

**UKPW
Booklet
2022**

Welcome to UK Parliament Week 2022

We're delighted you're taking part in UK Parliament Week this year. By joining in, you have the chance to brush up on your parliamentary knowledge and make sure you know how to speak up on issues that matter to you.



In this booklet you'll find need-to-know information about how UK Parliament works and how you can get involved, as well as ideas for activities you can run as part of UK Parliament Week.

This year some of our activities mark the historic restoration of the iconic Elizabeth Tower, while others celebrate being back together, with ideas for events and activities to run as a group or working as a team.

Whether you have a week, a day, or an hour to get involved this year, it all makes a difference. And, as always, we love to see what you get up to, so please do share your photos and videos on social media using #UKPW.

We look forward to hearing how you get involved this UK Parliament Week.

The UK Parliament Week team

Pushed for time?

Don't worry if you need to plan your activities for before or after UK Parliament Week itself. The important thing is that you get involved.



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ukparliamentweek.org

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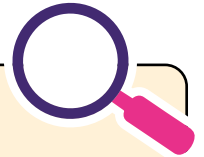
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Need to know... UK Parliament



Definition

‘UK Parliament’ checks and challenges the work of government, debates big issues and makes sure the UK public’s voice is heard by the government of the day.



Two Houses = one UK Parliament

UK Parliament has two Houses: the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

- **The House of Commons** is made up of 650 MPs who are elected to represent their local constituency (area).
- **The House of Lords** has around 800 members, mostly appointed for their knowledge and experience.
- **The monarch** is the third part of UK Parliament. Their role is mostly ceremonial today. They visit for the State Opening of UK Parliament, and agree every new law by ‘Royal Assent’.

Three main roles of UK Parliament

1. **To represent people’s interests** – making sure the government considers the public’s views.
2. **To make and shape laws** – the government can’t make or change laws, or raise new taxes, without UK Parliament’s agreement.
3. **To check and challenge the work of the government** – through debates, committees and questions.



Parliament and Government – what's the difference?

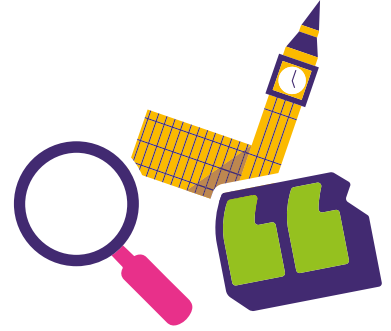
UK Parliament checks and challenges the work of government, bringing different views and experience to debates and decisions. UK Parliament includes all the MPs elected in a general election, and all members of the Lords.

UK Government is responsible for the day-to-day running of the country, including deciding how to spend public money and how to deliver public services. There are around 120 members of government who are selected by the Prime Minister. Around 20 of these make up the Cabinet, with ministers leading on priority policy areas, such as health or education. Some ministers are MPs and some are members of the Lords.



Dig deeper...

The Two Houses



Members in each of UK Parliament's two Houses play different roles. They work together to scrutinise government and make decisions.

The House of Commons



1. Ministers

Ministers speak for the government from the frontbenches in debates and answer questions from MPs of all political parties.

2. The Speaker

The Speaker is an MP who's been elected by the other MPs to act as Chair when debates take place in the Chamber. Their job is to make sure that the rules are being followed and debates are orderly.

3. Government benches

MPs in the governing party who are not ministers sit on the benches to the right of the Speaker.

4. Backbenchers

These are MPs who are not government ministers or Opposition shadow spokespeople. They play an important role during debates by checking and challenging ministers with lots of questions.

5. Opposition benches

This is where MPs from political parties other than the governing party sit. These benches are opposite the government benches.

Visit UK Parliament from home

The virtual tour on UK Parliament's website lets you take a 360 visit from your own home, including looking around the debating Chambers and Westminster Hall:

learning.parliament.uk/en/resources/360-tour/



The House of Lords



1. Government benches

These benches are made up of members who represent the governing party.

2. Government front bench

This is where ministers and government spokespeople sit.

3. Lord Speaker

The Lord Speaker chairs the business in the Chamber and is elected by other members. They are politically unbiased, so are able to make decisions impartially.

4. Crossbenchers

These members are independent of the main political parties.

5. Opposition benches

Members from the main Opposition party and other parties sit on the benches opposite the government.

6. Backbenchers

These are members who are neither government ministers nor opposition shadow spokespeople. Their role is to check and challenge ministers during debates and ask questions.

Need to know... Devolution



Definition

'Devolution' is the transfer of power from the UK Parliament to the Northern Ireland Assembly, the Scottish Parliament and the Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament.



Why did Devolution happen?

The UK is made up of four countries, England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. These nations all have their own history and culture.

The balance of power between them has sometimes been strongly debated and has changed over time.

Today, UK Parliament has moved, or 'devolved', some of its decision-making powers to the Northern Ireland Assembly, the Scottish Parliament and the Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament.

Devolution bases decision making closer to the people the decisions affect.

When did Devolution happen?

