

Kettlethorpe HIGH SCHOOL

Year 9

Citizenship

Knowledge

Organiser Booklet

Name:

Tutor:



Citizenship

THINK PINK!

If you see **PINK** in your books,
make the corrections.

Capital letters

- sentence **starts**
- proper **nouns**
- the word 'I'

Commas

- to separate three or more items in **a list**
- use a **pair of commas** when you are **inserting extra information** in the middle of the sentence
 - use **after an adverbial**

Before sunrise, Zac ate his breakfast.

Apostrophes

- to show that a letter or **letters are missing**: *I'm - haven't - don't*
- to show **something belongs to something else**: *The parents' meeting lasted an hour.*

1. Have you carefully reread your work?
2. Have you checked to see if you accidentally made any mistakes?
3. Are you proud of your work?

Common mistakes

There refers to a place or idea.
Their shows belonging.
They're is short for 'they are'.

use **should have** - not 'should of'
use **could have** - not 'could of'
use **would have** - not 'would of'

Spelling

- use **the dictionary**
- make sure to use **subject specific vocabulary**

APPLY THE RULES. **B**E CONSISTENT. **C**HECK FOR ACCURACY.

WWW - Descriptive comment on what went well

EBI - Descriptive comment saying your work would be even better if

Punctuation



to introduce extra info



to link connected sentences



You only need one!



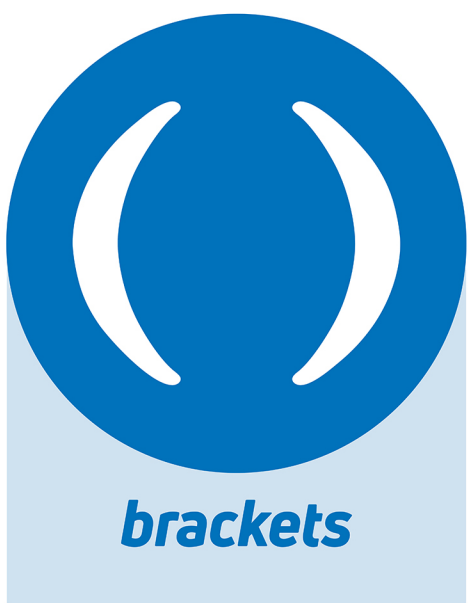
to leave a trailing thought...



to end a sentence



to add/separate information



to add extra information



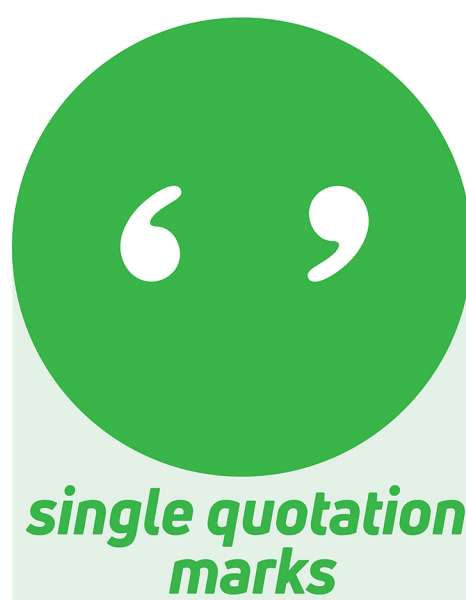
to add/separate information



for omission or possession



“Are you listening?”



to include quotes



at the end of a question

Do you know your roots?



-scop-

root meaning **'to see'**

sub-

prefix meaning **'under'**

hypo-

prefix meaning **'below'**

ex-

prefix meaning **'out of'**

con-

prefix meaning **'with'**

-logy

suffix meaning **'study of'**

-graph-

root meaning **'writing'**

-bio-

root meaning **'life'**

-techn-

root meaning **'art / skill'**

micro-

prefix meaning **'small'**

-chron-

root meaning **'time'**

-phon-

root meaning **'sound'**

Key words and definitions

community	A group of people who are in close contact and who share common interests and values.
neighbourhood	A local area within which people live as neighbours, sharing living space and interests.
census	An official count of the population to find out about the changes taking place. The Government use this to work out things like policing ,doctors, schools etc.
emigration	Leaving your homeland to live in another country.
ethnic	Someone's cultural background.
immigration	Moving to another country to live there.
minority	A smaller part of a larger group of people.
tolerant	Open minded, accepting.
asylum seeker	Someone who says he or she is a refugee, but whose claim has not yet been definitely evaluated.
Common-wealth	A voluntary group of independent countries, some of which were former British colonies.
economic migrant	A person who travels from one country to another in order to improve their standard of living.
European Union	A group of 28 countries which work together in fields such as the environment, social issues, the economy and trade.
refugee	A person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution or natural disaster.

