

МИНИСТЕРСТВО НАУКИ И ВЫСШЕГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ РФ

**Федеральное государственное автономное
образовательное учреждение высшего образования
«Национальный исследовательский Нижегородский государственный
университет им. Н.И. Лобачевского»**

THE UK POLITICAL SYSTEM SIMPLY

Учебно-методическое пособие

Рекомендовано методической комиссией Института международных отношений и мировой истории для студентов ННГУ, обучающихся по направлению подготовки 41.03.04 «Политология»

Нижний Новгород
2020

УДК 811.111(07)
ББК 143.21я.73
Х 69

Х 69 Ходырева, Е.Б., Голубкова В.В. THE UK POLITICAL SYSTEM SIMPLY: учебно-метод. пособие [Электронный ресурс] / Е.Б. Ходырева, В.В. Голубкова. – Нижний Новгород: Изд-во ННГУ, 2020. – 40 с.

Рецензент: канд. псих. наук, доцент **М.В. Архипова**

Данное учебно-методическое пособие предназначено для студентов II курса института международных отношений и мировой истории, обучающихся по направлению подготовки «Политология» изучающих английский язык как основной.

Пособие может быть использовано как в аудиторной работе, так и для самостоятельной подготовки студентов.

Ответственный за выпуск: председатель методической комиссии ИМОМИ
ННГУ к.и.н., доцент Бушуева С.В.

УДК 811.133.1
ББК Ш147.11я73

© Нижегородский государственный
университет им. Н.И.Лобачевского, 2020

CONTENTS:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Введение | 4 |
| I. The Road to Democracy | 5 |
| II. The System of Government | 10 |
| 1. The House of Commons | 10 |
| 2. The House of Lords | 13 |
| 3. Committees | 16 |
| 4. Legislation | 19 |
| 5. The system of government | 24 |
| 6. The Executive | 26 |
| 7. A member of Parliament | 28 |
| III. Political parties, Elections and Campaigning | 31 |
| 1. Political parties | 31 |
| 2. Elections | 34 |
| 3. Campaigning | 36 |

Введение

Учебно-методическое пособие представляет собой тематический сборник текстов общественно-политической направленности по государственно-политической системе Великобритании.

Цель пособия – обучение чтению специальной литературы и анализу текста, развитие речевых навыков подготовленной и спонтанной речи, умений вести беседу и делать развернутые сообщения в рамках предлагаемого тематического материала, а также творческого письма.

Данное учебно-методическое пособие предназначено для студентов II курса института международных отношений и мировой истории, обучающихся по направлению подготовки «Политология» и изучающих английский язык как основной.

Новый политико-ориентированный курс английского языка содержит наиболее употребительные слова и словосочетания, составляющие необходимый минимум политической лексики для свободного устного и письменного общения в сфере внутренней и внешней политики Великобритании. Данные тексты обеспечивают не только ориентированную языковую подготовку учащихся, но и вводят их в проблематику современного политического устройства Великобритании.

Пособие соответствует профессионально-образовательным программам студентов-политологов и учитывает содержание курса страноведения и курсов политологии.

Unit I. THE ROAD TO DEMOCRACY

Ex.1 Read the text and answer the questions after it

Democracy in the UK has a long and complex history; here are a few dates to get you started.

1215

In England, the first step towards forging a democracy came in 1215 with the Magna Carta, which limited the king's power over the Church and nobility.

1265

Simon de Montfort led a rebellion against Henry III – and briefly captured him. He then called a Parliament for support and consultation. For the first time, representatives of towns and counties across England were consulted along with the barons.

1430

The 40-shilling franchise was established to determine who had the right to vote – this remained unchanged for the next 400 years. It meant that everyone who owned or rented land with an income of 40 shillings or more could vote in county elections.

1689

The Bill of Rights was created, which outlined many of the basic principles of Parliament which are still in force today, such as Parliament's role in approving taxation and the right to petition.

1832

The Reform Act was the first to make representation fairer and simpler by reworking constituency boundaries and extending the franchise to include one in seven men.

1838

The People's Charter was published by William Lovett, calling for dramatic changes to suffrage and elections in the UK, as well as the role of MPs. This began the Chartist movement which presented several mass petitions to Parliament over the next 10 years – the legacy of which influenced further reforms in 1867 and 1884.

