

| Term   | Definition  |
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| Constitution                                       | A set of important rules that describe how a country is run.  |
| United Kingdom Parliament                          | Made up of the House of Commons, the House of Lords and the Monarch (sometimes referred to as the Crown).   |
| The Monarch (sometimes referred to as 'the Crown') | Rarely attends Parliament but has significant duties to carry out including delivering a speech at the start of each Parliament and giving final sign off to bills (proposed new laws).   |
| House of Commons                                   | The most powerful body in Parliament. It is where MPs discuss and debate policies and vote on legislation before it goes to the House of Lords.   |
| Member of Parliament                               | Represents the interests and concerns of the people in their constituency and is involved in considering and proposing new laws to govern the country, and holding the government to account.   |
| House of Lords                                     | Made up of about 800 'peers'. Its main job is to 'double check' new laws and make sure they are fair and will work. Some legislation starts in the Lords and is then voted on by the Commons.   |
| Peer   | Sits within the House of Lords and is usually appointed due to their knowledge and expertise. There are also 92 hereditary peers and the 26 Lords Spiritual who are not appointed. Responsible for checking laws and holding the government to account.   |
| Devolved administrations                           | The devolved governments of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, formed from parties elected in the devolved Parliaments or Assemblies. They are led by First Ministers. In Northern Ireland there is also a deputy First Minister.  |
| Devolution   | The process in the UK which created a national Parliament in Scotland, a National Assembly in Wales and a National Assembly in Northern Ireland. This process gave the UK nations powers to make various decisions that had previously been made by the UK Parliament. The powers given to these nations has developed over time. |
| Devolved Parliaments or Assemblies                 | The democratically elected national Parliament or Assembly that represents the interests of the people of Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland, and is empowered to make laws on devolved matters such as education and health. The elected Members are different to the Members of the UK Parliament.                             |
| Local government                                   | Responsible for a range of vital services for people and businesses in a defined area including social care, schools, housing and planning and waste collection.  |
| Ward   | An area in your local authority. Local authorities are divided up into different wards. Each ward usually has two or three local councillors who are elected in local government elections.   |
| Local councillor                                   | People who represent their local community, so they must either live or work in the area. Councillors can be from any political party and can also be completely independent of any political party.  |
| Elected mayor                                      | Responsible for the day to day running of local services.   |
| Government   | The party or parties (as with a coalition) that can command an overall majority in the House of Commons, i.e more than half the members in the House of Commons after a general election.   |
| Constituency                                       | A geographical area of voters: each area elects one MP. There are currently 650 constituencies in the UK. The people in each area are called constituents.  |