

Politics and Participation Revision Questions

Question/key term	Answer
What does democracy mean?	Ruled by the people
Name two characteristics of a democracy	Rule of law, equality, rights and responsibilities freedom
What is a representative democracy?	Citizens are elected to represent others - e.g. MP, MEP
What is direct democracy?	All citizens take part in the decision making - e.g 2016 EU referendum
What is meant by the rule of law?	Everyone is treated equally and fairly within the law. The law applies to everyone in the same way.
When was the Equality Act introduced?	2010
What is the Equality Act, 2010?	The Equality Act came into law to protect rights of people within the UK to promote equality and reduce discrimination
The British constitution is uncodified. What does this mean?	It is not all written down in one place, unlike the US constitution that is described as codified.
What is devolution	The transfer of power to a lesser body - e.g. the transfer of power to the Welsh Assembly.
What are the different institutions within our constitution?	the executive, the legislature, the judiciary and the monarchy.
What is the role of the executive?	PM, other ministers and members of the civil service - implement policy after it has been agreed by legislature.
What is the role of the legislature?	This is the body that makes law - includes the whole of Parliament The legislative process; parliamentary debates and deliberation of public issues and policy.
What is Parliamentary Sovereignty	The laws are only made by Parliament - including all MPs and Lords
Describe the process of making a law.	A statement in writing (a Bill) goes through different stages - scrutinised by the House of Commons and House of Lords. It is then

	given Royal Assent by the monarch and becomes Law
What is the role of the judiciary?	Judges and the legal process - interpret the meaning of law.
What is the role of the monarchy?	A traditional form of government, now mostly ceremonial. The monarch appoints the PM and gives Royal Assent to a bill to make it a law.
What is the role of the PM?	Leader of the political party and government, and constituency MP, spokesperson for the UK at international events/summits, appoints cabinet ministers.
Who is our PM?	Boris Johnson (2019 -)
What is the role of the civil service?	Helps government to develop policy.
What is the role of the cabinet?	21 members, e.g Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Home Secretary - key positions within government.
Who makes up Parliament?	Westminster parliament is described as bicameral, this means that there are two houses. The House of Commons and the House of Lords. The Lords sit in the house of Lords and are not elected. The MPs sit in the House of Commons and are elected.
Who is in government?	MPs who are in the ruling party. 2019 - all Conservative MPs
What is the role of the government?	To make, propose and carry out policy and laws
What is the opposition?	The largest party not in government. In 2019 The Labour Party
What is the role of the opposition?	To hold the government to account for its actions and oppose policies they disagree with.
What is the role of Members of Parliament (MPs);	Representing their constituencies, debating policy; scrutinising legislation. How parliament works: scrutinising government and making it accountable; parliamentary questions committees, debates.
Who is your MP? And which party do they represent?	Geoffrey Cox or Scott Mann, both of the Conservative Party (as of 2019 election)

What is role of the Black Rod within Parliament?	A senior office in the House of Lords responsible for security and ceremonial events such as the State Opening of Parliament.
What is the role of the Speaker?	Elected by fellow MPs, Chair debate in the House of Commons, decide who is going to speak and can bar members.
What is the role of the whip?	MPs or Lords appointed by each party to ensure that their party's MPs turn out and vote for the party's wishes. They instruct them how to vote
What is the difference between frontbench and backbench MPs?	Frontbench MPs - are the cabinet ministers on the government side and shadow ministers on the opposition side. Backbench MPs are ordinary MPs who do not hold other positions.
What is an electoral system?	The voting system used in an election.
Describe the First Past the Post Electoral System	The one who tops the poll wins - within the constituency. Not a proportional system
How many constituencies are there in the UK?	650
How often are Westminster elections held - according to law?	The Fixed Term Parliament Act, 2011 established that the elections should happen every 5 years
What are the possible outcomes in a general election?	Hung Parliament - leads to either a minority government with a confidence and supply agreement (2017) or a coalition (2010) Majority Government Another election is held
How are candidates selected to stand for election.	They go through an interview process within their party. This could include a hustings event (question time event debating against other candidates)
Who can vote in an election?	Any UK citizen over the age of 18. Convicted prisoners cannot vote.
Who can stand for election?	Any UK citizen over the age of 18. Not a member of the police, a judge or in the armed forces.
Name one other voting system used in UK elections.	Closed Party List - European Parliament Single Transferable Vote (STV) Northern Ireland Assembly

	Supplementary vote (SV) Police and Crime Commissioners Additional Member System (AMS) Scottish Parliament
What is meant by the term a proportional system.	The number of seats
What is a wasted vote?	A vote for a candidate who doesn't win, or a vote that is not needed for the candidate to win (they already have enough) FPTP is criticised for having lots of wasted votes.
What is voter turnout?	The percentage of people who vote against the number who are registered to vote. In the UK voting is optional in other countries it is compulsory.
Why is low turnout an issue?	People who do not vote are not voting for a representative. This undermines our democratic system of representative democracy.
What is voter apathy?	A lack of interest by citizens in the electoral and political process
Who are the two major political parties within the UK government	Conservative Party and Labour Party
Which political party would be described as right on the political spectrum?	Conservative Party
What are the sources of income for the government?	Tax: income tax, national insurance and VAT are the biggest
How do the government spend their money?	Welfare spending - spending on social services, health, education etc Debt interest