1866

The MP John Stuart Mill presented the first mass petition about women's suffrage to Parliament, which marked the start of organised campaigning for women's right to vote. Bills and petitions in favour of votes for women were presented almost annually from this point, though women were not granted any voting rights until 1918.

1889

Thomas Hansard began publishing transcripts of parliamentary debates in 1812, and in 1889 the Commons began to pay for Hansard to be produced as a permanent record of proceedings. All debates are still recorded, printed and published online.

1918

The Representation of the People Act led to a huge increase in the number of people eligible to vote. For the first time since 1832, eligible women could vote, and all men over the age of 21 (18, if serving in the armed forces) were granted suffrage.

1928

The Equal Franchise Act finally allowed men and women to vote on the same terms.

1969

The age at which men and women could vote was lowered from 21 to 18, where it remains today.

1997

Referendums were held in Scotland and Wales for devolved administrations to be set up. These resulted in the inception of the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh Assembly. In 1998, referendums were held across Ireland to approve the Good Friday Agreement, which created the Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive.

Ex.2 Answer the questions

1. Why is 1215 an important date in the development of democracy?
2. What happened in 1265? What importance did the event have?
3. Who could vote in county elections after 1430?
4. What document was created in 1689? What did it outline?
5. What is The People's Charter? What was its role?
6. When did organised campaigning for women's right to vote start?
7. When did a permanent record of proceedings of Parliamentary debates start?
8. What did The Representation of the People Act lead to? When was it?
9. What did The Equal Franchise Act allow? In what year?
10. What did referendums held in Scotland and Wales result in?

Ex.3 Investigate what DEMOCRACY is

The people who govern a country make decisions about how society is organised – decisions that affect everyone. In the UK, we elect the people who govern us. We also elect people to question the government and hold them to account

on our behalf in Parliament. This is called **representative**, or **parliamentary**, democracy.

POLITICS: The activities associated with the governance of a country or area.

SUFFRAGE: The right to vote in political elections.

DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION: Taking action which will affect the political situation: this could take many forms – voting, joining a party or campaigning.

Liberal democracies depend on:

- **Checks and balances** – these prevent one person or group being too powerful.
- **Freedom of speech and association** – different views can be aired, and political parties or groups can form and compete openly.
- **Free and fair elections** – people can vote for who they want and can trust the outcome of elections.
- **Transparency and openness** – people know who is responsible for decisions and can hold them to account.
- **Active participation by the public** – elected representatives are kept in touch with the people they represent.

PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY

Abraham Lincoln described democracy as ‘government of the people, by the people, for the people.’ Literally, the word ‘democracy’ means ‘rule by the people’, originating with the Greek words ‘demos’ (people) and ‘kratia’ (rule by). Types of government that aren’t democratic rely on other things to make them legitimate: examples include governments run by a religious elite (theocracy), or those who rule by sheer force (military dictatorship).

The UK is a democracy because the government’s power is based on popular support. But democracies do not all look alike. For this reason, the UK is usually described as a ‘**western liberal democracy**’.

TYPES OF DEMOCRACY

DIRECT: Direct democracy originated in ancient Athens, where residents classed as ‘citizens’ would gather to debate and make decisions on issues of public importance. It involves the citizens having the power to make decisions as a group for themselves, rather than through a group of elected representatives. Modern examples of direct democracy exist in Swiss cantons and some towns in the USA.

REPRESENTATIVE: In a representative democracy, citizens choose representatives to make decisions on their behalf. Representative democracies can be

found all over the world, in both presidential and parliamentary systems of government. In the UK, the House of Commons uses representative democracy to select its members.

THEORIES OF REPRESENTATION

In a representative system like the UK, there are different ways the role of democratic representatives can be viewed.

DELEGATE THEORY: In the delegate theory, the representatives have a duty *to represent the views of the people who elected them*, with little capacity to use their personal judgement or beliefs. This would suggest it is an MP's duty to find out what the electorate thinks, and do what the people want them to do.

MANDATE THEORY: This theory suggests that people and groups who are elected should carry out the plans in the manifesto they were elected upon. This is based on *the principle that people vote for ideas, rather than for individuals*. MPs therefore only have a 'mandate' to do the things they said they would do upon election.