1.1 What is a community?

A **community** is a group of people who are connected in some way. Most people belong to several communities. Someone your age, living in the UK, could be a member of the following communities and others: school, the local **neighbourhood**, the country and a religious group.



1.2 Where are your roots?



Throughout history people have settled in Britain from many different countries. They brought together their language, ideas and customs, all of which mixed together to make up the country's culture. Warlike invasions of Romans, Saxons, Vikings and Normans were followed by peaceful migrations from Europe and many former British colonies.

1800s- The Irish potato famine. The potato was the main part of the Irish rural poor's diet, so when the potato crops failed over successive years due to potato blight about 1 million people died due to starvation or typhus. Around 2 million people emigrated to countries like England or America.

1860 A quarter of the population of Liverpool was Irish.

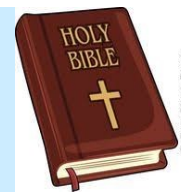
1930-45- Many of the Jewish population came here to escape persecution from Russia and other European countries. They came to escape the Holocaust in WW2.



1950s- many people from former British colonies in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean came to work here by request of our government because there was a shortage of manual and semi-skilled workers in Britain after both world wars.



1.3 Religious understanding- Although most UK citizens would probably identify as Christian, there are many other diverse religious groups. This religious diversity is the result of people settling in Britain over many years, mostly from former British colonies.



1.4 What's happening to the UK population?

The UK population has grown steadily throughout history. Here are three reasons:



Infant survival and birth rate
-Many babies used to die at a young age in the early 20th century. Today the survival rate is much higher. With more people settling here then the birth rate will also increase.

Most of the UK religions have the following in common: have a place of worship, a holy book, festivals and a moral code. Some have laws about what they can and can't eat.

Life expectancy- People used to die much earlier than most people do today. Life expectancy is now higher because most people now have a better diet, lifestyles and have better healthcare due to scientific discoveries.

Migration- Partly due to the UK being part of the EU we must accept freedom of movement between people from other EU member countries, as well as refugees escaping persecution, war and natural disasters .

© Cam Stock Photo

Key words and definitions

economy	This is made up of all the organisations that provide goods and services, and all the individuals and organisations that buy them.
entrepreneur	A person who sets up a business and takes on financial risks in the hope of making a profit.
diversity	The range of different groups that make up a wider population.
integration	Bringing different groups of people together in society.
identity	Who or what someone or something is.
identity card	A card that establishes someone's identity
multiple identity	When a person feels they have more than one identity.
discrimination	Treating someone less favourably because of their colour, ethnic origins, age, gender or disability.
harassment	Repeatedly threatening, humiliating or pestering someone.
respect	Show consideration for someone's feelings, wishes or rights.
United Nations	An international organisation that tries to encourage peace, cooperation and friendship between countries.
victimisation	Discriminating against someone unfairly.
homophobic	Fearing or hating gay or bisexual people.
Inclusive education	Schooling that involves everyone, regardless of disability or non disability.
racism	The idea that someone of different origins are not as good as others.
compensation	Making amends for something; something given to make good the loss.

1.5 Migration pros and cons

ADVANTAGES

- Immigrants fill job vacancies and help the skills gaps.
- They pay taxes and contribute to state pensions.
- Bring cultural diversity.
- Help the economy grow by working and shopping here.

DISADVANTAGES

- They may be prepared to work for less and worse working conditions.
- More people can put pressure on public services.
- May be problems with integration and friction in communities.
- Ease of movement may encourage organised crime.

1.6 What is identity?-The identity of a person is a combination of where they come from and the influences on their life. Your identity can develop and change during your life.