Devolution in the UK goes back to the late 1990s. In 1997 voters chose to create a Scottish Parliament and a National Assembly for Wales.

In Northern Ireland devolution was an element of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and was supported in a public vote, or 'referendum', in 1998.

Decisions affecting England are still made in the UK Parliament.

Representatives in devolved parliaments

MLA | Member of the Legislative Assembly
(Northern Ireland)

MS | Member of the
Senedd Cymru/Welsh
Parliament (Wales)

MSP | Member of the Scottish Parliament
(Scotland)

UK nations and their devolved parliaments



Northern Ireland
Northern Ireland
Assembly



Scotland
Scottish
Parliament

Wales
Senedd Cymru /
Welsh Parliament



UK / England
UK Parliament



Dig deeper... Devolved legislation in action



UK-wide decisions & legislation

The UK Parliament continues to make some decisions that impact all four UK nations. These include decisions about our army and our shared international relationships.

Devolved decisions & legislation

Each nation has a different agreement about the public services and legislation (laws) they are responsible for. Some key areas include health, education, housing and transport.

Case studies

Devolved legislation can cover a range of issues that are important to that nation; from responding to local emergencies, to reacting to needs specific to the country, or to move forward wider issues that have been raised by their Members.

Here are three examples of devolved legislation in action:



Northern Ireland Assembly: Responding to COVID-19

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Northern Ireland Assembly passed emergency legislation to offer further protection to those renting accommodation from private landlords. The 'Private Tenancies (Coronavirus Modifications) Act (Northern Ireland) 2020' ensured a longer period of time must be given before a rental agreement could be ended for eligible renters. This aimed to support those needing to isolate and follow other COVID-19 guidance during a challenging time.

Find out more about Northern Ireland legislation here:

niassembly.gov.uk/assembly-business/legislation

Scottish Parliament: Providing free period products

Scotland was the first country in the world to make period products free for all. The cause was championed by Scottish MSPs (Members of the Scottish Parliament) who highlighted the issue of period poverty to the Scottish Parliament through debates. In 2020, MSPs unanimously approved the 'Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Bill'. As a result, local authorities must now make sure that free items such as tampons and sanitary pads are available to 'anyone who needs them'.

Find out more about legislation in Scotland here:

legislation.gov.uk/asp

Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament: Supporting the Welsh language

In 1993 the Welsh Parliament passed a new law called the 'Welsh Language Act (1993)'. This law set out that public bodies should follow the principle that Welsh and English languages should be treated equally during acts of public business in Wales. It also said that many bodies must have a plan in place to clearly outline how they would provide Welsh language services or information as needed. The Act had a very specific and clear relevance to the people of Wales and their national culture.

Find out more about legislation in Wales here:

law.gov.wales

Restoring the Elizabeth Tower



The iconic Elizabeth Tower is affectionally known as ‘Big Ben’ after the bell inside it and is a world renowned UK landmark. Find out about its restoration.

Since 2017, UK Parliament has been carefully restoring the clock tower to make it fit for the 21st century. This has been vital to ensure that this iconic building, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site, can be visited and enjoyed by you and future generations to come.

The famous bell, Big Ben, has been chiming for over 160 years, watching over our democracy as our rights, laws and the world we live in has changed. During this time, the effects of weather, pollution and bombing during the Second World War left it needing extensive restoration.

Many hundreds of specialist craftspeople from across the UK have contributed to the conservation project. They have used traditional trades including stone masonry, gilding, glass cutting and horology (the study of time).





Spot the difference!

Look out for some changes to the iconic clock dial when you next visit the Elizabeth Tower or spot it in the London skyline on TV:

- Restored clock hands: These were restored to their original colour, which had been painted over in black to hide damage.
- Replaced gold gilding: Some of the gold-leaf gilt had worn away over the years or even been painted over and needed to be replaced.
- Heraldic shields returned: Shields based on the St George Cross have been recreated above the clock dial.
- National symbols returned: Symbols for England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales have also been restored.

Sir Lindsay Hoyle, Speaker of the House of Commons said: 'Thanks to the work of people from across the country, our much-loved 'Big Ben' – which has survived whatever nature and the ravages of time could throw at it – will be ready to face the next 160 years.'



Play: Big Ben Bong-O!



Pick up some fascinating facts about UK Parliament as you try to tick off every number on the Elizabeth Tower clock face.