BURKEAN THEORY: Edmund Burke believed that it is the responsibility of elected representatives *to use their judgement to do what is best for the people*, rather than doing what the people want. This assumes that the representatives will have knowledge and experience to allow them to behave independently in the interests of the electorate.

Ex.4 Answer the questions

1. What is democracy?
2. What do liberal democracies depend on?
3. What are the principles of democracy?
4. What is direct democracy?
5. What is representative democracy?
6. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the UK system of democracy?
7. What issues could the co-existence of the representation theories contribute to?

Ex.5 Match the words and phrases with their definitions

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. To hold smb. to | a. allowed by law |
| 2. Account | b. instead of someone, or as their representative |
| 3. On our behalf | c. a written or spoken description that says what happens |
| 4. To air smth. | d. to depend on or trust someone or something |

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 5. To rely on | e. to make opinions or complaints known to other people |
| 6. Legitimate | f. to make someone do what they promised or agreed to |
| 7. Sheer | g. to accept something to be true without proof |
| 8. To assume | h. used to emphasize how very great, important, or powerful a quality or feeling is; nothing except |

Ex.6 Complete the sentences with the vocabulary from Ex.5 above. You need to change the form of the word sometimes

1. Let's _____ (that) they're coming and make plans on that basis.
2. The interview with the president will _____ tomorrow morning.
3. The army must give power back to the _____ government.
4. His success was due to ___ willpower.
5. British weather can never be _____ on - it's always changing.
6. He's spending a lot of his time at the moment campaigning _____ of the Conservative Party.

Unit II. THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

1. THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

THE TWO-HOUSE SYSTEM

The UK has a bicameral legislature, which means that the business of Parliament takes place across two Chambers – The House of Commons and the House of Lords. Both Houses make laws, check and challenge government and represent views.

The House of Commons is the elected part of Parliament. It is also responsible for funding government departments by passing laws which allow for the collection of taxes.

ROLES OF MPS

MPs are qualified to sit in the Commons because they have been elected; that qualification expires at the end of each Parliament, every 5 years. Because only the House of Commons is elected, the constitution limits the power of the House of Lords so that it cannot override decisions made by MPs, and the Commons alone makes decisions about how much tax people have to pay.

Representation

MPs represent their constituents: all the people who live in their constituency, including those who didn't or couldn't vote for them. They also represent a range of knowledge, backgrounds and political parties. They split their time between working in Parliament itself and working in their constituency.

Scrutiny

The government is accountable to Parliament and to the public and in the House of Commons, MPs can hold the government to account in several ways. Prime Minister's Questions and Ministerial Questions offer the opportunity to check and challenge the government's policies, while Urgent Questions can be put forward on a daily basis in response to current affairs. There are also opportunities for the opposition and backbench MPs to put forward topics for debates, which can be useful opportunities for scrutiny.

Debate

There is time within Parliament's calendar for MPs to debate issues arising for the country. Important occasions will often be marked by debates in Parliament, and time is also allocated for the Opposition parties to debate issues of their choosing.

Ex.1 Who is who in the House of Commons? Match the definitions and the positions

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Ministers | MPs who are neither government ministers nor opposition shadow spokespeople. They are so called because, in the Chamber, they sit in the rows of benches behind their parties' spokespeople who are known as frontbenchers. They play important roles during debates in scrutinising ministers through questions. |
| Speaker | The national government of the UK has responsibility for developing and implementing policy, and for drafting laws. It is also known as the Executive. Government members sit on the benches to the right of the Speaker. |
| Opposition Benches | Ministers are the MPs who are in the government. They are appointed by the Prime Minister and each given a specific area of government policy to oversee. Ministers speak on behalf of the government from the frontbenches during parliamentary debates and must answer questions put to them by other MPs. |
| Government Benches | Includes the political parties other than the governing party or parties. They are called so because they sit on the benches opposite the government. |
| Backbenchers | It is an MP who has been elected by other MPs to act as Chair during debates in the House of Commons. They are responsible for ensuring that the rules are observed and order is maintained in the Chamber. |

**Ex.2 Matching: for each word or phrase, find the matching definition.
Reproduce the sentences with them from the texts**