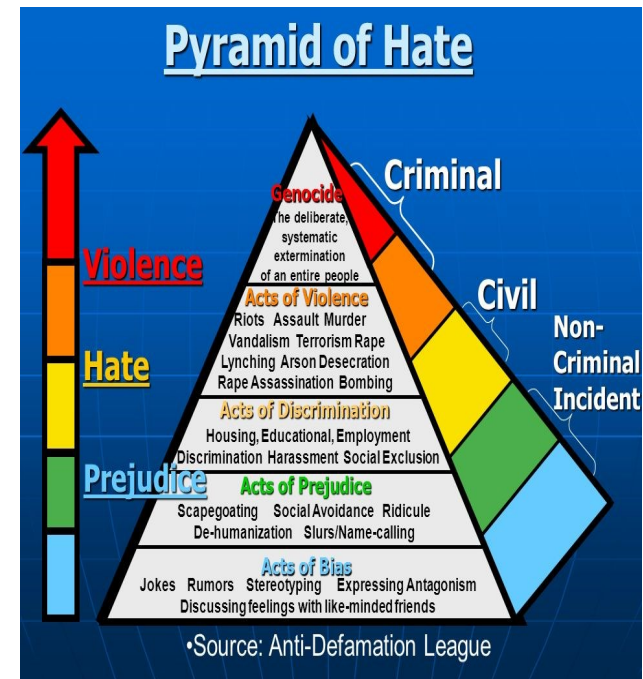
1.7 Why is it important to respect other people?

Any community in which people do not have respect for each other will have problems. Whether it is a school, workplace or club, a lack of respect will cause friction and may result in the law being broken.

1.8 Meeting barriers-Inclusive education is important as young people can learn to accept people with disabilities, and learn what the person with disabilities is capable of and how they can help. This creates mutual understanding and respect.

1.9 Discrimination and the Law

The Equality Act 2010 is the law which bans unfair treatment and helps achieve equal opportunities in the workplace and in wider society. There are **nine protected characteristics** which cannot be used to treat people unfairly. **These are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation.**



Key words and definitions

community cohesion	Creating a community where there is a sense of belonging for all communities and peoples different backgrounds are valued.
democracy	Government by the people, either directly or through elected representatives.
integration	Bringing different groups of people together in society.
convention	An agreement (often between governments)
declaration	A document setting down aims and intentions
human rights	Things that people are morally or legally allowed to do or have.
United Nations	An international organisation that tries to encourage peace, cooperation and friendship between countries.
Magna Carta	A charter of rights which the English barons forced King John to sign in 1215.

1.12 Human rights in the UK

In 1215, King John had to make peace with the barons. His reign had been corrupt and violent: he had been overtaxing his people and punishing them without fair trials etc. The **Magna Carta** was a document laying down limitations on the kings power and was signed by the King and barons which meant that everyone was equal before the law ,even the law makers. This marked the beginning of **Parliament** and **the rule of law**. If the king wanted to raise taxes then it had to go through parliament.

The three principles of Magna Carta:

1)Equality before law . 2)Access to justice (right to a fair trial). 3) Innocent till proven guilty.



1998 Human Rights Act (UK)

Since 1998, the UK has had its own laws on human rights, which say that all organisations have a duty to protect the rights of all individuals. These rights are set out in the ECHR. The Human Rights Act protects everyone in the UK.

1950 The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

This sets out the framework for European countries. If the residents of one country don't think they have had a fair response from the courts, they can take their case to the ECHR.

1.10 Mutual understanding.

Why community cohesion is important.

If everyone is to play a part in society, they need to live together happily. If there is friction, people often will not want to join in. If communities are **integrated**, people are more likely to participate.

How KHS encourage mutual understanding

Signs in different languages. Subjects like RE, citizenship, MFL,PSHE. Ramps, lifts, equipment and toilets for disabled pupils. Assemblies. Different food days. Teachers from different backgrounds etc.

1.11 What are human rights?

The **United Nations** was set up in 1945 and most countries in the world now belong to it. Together these countries developed **The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948** and the **Convention of the Rights of the Child in 1989**. They set out moral standards for everyone, but in many parts of the world people's human rights are still abused.