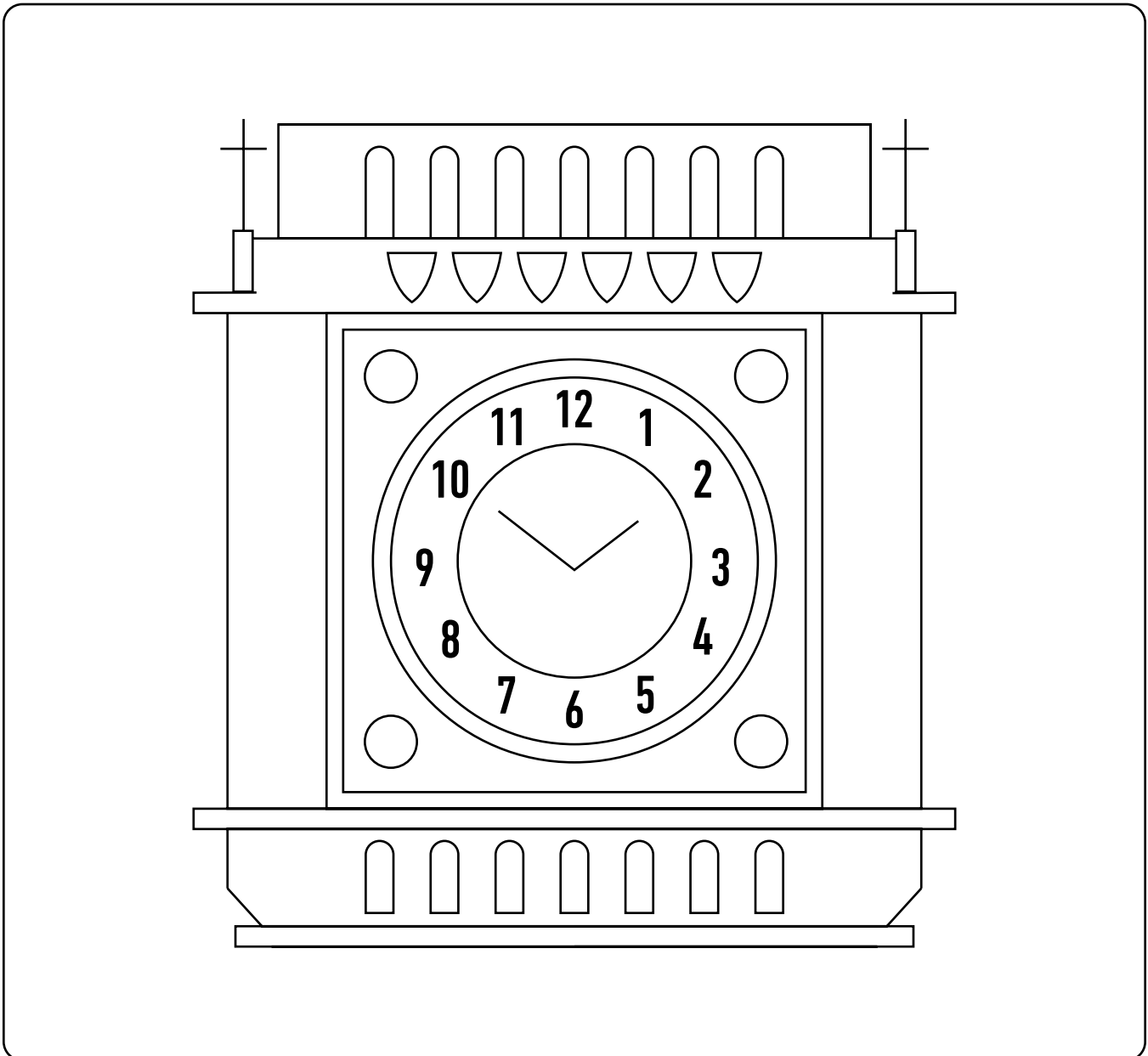
How to play

1. Ask group members to draw the Big Ben clock face with all 12 numbers in position like the image right.
2. Each person must now draw a line through four of the numbers around their clock at random. The numbers they have left are the ones they are listening out for.
3. Call out a question from the list on pages 15-16. Individuals must put up their hand if they know which number (from one to twelve) is the answer. Choose someone to answer from the group.
4. Anyone with the correct number can then cross it out on their clock face card.
5. The winner/s are the first to call out 'BONG-O' when all the numbers on their card are crossed off. Continue until everyone has got 'BONG-O'.

Take it online

You can use the hand-up icon for people to answer the questions. People can only unmute to answer or to call out 'BONG-O!'.

PLAY: BIG BEN BONG-O!





Big Ben Bong-O Questions

The order of the questions below has been deliberately muddled ready to be read out. But, to make it feel more like real bingo, you could print out the questions and pick them at random from a bowl or your UKPW ballot box.

- Was the Elizabeth Tower named after Queen Elizabeth the First (1) or the Second (2)? **Answer: 2** (It was named in 2012 to mark Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee).
- How many countries are represented in UK Parliament? **Answer: 4** (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales).
- In which century was Westminster Hall, the oldest building in Parliament, built? **Answer: 11** (The Hall was built in 1097 under William II).
- How many constituencies does each MP represent in the House of Commons? **Answer: 1** (There are 650 MPs each representing one area of the UK, known as a constituency).
- How long in feet is the ornamental club, called the 'mace', which is carried into the House of Commons Chamber before each sitting? **Answer: 5** (The mace dates from the reign of Charles II).
- If you take the age you can register to vote in the UK and divide it by two, what number do you get? **Answer: 8** (you can register from the age of 16 in England, Scotland and Wales, and from 17 in Northern Ireland).