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| a. chambers | 1 having two groups of lawmakers in the government |
| b. bicameral | 2 government |
| c. legislature | 3 gave out |
| d. constituents | 4 rooms/spaces |
| e. opposition | 5 money/giving money to |
| f. allocated | 6 voters/parts |
| g. funding | 7 group of voters or supporters |
| h. urgent | 8 close attention |
| i. constituency | 9 responsible |
| j. scrutiny | 10 fighting force/bad feelings |
| k. accountable | 11 extremely important |

Ex.3 Complete the sentences with the active vocabulary from the list below

Implementing; appointed; qualified; accountable; scrutiny; override; drafting; scrutinising; bicameral; constituents; allocated

1. The UK has a ____ legislature, which means that the business of Parliament takes place across two Chambers.
2. MPs are ____ to sit in the Commons because they have been elected.
3. The constitution limits the power of the House of Lords so that it cannot ____ decisions made by the House of Commons.
4. MPs represent their ____ : all the people who live in their constituency.
5. The national government of the UK has responsibility for ____ and ____ policy, and for drafting laws.
6. The government is ____ to Parliament and to the public.
7. The opposition and backbench MPs have opportunities to put forward topics for debates, which can be useful opportunities for ____ .
8. Important occasions will often be marked by debates in Parliament, and time is also ____ for the Opposition parties to debate issues of their choosing.
9. Backbenchers play important roles during debates in ____ ministers through questions.
10. Ministers are ____ by the Prime Minister and each given a specific area of government policy to oversee.

Ex.4 Answer the questions

1. What are similarities and differences between the two Houses?
2. How is the power of the House of Lords limited?
3. What do MPs represent?
4. How can MPs hold the government to account?
5. What are ministers? What do they do?
6. What is the difference between Backbenchers and Government Benchers?
7. Who sits opposite the Government? What do they do?

2. THE HOUSE OF LORDS

The House of Lords is one of two Houses of Parliament and provides a second opinion to the House of Commons and the government. The Lords and the Commons share the tasks of making laws, holding government to account, and debating the issues of the day. The three main roles of the House of Lords are making laws, checking and challenging the work of the government and investigating public policy.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS

Members of the Lords have professional experience and expertise in their fields. They put this knowledge to good use when looking at issues in the Chamber or in committee work.

The House of Lords is presently formed of

Life Peers:

Most members (about 650) are appointed for their lifetime by the monarch on the advice of the Prime Minister. Their titles are not passed on to their children. Life peers bring knowledge, expertise and experience, usually formed through their careers. They represent a wide range of professions – in politics, medicine, law, business, the arts, science, sports, education, the armed forces, diplomacy and public service. Any British, Irish or Commonwealth citizen who is a UK resident and taxpayer over 21 is eligible to be nominated or can apply to become a member, via the independent House of Lords Appointments Commission.

Archbishops and bishops:

26 Church of England archbishops and bishops are also members of the House of Lords.

Elected hereditary members:

The 1999 House of Lords Act ended the right of most hereditary peers to sit and vote in the House of Lords. Ninety-two seats for hereditary peers were retained.

Because the House of Lords is appointed rather than elected, it challenges the House of Commons and often asks it to think again on new laws, but it gives the Commons the final say.

BENEFITS OF A SECOND CHAMBER

Different procedures

There are no time limits for considering bills and amendments, or rules as to who can participate.

Different composition

There is no government majority and membership includes a large crossbench (independent) group.

Different approach

The House of Lords is independent and able to challenge the Commons, and is more inclined to cross-party collaboration because of the lack of a government majority and the more relaxed party discipline.

Ex.1 Who is who in the House of Lords? Match the definitions and the positions

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Government | This is where ministers and government spokespeople sit. |
| Government Front Bench | He/she chairs business in the chamber, is elected by members and is politically impartial. The House is self-regulating; all its members are responsible for ensuring the rules are followed: he/she cannot call members to order, decide who speaks next or select which amendments are debated. |
| Lord Speaker | Members from the main Opposition party and other parties sit on the benches opposite the government. |
| Crossbenchers | These benches are made up of members who represent the governing party or parties. |
| Opposition | These members are independent of the main political parties. |

Ex.2 Matching: for each word or phrase, find the matching definition. Reproduce the sentences with them from the texts