The declaration offers guidance for countries but it cannot be enforced legally if a country doesn't protect the rights with laws.

Five of the 30 human rights include: Right to education, right to freedom of speech, right to follow a religion, right to fair work conditions, right to a nationality.

Five child rights include: Right to not be forced to join an army, right to nutrition and healthcare, right to be amongst the first to receive relief in times of disaster, right to be brought up in peace, right to a name and nationality.



councillor	A member of a local council, elected by people in the area.
election	Selection of one or more people for an official position by voting.
Member of Parliament	A person who has been elected to represent a part of the country in parliament.
Member of the European Parliament	A person who has been elected to represent a part of the country in the European Parliament.
political rights	Rights to take part in elections and other democratic activities.
vote	To choose a candidate in an election.
Act	A law passed by parliament.
legal right	A right that is protected by law.
Contract of employment	A document that details an employee's and employer's responsibilities for a particular job.
National Living Wage	The minimum amount to be paid to an employee over the age of 25.
National Minimum Wage	The minimum amount to be paid to an employee.
trade unions	Organisations that look after the interests of a group of employees.
Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)	An organisation that offers free advice on consumer and other legal matters.
Consumer	A person who buys goods or services for their own use.
Office of Fair Trading	A government office that can take action against traders who break the law.
Trading Standards Department	An official body that enforces consumer-based law.

1.13 Political Rights -We live in a **democracy**. This means that almost everyone over the age of 18 can **vote** and can also stand as a candidate in an **election**.

Who can we vote for?

Locally-**Councillors** these are your first source of help if you are concerned about a local issue.

Nationally- every part of the country is represented by an **Member of Parliament**.

Internationally-We elect **Members of the European Parliament** to have a say in the plans that are made in Europe for us.



2018 saw the **100th anniversary** of the British women winning the right to vote with the introduction of the **Representation of the Peoples Act 1918**. These women were called the **suffragettes**. The founder was Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughter-

1.14 Legal Rights-When law protects a human right, it becomes a legal right.

1.15 Fair play at work.

The **Equality Act** protects people from discrimination on many grounds

Rights in the work place.

The **contract of employment** is an agreement between employer and employee setting out pay and conditions.

The Consumer Right Act 2015

This law provide the consumer with rights to:

Clear and honest information before you buy.

Get what you paid for

Goods and digital content that are fit for purpose.

Services that are performed with reasonable care and skill.

Faults to be put right free of charge or a refund or replacement.

Health and safety laws say that employers must provide a safe working environment and train employees to work safely.

The **National Minimum Wage** sets down the minimum anyone can be paid. The **National Living Wage** is a higher amount to be paid to people over 25.

1.16 ADR- Alternative Dispute Resolution. This can be used to sort out disputes between a consumer and business. It is usually cheaper and quicker than going to court.

Conciliation is normally the first step. This is usually free.

Arbitration- is the next step if you're still not happy.

Mediation a mediator helps seller and consumers to see each others point of view

Key words and definitions

moral right	The responsibility of people to behave in a moral way towards others.
responsibility	Something it is your duty to do or to look after.
propaganda	Information, which might be misleading, used to promote a political cause or point of view.
council	A group of people who are elected to look after the affairs of a town, district or county.
manifesto	A published statement of the aims and policies of a political party.
political party	An organised group of people with common aims who put up candidates for election.
polling station	A place where votes are cast often a school, library or village hall.
ward	An area that forms a separate part of a local council.
cabinet	The main decision making body of the council.
Chief Executive	An employee of the council, responsible for the smooth running of services.
majority	The party with a majority has won a bigger proportion of the votes than the others.
mayor	A member of a local council who is selected to be its representative on ceremonial occasions: in some areas they are also the elected leader.
business rates	A form of tax paid by all the businesses in an area. The amount a business pays depends on the rent that could be charged for its premises.
council tax	A tax paid by everyone who lives in an area. It is based on the value of their house.

1.17 Rights with responsibilities

Rights and responsibilities are best thought of as two sides of the same coin. You have rights but you also have the responsibility to ensure others enjoy those rights.

