXT WITH THE FOLLOWING WORDS:

BILL OF RIGHTS - MAGNA CARTA - MONARCHS

A bit of history

The British parliament is one of the oldest parliaments in the world. The first step towards parliamentary democracy was taken in 1215 when King John was forced to sign a document called 1."_____". This document established the principle that everyone is subject to the law, even the king, and guarantees the rights of individuals, the right to justice and the right to a fair trial. It also gave the opportunity to a group of select people to participate from the Monarch decisions. The Magna Carta was used to restrain the power of 2._____. In 1689 Parliament passed a law that became known as the 3._____. This act gave Parliament power over the monarch.

C. COMPLETE THE TEXT WITH THE FOLLOWING WORDS:

NOBLES - LORDS - LORD CHANCELLOR - HOUSES - SPEAKER - LOCAL - COMMONS - WESTMINSTER - LAWS

The Parliament structure and function

Britain's Parliament consists of two 1_____: the House of 2_____ and the House of 3_____. They hold their meetings in the Parliament buildings in London, England. The Parliament buildings are also called the Palace of 4. _____. There are about 800 members in the House of Lords, but not all of them participate. There are 650 members in the House of Commons. For many years most members of the House of Lords were 5_____. These people inherited their seats in the house. Since 1999 the house has been made up mainly of people chosen by the government for outstanding achievement. Senior judges and senior clergy (church leaders) of the Church of England are also members. The member in charge of the House of Lords is called 6_____.

Members of the House of Commons are elected by the people. A member called The 7_____ controls the debates, or arguments, in the house.

Basically, the main function of the House of Commons is to make 8_____. First a member proposes a law. The members debate the proposed law, or bill. If the members agree, the bill goes to the House of Lords. The Lords may approve the bill or make changes and send it back to the Commons. Once both houses have approved a bill, it becomes law after the monarch (king or queen) agrees to it. Modern monarchs agree to all bills Parliament passes.

Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Wales are parts of the United Kingdom, and each sends representatives to the Parliament in London. Each also has its own parliament. The 9_____ parliaments can make decisions about such issues as health, education, housing, and the environment for their area.