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1. committee | a. selected |
| 2. expertise | b. kept/held |
| 3. eligible | c. related to things you get from your parents' genes |
| 4. appointed | d. ability to do things very well |
| 5. hereditary | e. able to be picked/able to participate |
| 6. retained | f. group that decides or promotes something |
| 7. collaboration | g. likely to |
| 8. inclined to | h. working together/team effort |
| 9. discipline | i. control/field of study |

Ex.3 Mark the statements as True or False

1. The three main roles of the House of Lords are making laws, checking and challenging the work of the government and impose taxes.
2. Life peers (about 560) are appointed for their lifetime by the monarch on the advice of the Prime Minister.
3. Life peers can pass their titles on to their children.
4. The 1999 House of Lords Act ended the right of most life peers to sit and vote in the House of Lords.
5. Because the House of Lords is appointed, it challenges the House of Commons and often asks it to think again on new laws, but it doesn't give the Commons the final say.

Ex.4 Take a tour of the House of Lords and answer the questions below
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_sLZBWcPkIk

1. Where can any member of the public come in the Houses of Parliament?
2. What is the dispatch box?
3. What is one of the unusual characteristics of the House of Lords?
4. What are the other three important parts of the chamber?
5. What is the Moses room?
6. What is the role of the division lobbies? Why are they two?
7. What is the role of eight minutes in settling arguments? What is the Royal Gallery used for?

3. COMMITTEES

Committees are smaller groups of members of Parliament who meet to work on a specific task. They are used by both Houses for work that requires a special focus, detailed scrutiny or a cross-party approach. Each House has its own separate structure of committees but for some tasks, members of both Houses combine to form a joint committee. At the end of each task or inquiry, committees are required to report their findings back to Parliament. Parliamentary committees fall into two general categories: *legislative committees* (used in the Commons only) and *select committees*.

SELECT COMMITTEES

Select Committees in the House of Commons conduct inquiries, examining the spending, administration and policy of government departments. In the House of Lords they cover broader issues which cut across government departments.

They are made up of backbenchers and consist of between 8-15 members. They are characterised by cross-party working, and cooperation which is encouraged by the aim of reaching a consensus on any final recommendations.

Select Committees gather evidence from individuals and organisations and can ask to see government documents and data. At the end of each inquiry, a committee publishes its conclusions and usually recommends changes they wish the government to make. The government is required to publish a response to these recommendations within two months.

There is a House of Commons select committee to mirror each government department. These are set up for the duration of a five-year Parliament and they can choose to investigate any matter that falls within their scope during that time. Commons select committees approximately reflect the party balance of the House of Commons.

House of Lords select committees focus on broad, longer-term issues taking advantage of the experience and continuity of the members. A member's appointment to a committee is often based on expertise in that field. The Lords also holds inquiries into specific issues such as intergenerational fairness or climate change.

Joint select committees consist of both MPs and Lords and have similar powers to Commons or Lords select committees. Some are permanent, like the Joint Committee on Human Rights, and others deal with specific issues.

**Ex.1 Matching: for each word or phrase, find the matching definition.
Reproduce the sentences with them from the texts**

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. approximately | a. must |
| 2. intergenerational | b. ability to do things very well |
| 3. expertise | c. question or investigation |
| 4. inquiry | d. ends/end results |
| 5. consensus | e. between parents and children |
| 6. continuity about | f. ask lots of questions about/try to find the truth |
| 7. similar | g. event(s) or object(s) that prove something |
| 8. investigate | h. uninterrupted, constant quality |
| 9. characterised by | i. almost the same |
| 10.is required to | j. agreement |
| 11.conclusions | k. about |
| 12.evidence | l. seen as |

Ex.2 Complete the sentences with the active vocabulary from the list below

Consensus; evidence; experience; required to; inquiries; characterised by; conclusions; continuity

1. Select Committees in the House of Commons conduct ____, examining the spending, administration and policy of government departments.
2. They are ____ cross-party working, and cooperation which is encouraged by the aim of reaching a ____ on any final recommendations.
3. Select Committees gather ____ from individuals and organisations and can ask to see government documents and data.
4. At the end of each inquiry, a committee publishes its ____ and usually recommends changes they wish the government to make.
5. The government is ____ publish a response to these recommendations within two months.
6. House of Lords select committees focus on broad, longer-term issues taking advantage of the ____ and ____ of the members.

