

Direct Democracy

- Athenian
- Popular participation
- Small scale?
- Speed?
- Unprofessional?
- Referendums

devolve

amateur but
people took part

- selected by lot in Athens - basic model
- everyone has a chance to take part

localism

federalism

Representative Democracy

- Indirect → voting for the people not 'in their best interests'
- Not delegated democracy
- Additional work: what did Edmund Burke say about Representatives (MPs) in 1774?
- Constituencies and constituents
- Accountability(?)
- Poor popular participation
- Too party-political Party over people; pressure;
- Unrepresentative? gender, ethnicity, class, working/middle
- Practical, professional

best we can have?

- the MPs act in our best interests - they decide for us - not delegates.

- "sucking up" - populism

- in most constituencies MPs don't win 50% of the vote.

whips manage votes

↳ member of govt.
↳ govt controlled votes;

↳ party telling MPs how to vote in big important votes.

not representing society
↳ primarily educated middle class men.

→ representing everyone.

Liberal Democracy

- Political equality → one vote in GE → FPTP
- Multiple parties (but unrepresentative MPs)
- Free and fair and regular elections (secret ballot) (but FPTP and poor participation)
- Freedom of speech, movement and association
- Rule of Law (not Rule of Men)
- Freedom of the press and PGs
- Impartial Civil Service

→ advise parties on how best to implement their policies.

not what man says, but what the law says

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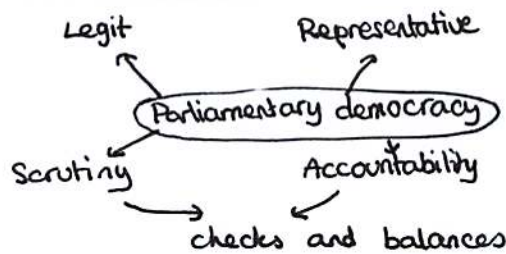
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Parliamentary Democracy

→ *lit. FR* ~~parley~~ ≠ presidential democracy →

- Talking shop
- Unelected Head of State and PM (*Queen*)
- Unelected (and over-dominant?) Executive (cabinet) & Government Parliamentary Sovereignty
- Bi-cameral (one unelected)
- Adversarial → *room / chamber*
- Legitimation, representation, legislation, scrutiny and accountability (but secrecy)
- Parliamentary Sovereignty (but EU)
- Additional work: criticisms of Parliamentary democracy?

PM selects Cabinet

opponent has a duty to question and oppose — *ex (now) Labour*

important

The convention that no body can override legislation made by the current Parliament.

UK retains parliamentary sovereignty in this because ~~the~~ ^{it} can leave the EU if it doesn't like something. UK law cannot override EU Law

Enhancing democracy

- Referendums
- Compulsory voting
- Fixed term election
- P.R. ~~equal~~ ^{proportional} representation
- E-democracy
- Elected second chamber *fairer if Hol elected*
- Political education ++

Exercises:

In pairs:

1. Produce a table showing the democratic and undemocratic elements of the UK political system.
2. List the advantages and disadvantages of possible solutions to three of the undemocratic elements from question 1
