

Introduction to the British Parliament System

The British Parliament is the supreme legislative body of the United Kingdom, responsible for passing laws, approving budgets, and overseeing the government. It consists of the House of Commons, the House of Lords, and the Monarch, each playing a crucial role in the country's governance.

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The House of Commons

Elected Members

The House of Commons is made up of 650 members, each representing a local constituency. They are elected through a general election held every five years.

Legislative Power

The House of Commons is the primary legislative body, responsible for introducing and debating bills, as well as holding the government accountable.

Speaker's Role

The Speaker of the House of Commons presides over the debates and ensures the smooth functioning of the legislative process.



The House of Lords

1 Upper Chamber

The House of Lords is the upper chamber of the British Parliament, primarily composed of life peers, bishops, and hereditary peers.

2 Scrutinizing Role

The House of Lords plays a crucial role in scrutinizing and revising legislation, providing valuable expertise and experience.

3 Checks and Balances

The House of Lords acts as a check on the power of the elected House of Commons, ensuring a balance of power.

The Monarch's Role

Head of State

The British Monarch, currently Queen Elizabeth II, is the head of state and the symbol of national unity.

Ceremonial Functions

The Monarch performs various ceremonial duties, such as opening and closing Parliament, granting royal assent to bills, and hosting state events.

Constitutional Role

While largely ceremonial, the Monarch's constitutional role includes appointing the Prime Minister and granting the royal prerogative.

The Prime Minister and Cabinet

1

Prime Minister

The leader of the political party with the most seats in the House of Commons becomes the Prime Minister, who heads the government.

2

Cabinet

The Prime Minister appoints a Cabinet of senior ministers, who are responsible for various government departments and policies.

3

Executive Power

The Prime Minister and Cabinet wield executive power, implementing and enforcing the laws passed by Parliament.



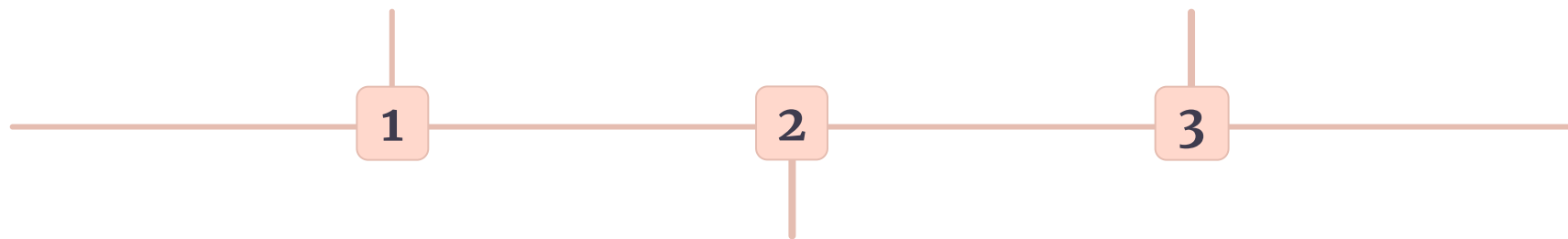
The Legislative Process

Bill Proposal

Bills can be introduced in either the House of Commons or the House of Lords, by the government or private members.

Royal Assent

Once a bill has passed both houses, it receives the Monarch's royal assent, officially becoming a new law.



Debate and Amendment

Bills undergo multiple readings and debates in both chambers, with the opportunity for amendments and revisions.

The Judiciary and the Rule of Law



Independent Judiciary

The British judiciary is independent from the legislative and executive branches, upholding the principles of the rule of law.



Judicial Review

The courts have the power to review the actions of the government and Parliament, ensuring they are within the bounds of the law.



Common Law System

The UK follows a common law legal system, where court decisions and precedents play a crucial role in the development of the law.

Challenges and Reforms

Representation	Calls for increased diversity and better representation in Parliament, particularly of underrepresented groups.
House of Lords Reform	Ongoing debates about the composition and role of the unelected House of Lords, with proposals for reform.
Devolution	The decentralization of power to the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland has raised questions about the balance of power.