Democratic values

The value of freedom, equality and justice which we are all entitled aim to create an orderly society in which freedom is preserved. For democracy to work everyone is required to take part in the decision making, either directly or by electing a representative by voting.

IF YOU DON'T VOTE, YOU CAN'T HAVE YOUR SAY.

Referendum on the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union	
Vote only once by putting a cross <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in the box next to your choice	
Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?	
Remain a member of the European Union	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leave the European Union	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.18 Human rights: Checks and Balances.

Reasons for limiting human rights.

The interests of national security.

The protection of the reputation and rights of others

The interests of public safety

Maintaining the authority and impartiality of the justice system

The protection of the rights and freedoms of others

The prevention of disorder or crime

1.19-Who represents us

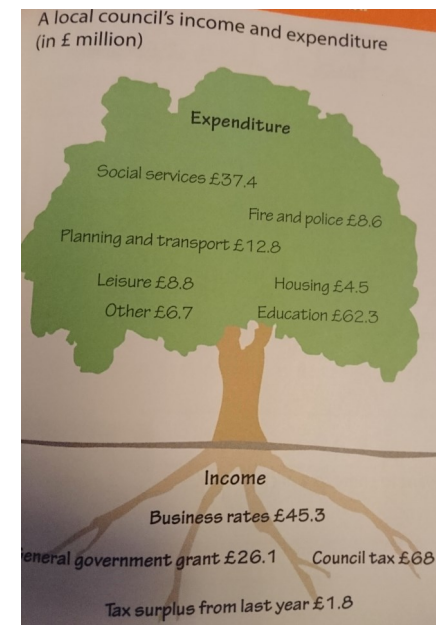
The local council is made up of people who make decisions about local services. These **councillors** represent different parts of the town called **wards**. They are chosen by election by the people who live in that ward.

1.20 Councillors are voted in in their wards they all have a vote in council meetings where they must use it in a way that serves their ward best. All the councillors put a plan together for the year and set budgets for each area of spending.

1.21 What does the council do?

Council Tax - a tax paid by everyone who lives in an area it is based on the value of their house.

Central government helps poorer areas because it is harder for them to raise money locally. If an area has more lower value houses then the council will get less in taxes.



canvassing	When people try to persuade others to vote for their party in an election
constituency	The area represented by an MP
direct democracy	A form of democracy in which everyone votes on every decision in a referendum.
first past the post	An electoral system where voters have one vote in their constituency and the candidate with the most votes wins.
general election	An election for a new government. In the UK, these take place at least every five years.
hustings	A meeting at which candidates in an election speak to the voters.
referendum	A vote by the whole electorate on a particular issue.
representative democracy	A form of democracy in which people elect a representative to make decisions for them.
closed-list system	A form of PR in which a party puts forward a list of candidates in the order they will be elected
MEP	Member of the European Parliament.
proportional representation	An electoral system in which the number of seats a party wins is roughly proportional to its share of the votes in an election.

2.1 Getting elected

There are over 650 members of parliament (MPs). They have all been elected to represent a part of the country known as a constituency. To become an MP you have to be selected by your party to stand for a constituency and then you have to stand for election which is normally every 5 years.

To gain voters the candidates can do the following:

- Go canvassing (door to door)
- Send out leaflets telling voters what they have done in the past and what they would like to do in the future.
- Attract press coverage.
- Hold public meetings.

DEBATE: *Representative democracy is better than direct democracy:*

YES it is-

Experts are elected as MPs to make decisions on behalf of the population, who have much better knowledge of political issues than the average citizen.

-In a country of 63 million people, it is impossible to ask every citizen their opinion on every issue.

-Citizens vote on issues based on their own selfish interests, whereas MPs have to consider the needs of the whole population.

NO it isn't:

-Politicians don't listen to what people want once they are elected. It is better that the people make big decisions themselves e.g. Brexit.

-MPs are disproportionately white, male, middle class and old. They cannot fully understand the interests of BAME people, young people, women and working class communities. Therefore we should use direct democracy.

Examples of local constituencies and their MPs:

Wakefield– Simon Lightwood (Labour)

Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford- Yvette Cooper (Labour)

Barnsley central- Dan Jarvis (Labour)

General election results:

2010-2015- Conservatives won the most MPs but not enough for a majority. Formed a coalition with the Liberal Democrats. The PM was David Cameron.