- At what time is Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) held?
Answer: 12 (PMQs takes place every Wednesday at 12 noon and allows MPs to regularly question the Prime Minister).
- How many days a week can you submit a petition to UK Parliament? **Answer: 7** (the e-petition website accepts petitions every day of the week, 24 hours a day – excluding some holidays. All petitions submitted are checked before 'going live' online).
- If you take the age you can vote in the UK and divide it by two, what number do you get? **Answer: 9** (you can vote in UK elections and referendums from the age of 18).
- How many 'readings' of a bill are there when a new idea for a law is being debated? **Answer: 3** (the 'third reading' is normally the final opportunity for the Commons or the Lords to decide whether to pass or reject a bill in its entirety).
- In what year of the 2000s was the first Lord Speaker elected in the House of Lords? **Answer: 6** (The first Lord Speaker elected in 2006 was Baroness Hayman. The Lord Speaker oversees proceedings during debates in the Lords Chamber).
- In the House of Commons Chamber, backbench MPs can make their case for a new bill in a speedy speech. How many minutes can they speak for? **Answer: 10** (These 'Ten Minute Rule Bills' give MPs the chance to bring ideas for new laws to the House).

Host an event... Tea with my community



Hosting a tea party with your local community is a great way to bring people together to reflect on what your community means to you. You can also consider the ways you can work as a group, with representatives, or with UK Parliament directly on local issues and opportunities affecting you.



Planning your 'Tea With My Community' event

Who will you invite?

'Community' can mean different things to different people.

You could invite:

- Your own mini-community, such as your book group or school PTA members.
- Two different groups, such as a youth group and those from a local care home, to have intergenerational conversations about your community.
- A wider group, such as from your workplace or from your street.
- You could even reach out across your village, town or borough.

If you do invite people from across your wider local community, consider how you will share the invite to reach different groups and make sure everyone is included.



What will you do?

You can have a great event simply by providing refreshments and a space to talk.

But you may also want to consider:

- Offering talking points to get the conversation started.
- Inviting your MP or another local representative to open, or take part in, your event.
- Asking people to bring food using recipes that represent their own family or personal community to enjoy together while they talk.
- Running a bake sale as part of the event for a local charity or initiative.
- Using an activity in this booklet to extend your event, e.g. hosting a quiz (pages 39-40).

If you are providing food, consider allergies and dietary requirements of your guests.



Share your ideas with your local MP or UK Parliament

Think about how you can share your ideas and discussions. You could:

- Ask each table to write down one idea, question or reflection from their conversation and collect them together at the end to send to your MP.
- Record someone from each table on a camera or smart phone summing up their conversation in 60 seconds and share the video on social media.
- If one big idea comes out of your event, you could create an action plan to take it forward, by engaging further with UK Parliament.

Principles for positive conversations

Some simple ground rules can be useful if your group discusses a topic they feel passionate about or if they have opposing views.

- Listen respectfully to different views.
- Give everyone the opportunity to speak.
- No raised voices or interrupting.
- It's OK to agree to disagree.

Remember: you can 'park' ideas or challenges if needed. These can be noted down and returned to at a more appropriate time.



Remembering Sir David Amess (1952-2021)

This activity was inspired by Sir David Amess, who died in service 15 October 2021. He was the MP for Southend West.

Sir David Amess was known for the pride he had for his local community. He regularly invited his constituents, particularly those from older generations, to tea.



Mark UKPW together



Why not take the opportunity to get a group together – after all, it's often when we work as a team that we can make the biggest difference.

1. Host: A film screening

- Invite your group to watch a film together and discuss the key themes afterwards.
- You can select a short film from UK Parliament's 'Your Story, Our History' collection to watch together and discuss. They cover themes such as LGBT+ communities, women's rights and race relations. You can find all the films available to screen free here:



Top Tip

Instead of watching a film, you could choose a book with a democratic theme or changemaker character, for example about the life of a suffragette. Read at home before meeting up to discuss the key themes.

There are also great feature films that explore democracy, human rights and changemakers. But remember, you will need to get permission to screen most feature films. Find out more here:

[gov.uk/showing-films-in-public](https://www.gov.uk/showing-films-in-public)

2. Map what matters to you: Explore your local area

- Using paper and pens, work as individuals, in pairs or in groups to draw a simple map of the area you live in. Draw or write on the map the places you spend time in, for example home, work, community sites, places of worship, leisure areas.
- Now discuss what issues, challenges or opportunities you or other people in those places face. For example in the workplace people might be concerned about working hours, your local leisure facilities might need to improve accessibility for people with disabilities, or there may be a lack of play spaces for young people.
- Add these issues to the map. As you do, discuss together how each issue is influenced and by whom. Consider how your UK Parliament representatives might help raise or change an issue.
- If you feel strongly about one of the issues, consider writing to your MP about it. You'll find tips for your letter on pages 25-28.

Take it further

Before mapping what matters to you, you could watch a quick video as a reminder of how UK Parliament works: ukparliamentweek.org/en/resources/video-teach-uk-parliament/





If it's a sunny day, consider getting outside together to take a walk around your area and identify the opportunities and issues you could discuss and change.



