



**ELSLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**HISTORY**  
**KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER**

Understanding the importance of UK  
 parliament, democracy & politics today

**YEAR 6 AUT 1**  
**BIG QUESTION:**  
*How does politics impact me?*

**Democracy**

**What does democracy mean?** A system of government by the entire population or a majority of eligible citizens, usually through elected representatives.

It includes the following aspects:

- Regular and fair elections
- An electoral system where there is a secret ballot and where the results reflect the views of the people. The results are also accountable.
- There are regular elections which makes the Government accountable.
- Any citizen can stand for election.
- Candidates can campaign equally without any fear of intimidation or bribery.
- The media can freely report on the work of Government.
- The judiciary is separate from government and citizens can use the legal process to hold government to account.



**Prime Minister:**  
**Liz Truss**

**Government and Laws**

**Political Party** – group of people who share the political ideas and work together to achieve power at local or national level e.g. The Labour Party or the Conservative Party.

**The Opposition** – all parties not in government – who are 'in opposition' to the Government. The largest opposition party = Her Majesty's Official Opposition.

**The Cabinet** – senior members of the Government who hold ministerial jobs.

1. The law limits the number of ministers in the Cabinet.
2. Ministers receive more money than MPs.
3. The most senior ministers are the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Home Secretary and the Foreign Secretary.
4. Cabinet meets regularly at 10 Downing Street.
5. The Prime Minister chairs Cabinet meetings.
6. The Prime Minister decides who is in the Cabinet and can sack them at any time.

**UK – currently Conservative Party form the Government, the Labour Party are the Official Opposition**

**General Elections – held every 5 years!**



**Political Parties & Elections**



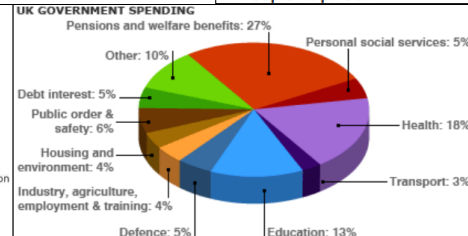
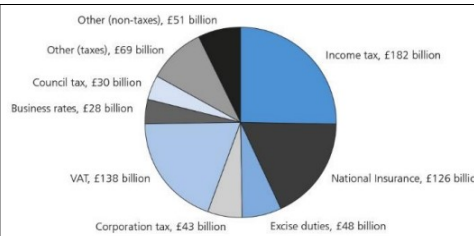
**Who can vote in elections?**

- A British Citizen or a member of the EU or Commonwealth living in the UK.
- Anyone 18 and over can register to vote.
- Not suffering any legal incapacity to vote.

**Who cannot vote in elections?**

- Members of the House of Lords.
- People in prison

**Government Income and Spending**



**Managing a cost of living crisis**



Democracy	A system of government by the entire population or a majority of eligible citizens, usually through elected representatives.
Devolution	A process where power is shared between different bodies. In the UK there are separate elected bodies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
Government	The individuals who run the state. In the UK we refer to 'central government', which is made up of political parties that won the general election. The prime minister leads the government and appoints ministers
Parliament	Elected representatives who meet and debate and pass new laws. In the UK it is made up of the House of Commons, House of Lords and the Monarch (The Queen)
Prime Minister	The Head of Government. The Prime Minister is the leader of the largest party in the House of Commons and is an elected MP.
Civil Service:	Employees of the state who administer our public policy.
Political Parties	A group of people who share a common ideology and political beliefs and wishes to win elections in order to carry out their ideas.
The Opposition	The 'official opposition' is the name given to the largest party in the Commons not in power. The opposition are MPs representing parties not in government.
Local Elections	Elections held for councillors to local councils, held on a fixed date in May after the fixed term of office has expired.
General Elections	Elections held every 5 years to decide which political party should become the central government.
Budget	An annual statement made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the House of Commons about the taxation and spending policy for the forthcoming year.
Manifesto	A document provided by a political party at the time of an election outlining the policies it would like to introduce.
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	The value of all the goods and services created in a country, normally measured on an annual basis.
Economy	System of income and spending
Constituencies	A named geographical area consisting on average of about 65,000 voters which elects a single MP to the UK Parliament.
Houses of Parliament	Building in Westminster where government business takes place
10 Downing Street	Home address of the Prime minister and government meetings.
Brexit	Process of the Great Britain leaving the European Union (EU)

**Recommended websites**

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/how-government-works>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-46318565>