2015-2017. Conservatives won a majority. PM David Cameron resigned in 2017 after losing the Brexit referendum.

2017- Conservatives and DUP coalition with Theresa May as PM.

2019—Conservatives won a majority of 365 seats. Boris Johnson new PM.

Examples of referendums:

- Devolution referendums in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland in 1998
- Referendum on Scottish Independence in 2014. NO vote.
- Referendum on leaving the EU (Brexit) in 2016. YES vote.

UK left the EU on 31st January 2020.

UK general elections are held usually every 5 years.

UK Local elections are normally held every 4 years

2.1 Who is allowed to vote in the UK?

In general elections, the following people **cannot** vote:

- Members of the House of Lords
- An EU citizen resident in the UK (although they can vote in local and European Parliament elections)
- Convicted prisoners
- If you have been found guilty of corrupt practices in an election in the last 5 years.

People who can vote in the UK:

- Members of the house of commons
 - Anyone over 18 who has registered to vote
 - Any UK citizen.
- Some of the countries that have a version of proportional representation as their voting systems; Belgium, Norway, Italy, and Spain.

2.2 Elections for European parliament.

Held every 5 years.

We elect 73 MEPs.

There are 12 electoral regions in the UK.

MEPs are elected using closed –list system.

In May 2019 the Brexit party won the UK EU votes gaining 29 seats.

2nd place was Lib Dems.

2.3 It is better to vote for the Conservative Party than the Labour Party.



YES it is

The Conservative Party thinks people should be able to make decisions for themselves. Taxes should be low and government spending on welfare should also be low.

The Conservative Party believe economic inequality is not a problem as people who work hard will succeed, and those that don't work hard should not expect other people to look after them.

The Conservative Party believe strong communities are built through traditional values such as marriage, religious beliefs and ensuring laws are followed. Anyone who breaks the law should be punished harshly and authority should be respected.

The Conservative Party supports the Monarchy and the House of Lords, which are important traditional institutions.

NO it isn't

The Labour Party believes government should tax the rich heavily in order to pay for public services for all e.g. NHS, education, social care for the elderly. Cutting funding to public services hurts vulnerable people and makes society unequal and unfair.



The Labour Party believes extreme inequality is wrong and causes more problems such as crime, health issues and a cycle of poverty.

The Labour Party believes that traditional values exclude LGBT people, women who do not want to fulfil only domestic roles and anyone who is not religious.

The Labour party believes that people often break the law because they are poor and have limited opportunities.

Crime should be prevented by investing in rehabilitation programmes and education and youth services.

The House of Lords is outdated and should be abolished.

2.2 DEBATE: First Past the Post should be replaced by Proportional Representation

YES it should:

-Under FPTP, all votes that aren't for the winning candidate are wasted.

-Under PR, the number of seats a party wins reflect the percentage of votes they received, therefore it is a fairer system.

-FPTP advantage the two main parties and makes it difficult for smaller parties to get a fair share of MPs.

Under FPTP, people vote tactically rather than for who they want to win.

NO it shouldn't:

-Extremist parties are less likely to be elected as they would be unlikely to win enough votes in a single constituency.

-First Past the Post is easy to understand (unlike systems of first and second preferences, which can be confusing)

-With Proportional Representation systems, MPs represent the whole country rather than one constituency, so they do not have a connection to the local area.

back benchers	MPs who don't hold office in the government or opposition; they sit on the back benches in the house of commons.
Cabinet	A group of MPs who head major government departments.
coalition	A government made up of more than one party. It is formed when no one party has enough seats to form a government.
front benchers	MPs who hold office in the government or opposition. They sit on the front benches in the house of commons.
House of Commons	The more powerful of the two parts of the British Parliament. Its members are elected by the public.
opposition	political parties that are not in power.
Prime Minister	The leader of the majority party in the house of commons and the leader of the government.
Shadow Cabinet	MPs from the main opposition party who 'shadow' MPs who head major government departments.
Speaker	The MP elected to act as chairman for debates in the House of Commons.
bi-cameral	The UK Parliament is bi-cameral because it has two houses, the House of Commons and the House of Lords
Black Rod	The person who has ceremonial duties in the Palace of west minster, including bringing MP' to the House of Lords for the State Opening of Parliament.