Ex.3 Read the text below

CASE STUDIES

The House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee looks at the environmental impact of policy across all government departments. In 2016, they published a report into the environmental impact of microplastics, and recommended that the government move to introduce a ban on their use in personal care products. This was accepted by the government, and the ban on microplastics came into effect in January 2018.

The House of Lords Intergenerational Fairness Committee published a wide-ranging report in 2019 highlighting the risk that, although intergenerational bonds are still strong, they could be undermined by key issues such as access to housing; secure employment and fairness in tax and benefits. Recommendations included boosting vocational training and protecting young people in work.

Ex.4 Make up a situation using the vocabulary below. If necessary, consult a dictionary

A report into

A wide-ranging report

To recommend that

To highlight

To introduce a ban on

To be undermined by

To come into effect

To boost

Ex.5 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES

Legislative Committees are set up to look at pieces of legislation in detail – this is known as the ‘committee stage’ of a bill. They are used widely in the Commons, where most bills are considered for a period by a Public Bill Committee as part of their progress through the House, and almost all other types of legislation are only debated in committee. These committees vary in size – from around 15 to 50 MPs.

Legislative Committees can invite the public to send in their views on a bill and can ask officials and experts from outside Parliament to attend and answer questions. Committees are set up temporarily to look at a single bill, and once finished, it reports its conclusions and any amendments to the House of Commons or Lords. Members then debate the bill again in the ‘report stage’ in the main Chamber, where further amendments can be made.

Committees that deal exclusively with legislation in the House of Lords are few in number because the House of Lords usually deal with legislation in the main Lords Chamber.

4. LEGISLATION

Making laws is one of the main functions of UK Parliament: a bill is a proposal for a new law, or a proposal to change an existing law. New laws may be needed due to:

- Emergency issues
- Pressure on the government to update old laws
- Changes to case law in courts

There are two types of Public bill:

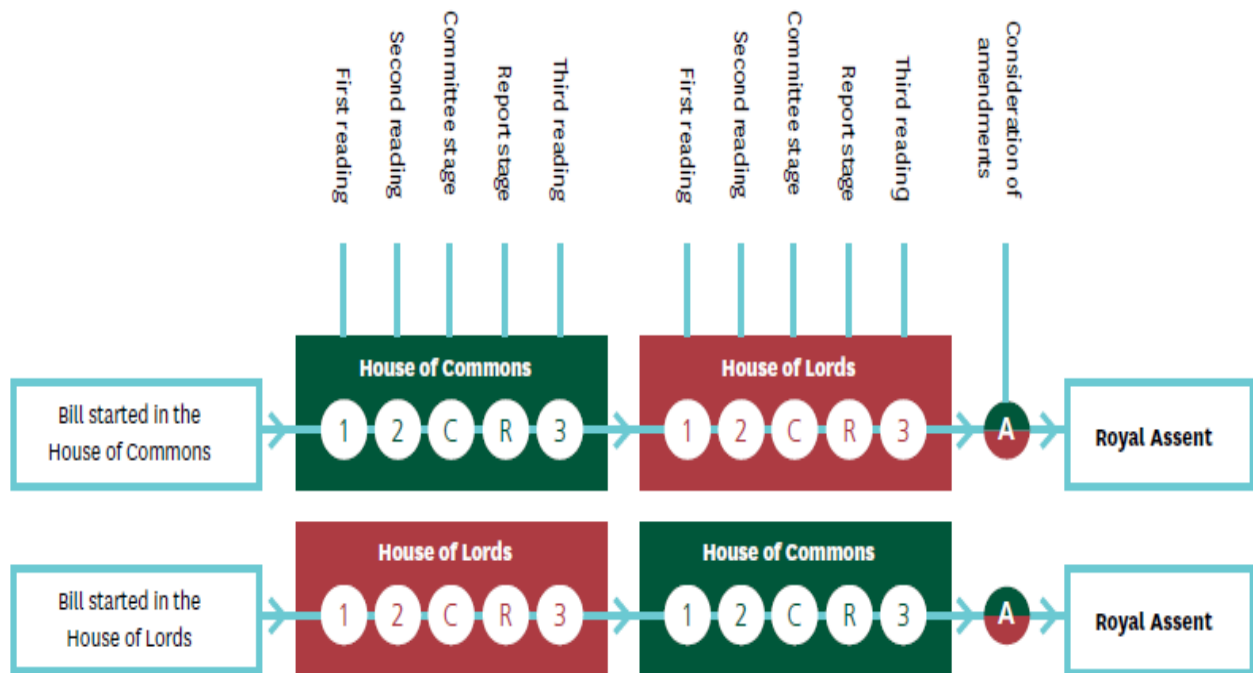
1. *Government bills*: these are introduced by government ministers. These take priority in Parliament because they are backed by government.
2. *Private Members' bills*: these are introduced by MPs or members of the House of Lords who are not Government Ministers.

