

## General informations

Britain is a parliamentary democracy and a monarchy.

- The members of the House of Commons make the laws
- The 650 Member of Parliament are elected in a first-past-the-post system whenever the Prime Minister dissolves Parliament (one Member of Parliament per constituency).
- The maximum life of a parliament is five years.
- The leader of the winning party becomes Prime Minister and forms a government (Cabinet).
- The members of the House of Lords can suggest changes to legislation. They are basically not elected (appointed or by heritage) although the House of Lords is being reformed (over 700 members).
- The Queen is the formal Head of State, appoints members of the Upper House and formally approves legislation and dissolves Parliament but the Prime Minister tells what to do.
- The Parliament controls the actions of the Government
- General election: When parliament is dissolved by the Queen of advice of the Prime Minister
- Maximum life of the Parliament: 5 Years
- Prime Minister = Highest Instance
- 700 Members at the House Of Lords
- Highest Court = Supreme Court
- The members of the Parliament represent the 650 constituencies

## The Prime Minister

- No directly job description
- Representative function (Holding speeches etc.)
- Spend time from Monday to Thursday and occasionally part of Friday in Westminster (constituency time)
- Involved in a variety of work in the House Of Commons
- Promote his own party

Description	UK	Germany
Head of State	Federal President	Bundespräsident
Legislature	Parliament	Parliament
Head of Government	Prime Minister	Chancellor
Head of Court	Supreme Court	Federal Constitutional Court

## Compared to the US-American system