

MODERN VOTING

In the UK, a general election is held every 5 years where the members of the public who are over 18 and are not in prison can choose the government in power. In constituencies, people vote in polling stations for the party they want to govern the country. They go into the polling station and queue to go into a private booth. In that booth no-one can see who they are voting for. The person voting then puts a single cross on the ballot paper indicating what party they want to vote for. This process is repeated in the 650 constituencies that make up Great Britain. The winning representative gets a seat in parliament for their party. The UK uses a voting system called First Past The Post (FPTP). FPTP is where a party running for government has to get 1 more than half the seats in the House of Commons (326) before they become the party in power. The leader of the party is usually asked by the Queen to become Prime Minister. If no party gets to 326 seats in the House of Commons, a party can join another to gain more seats. If this doesn't happen or won't make a difference another vote is held. The winning party makes up the government and sits on the right hand side of the commons speaker. Anyone who can vote can also run to be a MP. Not every MP can attend every meeting in the House of Commons: the House of Commons only has 437 seats as that was the number of seats that were originally there before Westminster palace was burnt down, this hasn't changed since. Once a party is in power, the Prime Minister chooses a cabinet which is a group of people called cabinet ministers that are in charge of government departments and help the Prime Minister run the country.