2.4 Into Power.

After an election the party with the most seats will be asked by the monarch if he/she can form a government. If the answer is YES then they become the new Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister then selects the cabinet who help run the most important work of the Government.

If there is no clear majority then two parties might have to form a coalition and run the country together.



The House of Commons

2.5 Role of and MP.

MPs have a range of responsibilities:

- ◆ Their first responsibility is to the people who elected them.
- ◆ They have to deal with mail from their constituency and from their party.
- ◆ They have to hold frequent surgeries in their constituency where they can listen to people's ideas and worries.
- ◆ They take part in debates in the House of Commons where they usually vote with their party.
- ◆ They have to deal with press.
- ◆ They also take part in the process of making laws.

2.5 What does the Prime Minister do?

- Directs government policy.
- Manages the cabinet.
- Organises government.
- Controls Parliament.
- Provides national leadership.

The cabinet and other ministers.

Treasury— runs the finances.

The Home Office— is responsible for protecting the public.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Office— is responsible for the UK's interests abroad.

Other departments include;

Health, defence, justice, children, schools and families, culture, media and sport. Business and enterprise. Transport etc.



the executive	Makes policy and puts it into practice. It is made up of the Prime Minister, Cabinet and civil service.
the judiciary	Makes judgements about the law. It is made up of judges and magistrates in courts.
the legislature	Makes laws. It is made up of the House of Lords and the House of Commons.
Minister of State	An assistant to the secretary of state.
Secretary of State	An MP who is in charge of a government department such as health or defence.
accountable	If you are accountable for something, you are responsible for it and have to explain your actions.
Act of Parliament	A law passed by parliament.
bill	A proposal to change something into law.
Green Paper	This puts forward ideas that the government wants discussed before it starts to develop policy.
White Paper	This puts government policy up for discussion before it becomes law.

2.5 The Two Houses.

Parliament is bi-cameral as it has two 'houses'.

- ◆ The House of Commons, members of which are elected by the public.
- ◆ The House of Lords , members of which is both appointed and hereditary.
- ◆ MPs are called to the House of Lords by Black Rod, who looks after the palace of Westminster as the houses of parliament are known. This is to show the independence of the House of Commons from the monarch.
- ◆ Black rod knocks three times and the MPs are allowed to hear the speech.

2.6 How laws are made.

Parliament passes laws that determine how we live our lives. By electing a government we give it power to do this.

Laws go through several stages before they are made for the some of the following reasons:

- It has to be a just law that doesn't affect anyone's human rights.
- It has to be checked that there are no loopholes to avoid criminals getting away with breaking the law.
- It has to be checked that it doesn't clash with any existing laws.

Current bills that could become an Act of Parliament soon:

- European Union (Withdrawal) Bill 2017-19
- UK Data Protection Bill 2017

Recent Act of Parliament:

Investigatory Powers Act 2016

The 7 stages of law making.

1. First Reading:
2. Second Reading:
3. Committee:
4. Report:
5. Third Reading:
6. House of Lords:
7. Royal Assent:

For a bill to become an Act of Parliament, the House of Commons and the House of Lords both have to vote it through with a majority of 50% or more.

The Queen will then sign it into law.

Assembly	A body of people elected to decide on some areas of spending in a region.
devolution	The transfer of power from central to regional government.
British constitution	The laws and conventions which set down how the UK is governed.
judicial review	A review carried out by the High Court to decide whether a decision made by a public body has been made properly.
Parliamentary inquiry	An enquiry set up to investigate actions taken by government departments and public bodies.
Parliamentary sovereignty	Parliament is the top legal body and can pass new laws or stop old ones.
select committee	One of the committees that check and report on the work of government departments.
Budget	The process each year when the Chancellor of the Exchequer explains how the government will raise and spend money.
Chancellor of the Exchequer	The member of the government who is responsible for the country's finances.
government revenue	The money raised by the government.

