

Political Systems

Democracy	Republic	Monarchy	Communism
Refers to the system in which citizens have the right to take part in the decision making process	Citizens have the right to take part in the decision-making process, but has a president as their leader, not a monarch	A system of government in which a country is ruled by a king and queen whose power is limited by a constitution	A political and economic system that seeks to create a classless society in which the major means of production are owned and controlled by the public

Monarchy

Role	Responsibilities
Head of State	Role Model
Head of Commonwealth	Political Neutrality
Authorising legislation through Royal Assent	Constitutional Duties
Advising PM, Government Officials	Representational Duties

House of Commons

Composition	Role	Responsibilities
Elected house	Represent the people	Representing individuals and communities
Made up of elected representatives from constituencies	Examining & challenging the work of the government	Enabling debate & discussion
Representatives are drawn from parties that have been elected	Debating and passing all laws	Political Neutrality
	Enabling the government to manage public finances through taxation	Voting on legislation

Institutions of State

- Executive** - government, the PM, Cabinet and other ministers (to develop policies and propose legislation)
- Legislature** - Parliament, members of the House of Commons and Lords (to debate proposed legislation and enact laws)
- Judiciary** - judges (interpret and apply legislation in line with the intention of Parliament as well as developing common law)

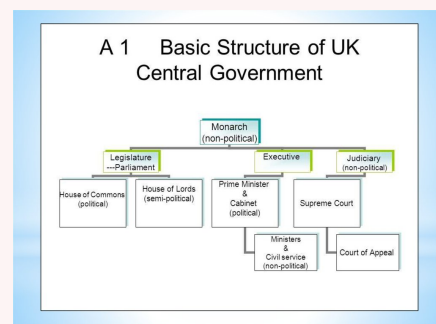
Parliamentary Privilege

Freedom of speech and debate

Northern Ireland Assembly

Composition	Roles and Responsibilities
Currently has 90 members	Representing Northern Ireland and its people
First Minister who is elected by all members	Making legislation
18 constituencies in Northern Ireland	Scrutinising the executive committee

Structural Diagram



Local Government

- Role**
 - Represent residents in local areas
 - Work with a range of partners to determine and deliver services
 - Deliver essential services
- Types**
 - County councils, district councils, unitary authorities
 - London Boroughs, Greater London Authority, Metropolitan Districts



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The Executive

Roles and Responsibility

Cabinet - setting the strategic direction of the country, and putting policies in place that are then implemented by the protective services

Government Ministers - holding public office & enabling policies set to be implemented by the departments

Civil Servants - ensuring the daily running of departments, implementing the policies set by the government

Government Departments

Ministry of Defence (armed services)

Home Office (police, national crime agency, UK visas and immigration)

Ministry of Justice (Prison Service, Probation Service)

Department for Communities and Local Government (Fire & Rescue Services)

Department of Health (Ambulance and NHS)

House of Commons



House of Lords

Composition	Role	Responsibilities
Not an elected body, but has appointed representatives	Make laws	Remaining independent from the work of Commons
Hereditary peers, life peers, senior bishops	Check & challenge the actions of the government and provide a forum of independent expertise	Checking bills to ensure that laws are fit for purpose
	Provide advice and guidance to Commons, government and other public bodies	Representation of committees investigating public policy

Separation of Powers

Separation of powers is in place to ensure that the major institutions of state are independent of each other so no individual should have power that spans all offices

Scottish Parliament

Roles and Responsibility	Composition
Implementing laws and policy on matters that affect Scotland (health, education, environment, agriculture, housing)	Self-contained meaning it doesn't need authorisation from UK Parliament
Allocation of the Scottish budget	Currently made up of around 129 members
To pass laws (doesn't need authorisation from UK Parliament due to independence)	The party with the most votes forms the government.

Welsh Parliament

Composition	**Roles and Responsibilities
Around 60 members	Representing Wales and its people
40 = elected constituency members	Making laws for Wales
20 = elected on a regional basis	Agreeing Welsh Taxes
First Minister who is elected by the whole executive	Holding the Welsh Government to account

Reserved Powers

The UK Parliament has reserved powers which means it still has jurisdiction on matters that affect the UK as a whole or have an international impact

Those which stay with Parliament in Westminster



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