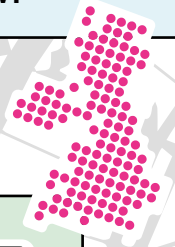

Time to take action



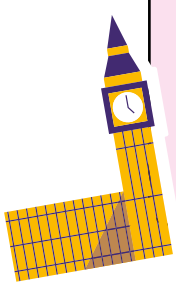
Watch a debate in either House to find out what big issues are being discussed now.



Visit Big Ben and the Elizabeth Tower, either in person when it reopens or virtually.





Take a virtual tour of UK Parliament. Click on the places that interest you to find out more.





TIME TO TAKE ACTION

Explore different ways you can get involved with your UK Parliament.



Book a community outreach workshop for a group you are involved with.



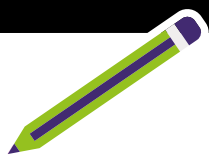
Start, share or sign a petition about an issue that's important to you.



Find out more about the history of UK Parliament by searching key dates, events and items in the online archive.



Contact your Member of Parliament



Members of Parliament in both Houses represent the views of the public in UK Parliament, this includes the views of you and your group. Connecting in person or in writing during UK Parliament Week can have a big impact on young people.

You could:

- **Write a letter or email about an issue your group feels strongly about to your local MP or a member of the Lords.** You could write as a group or as individuals. You may hear from the Member directly or from their team who help them respond to the many requests they receive.
- **Invite your local MP, or a member of the Lords, to speak to your group** about their work and answer any questions you have. Below are some steps to plan for a visit.
- **Invite another representative, such as a member of a devolved administration or someone from your local council to speak with the group** to give a different perspective on the democratic process in your area.

Preparing for a group visit

- Get in touch with a formal invitation as early as you can and give good time to reply. Diaries are often extremely busy.
- In your invitation, include details about your group. This should include who you are, what you are interested in and why you would benefit from the visit.
- About a week before the visit, make sure you've sent clear instructions so it runs smoothly, such as the timings, location and a brief agenda.
- Spend time as a group preparing your questions. Topics could be: why they chose to get involved in politics, their role, their views on issues that interest the group, their recommendations for getting involved with UK Parliament.
- Consider if you'd like a photo with your visitor and schedule that into the visit.



Top Tip



Don't worry if the visit can't take place in UK Parliament Week itself. You can use that time to prepare.

Many MPs split their time between Westminster and their constituency. If your meeting time doesn't fit their schedule, consider offering a virtual visit.

Don't forget to follow up with a thank you letter or email after the visit.

Remember: You may find it's impossible for your representative to visit due to workload or timings. Don't be disheartened, you may want to send a letter or email with your main questions instead, and share the answers with your group.

How to write to your MP or a member of the Lords

Dear **[Title] [Name]**

My name is **[add your name here]** and I am writing to you today about **[issue]**.

This matter is very important to me because **[explain your reasons/add facts or events if applicable]**.

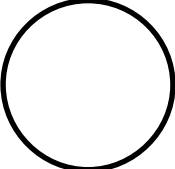
I would like you to **[describe the actions you want them to take]**.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

[Your name]
[Add your full address with postcode]

Send



Use the **MPs and Lords** webpage to find out how to address your MP or the member of the Lords you're writing to.

Start your email or letter with a quick introduction before outlining the topic.

Explain what interests or worries you about the matter and what you'd like them to do about it. You could include personal experience of the issue or explain how the matter impacts your wider community.

Explain why having them on board will make a difference for you. This helps set the tone for a positive discussion.

Where to find contact details

To find email addresses, visit the **MPs and Lords** webpage.

You can write to your MP at **House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA**, and to a member of the Lords at **House of Lords, London, SW1A 0PW**.



Use your voice



When people work together, they really can make a difference.

Here's how your petitions impact UK Parliament's work...

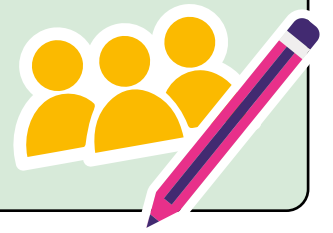
How do petitions work?

- You can create a petition on the UK Government and Parliament petitions website.
- You then need to get five people to support your petition by 'signing' it online.
- The petitions team will check your submission, to make sure it follows the rules, then publish it so everyone can see it. You can find the petition rules on the website.
- British citizens and UK residents can then sign your petition online.
- The Petitions Committee at UK Parliament reviews all petitions that are published.
- The Committee chooses petitions of interest to look into further and find out more. They have the power to press for action from the government or UK Parliament.
- At 10,000 signatures your petition gets a written response from the government.
- At 100,000 signatures your petition will be considered for a debate in UK Parliament.
- People who start or sign a petition can choose to be contacted about related activities in the future to share further views and ideas.

