

Weeks 1 and 2: What is the British constitution and what roles do different people play?

Week 3: What are the main political parties in the UK?

Key word	Definition	Image
constitution	The rules on how a country is governed.	
political party	A group of people organised to achieve and use political power. The main political parties are in the table in Week 3.	
parliament	The House of Commons, the House of Lords and the monarch.	
government	Groups of people, led by the prime minister, who develop policies and propose laws.	
House of Commons	The elected members of the UK parliament. It is made of MPs.	
House of Lords	The second chamber of the UK parliament.	
member of parliament (MP)	An elected representative.	
monarch	The king/queen. Also called a Sovereign.	
prime minister	The leader of the government.	

Each political party has a different opinion about what is important to the running of the country. When people vote, they can vote for the MP representing the party which best matches their views.

Political Party	Logo	Leader	Political leaning
The Conservative Party		Rishi Sunak	Centre-right.
The Labour Party		Kier Starmer	Centre-left.
The Scottish National Party		John Swinney	Centre-left.
The Liberal Democrats		Ed Davey	Centre to centre-left.

A constituency is an area of around 70,000 people, who elect a representative to become their MP.

We are in the Leeds South constituency. By 7th June 2024, all of the candidates for Leeds South will be announced.

On 4th July, a general election will be held. This means that people voting in this area will choose an MP from those who are standing for election.

Follow the QR codes below to access more information, advice and support.

This BBC Bitesize page explains more about the British democratic system. There is a quiz at the end to test yourself!

The QR codes at the bottom of this Knowledge Organiser will help you to learn more about what it means to be an active participant in British democracy.



This BBC Bitesize page provides more information about the political parties in the UK and how people participate.



Week 4: What is a general election and how does it work?

Democracy

Democracy is the foundation of the UK's political system.

This British value is based on the idea that everyone should have an equal say in how their country is run, and that the government should be accountable to the people.

All things voting, elections and referendums fall under the banner of democracy.

British Values

Trinity Academy Leeds

In the UK, we have a system called 'First Past the Post' this means that the winning MP from each constituency, wins the seat in the House of Commons.

VOTE FOR ONE CANDIDATE ONLY		
1	KHAYUM	Labour
2	MACK	Green Party
3	FROST	Liberal Democrat
4	HOYES	Conservative Party
5	HAYWARD	UKIP
6	MILLARD	SNP
7	SMITH	Plaid Cymru

When people vote for an MP, they can only choose one candidate. A voting slip looks a little like the image. People complete it in a booth, so no-one else can see it. Then they post it into a box.

The votes for each constituency are counted up and a winning candidate is announced. This candidate then has a seat in the House of Commons. The political party with the most seats is invited by the monarch to form a government.

The leader of that political party then becomes the Prime Minister.

Week 5: What is financial planning and why is it important?

Financial planning is the decisions you make around spending money. Taking responsibility for financial decisions can help you to lead a happy life.

As a young person, you will not yet have access to large amounts of money, but it is important to know what might influence you when you are making financial decisions.

Being influenced is when something happens to impact on the decisions you make. The sort of things which can influence your financial decisions are:

- An advertisement about a food product.
- A celebrity posting a video online with a positive review of a product.
- An online news site printing positive reviews of a new online streaming service.

When items such as these are posted online, they often leave out the negatives for example:

- The sugar and fat content in the food product.
- The fact that the celebrity has not actually tried the product that they are reviewing.
- The online news site is not a verified source, and will make money if people sign up for the online streaming service.

Before you spend money, it is important that you ask yourself questions, to confirm that the spending is **justified**.

People sometimes make false claims online, because they think they cannot be identified.

Week 6: Rewind week.

Top tips for questions you can ask yourself around spending money:

- How urgently do I need this?
- Are there other reviews of the product?
- How much can I afford?
- Are there other products that are similar but cheaper?



A reminder also about checking the sources of your information:



- **Check the source.**

Check the name of the website and its web address to see if it looks real. Some sites will try to look like other websites.

- **Look for evidence.**

Find out whether it is being reported on other sites that you know and trust. If it's only being reported on websites that you've never hear of then it might not be true.

- **Don't decide straight away.**

Sometimes headlines or stories are designed to scare or interest you. Read the article carefully and ask yourself whether it seems true and why they are saying it.

- **Speak to a trusted adult.**

Try asking an adult you trust to see what they think. If you are worried about something online, you can also speak to a Childline counsellor.

Follow the QR codes below to access more information, advice and support.

This BBC Bitesize page explains more about the First Past the Post system. Read the information then quiz yourself.



Take this quiz to test your financial knowledge. It will give you some advice at the end, based on your answers.



Childline has lots of tips to help you to stay safe online and critically assess information.