2.7 DEBATE: Scotland should become an independent country



YES it should

Scotland was an independent country until the Act of Union 1707. It has a separate history and culture to England and the rest of the UK. Scotland often votes differently to England, yet as England has many more people, meaning Scottish voters often don't get what they want in elections e.g. Scotland voted against Brexit and against the Conservative Party. North Sea oil is an important natural resource that should belong to Scotland, not the rest of the UK, and would make Scotland economically wealthy if it became an independent country.

NO it shouldn't

Scotland receives much more in central government funding than it pays in taxes. Independence for Scotland would mean a reduction in funds for public services and an increase in poverty. Scotland has been part of the UK for over 300 years. To become independent now doesn't make sense. Scotland is already partly self-governing because of devolution. It has more powers than any other region of the UK e.g. Scottish Parliament have implemented free tuition fees in Scotland. Devolution is the 'best of both' worlds.

Most of Scotland's trade is with England. Creating a border between England and Scotland would be very bad for trade.

Common Law— is made by judges. When they make decisions in court they sometimes change the law

Conventions— tell us a range of things that have developed over time for example, that the Prime Minister should be in the House of Commons. This is not always the case.

2.8 THE BRITISH CONSTITUTION



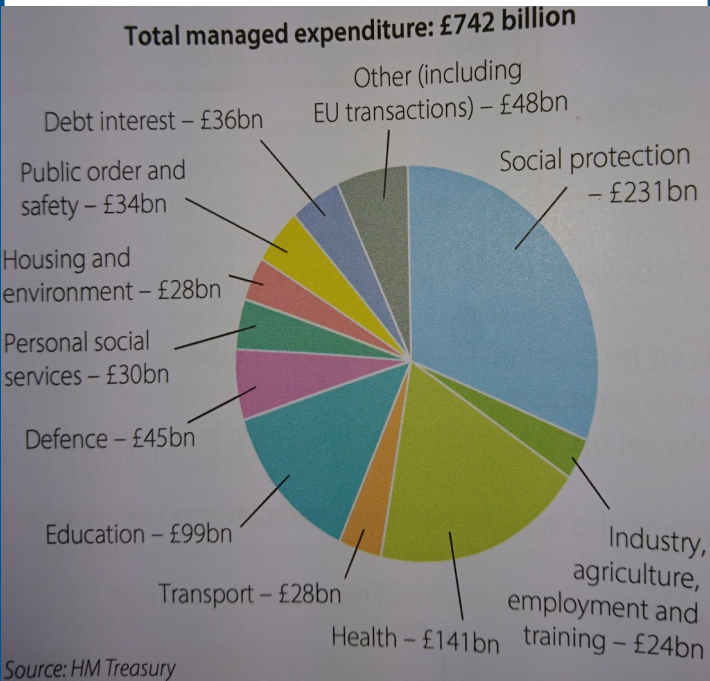
European Law— affects the UK as a member of the European Union.

Statute Law— is a law that has been passed by parliament over a long period. These laws start with Magna Carta and, in more recent times, include Britain's joining the European community, devolution when the Scottish Parliament was set up, and the introduction of the Human Rights Act.

2.9 Balancing the budget

What does the government spend?

The government spends its money on a wide range of services. The pie chart below shows the main areas of spending and the proportion spent in each area. This is roughly the way it is divided up from year to year.



Where does the money come from?

If the government is to provide these services, it needs to raise money to pay for them. The money, or government revenue, comes from taxation or borrowing, as the pie chart opposite shows.

Corporation tax is paid on the profits of all businesses.

Value added tax (VAT) is paid on almost everything we buy apart from food, children's clothing, books and newspapers.

The amount paid is a percentage of the total value of the products.

Excise duties are charged on a range of items, many of which are not very good for you if you have too much of them. These include alcohol and cigarettes.

National Insurance is a tax on income. People often think it pays for pensions and benefits, but it just goes into the pot with the other taxes.

Income Tax is not paid by people who earn very little, but as your income rises you pay more tax. It is worked out as a percentage of your earnings. People on high incomes pay a higher percentage on their earnings in income tax

UK Taxes.

Other taxes include those on cars and petrol. These allow governments to tax particular items to raise money or to try to reduce the amount we buy.

Some taxes are raised in local areas. These include council tax and business rates.