Get involved

Sign up to the Your UK Parliament newsletter to be the first to hear about opportunities to share your views in debates and other ways to engage with UK Parliament:

parliament.uk/get-involved/



636

petitions got a response from the Government

119

petitions were debated in the House of Commons

Search petitions

[View all open petitions](#)

Popular petitions

Do not restrict our right to freedom of expression online.

179 signatures in the last hour

Legalise assisted dying for terminally ill, mentally competent adults

85 signatures in the last hour

Reduce fuel duty and VAT by 40% for a period of 2 years

55 signatures in the last hour

 **10,000**

If a petition gets 10,000 signatures, the government will respond

Don't offer covid-19 vaccine to 5-11 year olds until phase 3 trials complete

The government responded on 18 March 2022

“Based on regulatory approval by our independent regulator the MHRA, and subsequent prioritisation advice from JCVI, the Government directed the NHS to offer COVID-19 vaccines to children aged 5-11.



Contact: A Select Committee

It is crucial that select committees hear from you in their inquiries so they can hear valuable real-life stories. Your lived experience can provide insights to an inquiry and help shape its recommendations.

Taking action could include:

- Following select committees on social media to find out what inquiries are taking place.
- Submitting evidence to a select committee.
- Signing up for the Your UK Parliament newsletter (below) to hear about calls for evidence on topics you're interested in.
- Taking part in online or in-person events around the UK where MPs can hear direct from members of the public.

Sign up for the Your UK Parliament newsletter:





What is a Select Committee?

Both Houses set up select committees to hold inquiries into a range of issues, from the conduct of government departments to big themes, such as the environment, or to investigate the response to a national event.

The committees are made up of around eleven or twelve members from across parties, and they work together to explore the issue or topic over a period of time. What's really special about committees is that they call on 'witnesses' to share 'evidence' with them.

This gives experts and members of the public the chance to write in and share their views or experience, or even come and be interviewed in person.

committees.parliament.uk



Debate: A Big Issue

UK Parliament debates are designed to assist MPs and members of the Lords to reach informed decisions on important subjects. After listening to all sides of the argument, decisions are made by holding a vote (called a 'division'), for or against.

Pick an issue that's important to you and your group – it could be local, national or international and hold a debate, making sure all sides are heard.

If your group is new to debating, remind everyone taking part that productive debates need people to:

- Voice their ideas clearly and concisely.
- Identify and share evidence to support their case (or change our mind).
- Listen to other people's opinions.
- Make informed decisions about their views and actions.

Next steps

After your debate you could:

- Take a vote by raising hands, using your ballot box, or by moving to either side of the room as if they are the 'aye' and 'no' lobbies in the Commons Chamber.
- Explore UK Parliament's dedicated broadcast site to watch a real debate from either Chamber: **parliamentlive.tv**
- Hold a second debate, but this time with someone taking the role of the Speaker. Their job will be to select who speaks, ensure people stay on topic and that people from different points of view are heard. Does this change the way the debate runs?



Step by step guide to debating

The debate begins

In the House of Commons, the Speaker starts the debate by saying 'order, order'.

An MP proposes the motion (statement) for the debate to the House

This speech should give an overview of the question and why it is important.

The Speaker announces the motion: 'The question before us is...' They then ask the opposing MP to speak.

The MP opposing the motion speaks

This speech should give an overview of the main arguments against the motion.

Other MPs give speeches

The Speaker invites other MPs to make speeches, ensuring balance between speakers 'for' and 'against'.

Closing statements

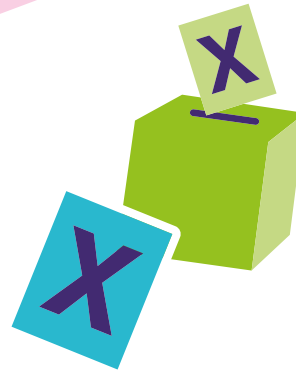
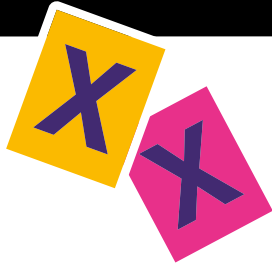
An MP on each side sums up the strongest arguments.

The Speaker announces the question and vote

In UK Parliament, votes are taken in 'divisions' where MPs have to move through opposite 'division lobbies'. 'Tellers' count the number of people voting each way and tell the Speaker.

The Speaker announces the result

Your vote matters



Voting gives you a say on who gets to make decisions that will affect your life. No matter which party you voted for, your local MP can be your voice.

Voting is also used to make decisions democratically. This could be by MPs or members of the Lords voting in UK Parliament, or when the public vote in referendums to make big national decisions.

Make a democratic decision

Use your UK Parliament Week ballot box and ballot papers to vote for something that will affect your group directly.

Younger groups could decide which story to read next, which activity from this booklet to try or which film to watch as a treat.

Older groups could vote for a charity to fundraise for, an issue to raise with their MP or a project they want to run.

Take it online

Voting at a virtual meeting can be simple to run using 'hands-up' symbols or emojis. Some platforms even have polling tools. You could vote on the next topic to discuss, a song to dance to, or to make bigger decisions about your plans for the year.



Take it further

Members of Parliament vote in UK Parliament about big issues or to find out what support a new policy or law has. Run a debate with your group about an issue that they feel passionate about. Use your ballot box to vote on the issue.



Hold an election

To understand the election process, use your kit to run a mock-election together.

- Download ballot papers from [ukparliamentweek.org/resources](https://www.ukparliamentweek.org/resources), or create your own so everyone can cast their vote.
- Split your group into four different 'party' teams.
- Each party must write a manifesto which will include the issues that are important to them.
- They can then give a speech to 'canvas for votes'. This means trying to convince the rest of the group to vote for their party.
- If you have a large group, form a polling station team, responsible for creating a private space for votes, putting up 'polling station' signs, creating the polling register and making sure the vote and count runs smoothly.

Can you vote in a UK General Election?



You can vote if you are:

- 18 years old or over.
- A British citizen.
- A Commonwealth citizen.

Remember! You can register to vote in UK elections at 16 in England, Scotland and Wales, and at 17 in Northern Ireland – so make sure you register as soon as you are eligible.

[gov.uk/how-to-vote](https://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote)

Easy read information

If you or anyone you know would benefit from an Easy Read guide on how to vote in a general election, visit UK Parliament's website.

You can also find Easy Reads on a range of other topics, including devolution and making laws. They break down information into short, bite-size chunks with clear images.

learning.parliament.uk/en/resources/uk-parliament-easy-reads



When to register to vote

Registration is open all year round, but if there's an election coming up that you want to vote in, make sure you register in time beforehand.

How to register to vote

It takes just five minutes to register to vote, so there's no excuse to miss out.

England, Scotland and Wales

Register online at [gov.uk/register-to-vote](https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote). If you prefer, you can fill out a printed registration form and post it to your local Electoral Registration Office.



Northern Ireland

Register online at [gov.uk/register-to-vote](https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote). If you can't register online, download a form or ask the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland (EONI) to send you one. Fill it in and post it back to the EONI. Visit [eoni.org.uk](https://www.eoni.org.uk) for details.

In the UK, a general election is usually held every five years. Everyone aged 18 or over, who is registered can vote for a local candidate to represent them and their area in the House of Commons.



Voting for the first time?

If you haven't voted before, don't worry, it's really simple!

Here's a quick run-down on what to expect:

- Before the election day you will be sent a poll card. This tells you the date of the election and where you need to go.
- The polling station will be easy to find, as it will have a big Polling Station sign outside.
- A team of people will welcome you and ask for your name and address.
- You'll then be given a ballot paper with the list of candidates you can choose to vote for. It will say which party they represent or if they are 'independent'.
- Simply put a cross in the box next to your selected candidate and place your ballot paper in the ballot box (the team can point it out if needed).
- Done – you've had your say!

Quiz: Your UK Parliament!



Write down your answer or circle your choice.
Answers on page 41.



1. What are the three parts of UK Parliament?

.....

2. What is the clock tower where you will find 'Big Ben' called?

- a. Elizabeth Tower b. Victoria Tower c. Ben's Tower

3. What colour are the benches in the House of Commons Chamber?

- a. Red b. Green c. Blue

4. In which House will you find a 'life peer'?

- a. House of Commons b. House of Lords c. Your house

5. Can you name one of the devolved Parliaments or Assembly?

.....

6. How old do you need to be to vote in a general election?

- a. 16 b. 21 c. 18

7. How many people need to sign a petition for the government to respond?

- a. 1,000 b. 10,000 c. A million

8. Who has to agree to bill to make it into an Act (law)?

- a. The Prime Minister b. Your teacher c. The monarch

QUIZ: YOUR UK PARLIAMENT!

Picture round



13. Who is in this photo?

- a) The monarch
- b) The Prime Minister
- c) The Speaker of the House of Commons



14. Who is in this photo?

- a) The Chancellor of the Exchequer
- b) The Lord Speaker of the House of Lords
- c) The Clerk of the Parliaments

8. Who has to agree to bill to make it into an Act (law)?

- a. The Prime Minister
- b. Your teacher
- c. The monarch

9. All parliamentary debates are broadcast live so everyone can watch – true or false?

TRUE FALSE

10. What is it called when a bill (the idea for a new law) goes back and forth between the two Houses?

- a. Ping-pong
- b. Handover
- c. To-and-fro

11. How many MPs are there in the House of Commons?

- a. 450
- b. 800
- c. 650

12. What is the name of your MP? (if you don't know – how do you find out?)

.....

UKPW Bunting



Share this template with your group to create unique UKPW bunting.

Bunting ideas

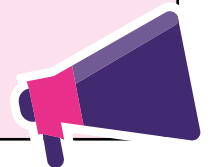
Ask your group to fill in the bunting with:

- Different UK Parliament facts they've learnt.
- Democratic actions they plan to take.
- Issues they feel passionate about.

Or – Choose one issue for all your bunting people to get behind!

Decorate each person with a letter or word from a slogan to spell out a sentence. For example 'ban single use plastics to save our seas!'

The sentence can be read in full when the bunting is hung up together using sticky tape and string.

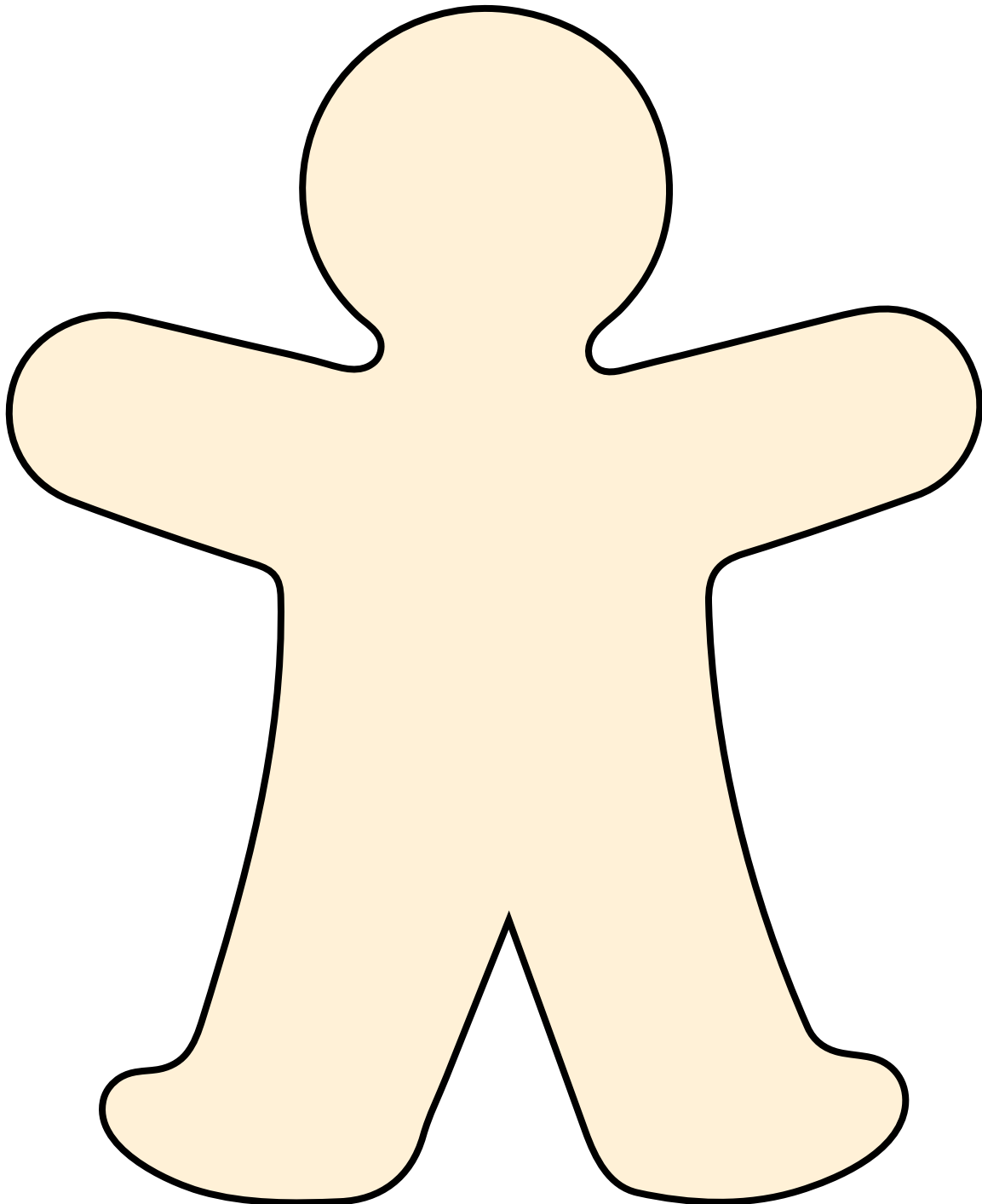


Answers for Your UK Parliament quiz on pages 39-40

1. House of Commons, House of Lords, monarch **2.** A **3.** B **4.** B
5. Northern Ireland Assembly, Scottish Parliament, Senedd Cymru/
Welsh Parliament **6.** C **7.** B **8.** C **9.** True **10.** A **11.** C **12.** Find out at
members.parliament.uk **13.** C **14.** B



Bunting template



Seven ways to mark this #UKPW



- Host a quiz, film screening or debate
- Explore UK Parliament with an online 360 virtual tour
- Register to vote
- Start, share or sign a petition about an issue that's important to you
- Find out who your local MP is and follow them on social media
- Submit evidence to a select committee inquiry
- Contact your local MP or a member of the Lords about an issue that matters to you



Don't forget to share what you got up to with us:

@YourUKParl
@ukparliament



Give us your feedback

After UK Parliament Week please fill in our quick survey:

smartsurvey.co.uk/s/UKPW2022