PASSAGE OF A BILL THROUGH PARLIAMENT

Bills can start in either the House of Commons or the House of Lords. When both Houses have agreed on the content of a bill it is then presented to the reigning monarch for approval (known as Royal Assent).

A diagram shows the various stages of the passage of a Bill through Parliament.

1. First reading
2. Second reading
3. Committee stage
4. Report stage
5. Third reading
6. Amendments/Ping pong



The House of Commons:

First Reading: the Publication is announced

Second Reading: General debate on principles

Committee Stage: Detailed discussion in a committee

Report Stage: the Committee reports to the House

Third Reading: Formal review of the contents of the Bill.

The House of Lords:

If the Bill has been introduced in the Commons, it is then reviewed in the Lords. Some Bills start in the Lords and then go to the Commons. The Lords have less formal methods of debating Bills. They can delay but not stop a Bill.

The Royal Assent:

The Bill is signed by the Queen and becomes law. The Royal Assent is still read out in Parliament in Norman-French, "*La reyne le vault*"

Ex.1 Match the 10 law-making terms and their definitions

| | |
|----------------|---|
| 1. Amendment | a. The practice of speaking in a debate for a long time or raising unnecessary procedural points to deliberately waste time. In this way a bill or a motion may be stopped from making progress within the time allowed. |
| 2. Division | b. A consultation document produced by a government department. The aim of this document is to allow people both inside and outside Parliament to give the department feedback on its policy or legislative proposals. |
| 3. Filibuster | c. The last few days of a Parliament before a general election. All unfinished business must be dealt with swiftly, so the government seeks co-operation from the opposition in dealing with legislation that is still in progress. |
| 4. Free Vote | d. Change to a bill proposed by MPs or members of the House of Lords. |
| 5. Green Paper | e. A proposal for action put forward for debate or decision in the House of Commons or House of Lords. |
| 6. Motion | f. A document produced by the government proposing details of future legislation. This Paper often becomes the basis for a bill. |
| 7. Ping-Pong | g. When MPs or members of the Lords are not put under pressure to vote a certain way by their party leaders. These votes have traditionally been allowed on ethical issues that are seen as a matter of conscience. |

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| 8. Tellers | h. Used for counting those in favour or against a motion when there is a vote in the House of Lords or Commons. Members go through one of two lobbies on either side of the Chamber where they are counted and their names are recorded. |
| 9. Wash-Up | i. The to and fro of amendments to bills between the House of Commons and the House of Lords. |
| 10. White Paper | j. The members who count the votes in the House of Commons or House of Lords when there is a division and report the result back to the House. |

Ex. 2 Read the text. Making New Laws: Bills and Acts

The functions of Parliament are: making laws; providing money for the government through taxation; examining government policy, administration and spending; debating political questions.

Every year Parliament passes about a hundred laws directly, by making Acts of Parliament. Because this can be a long process, Parliament sometimes passes a very general law and leaves a minister to fill in the details. In this way, it indirectly passes about 2,000 additional rules and regulations.

No new law can be passed unless it has completed a number of stages in the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The monarch also has to give a Bill the Royal Assent, which is now just a formality. Since 1707 no sovereign has refused a Bill. Whilst a law is still going through Parliament it is called a Bill. There are two main types of Bills - Public Bills which deal with matters of public importance and Private Bills which deal with local matters and individuals.

Public and Private Bills are passed through Parliament in much the same way. When a Bill is introduced in the House of Commons, it receives a formal first reading. It is then printed and read a second time, when it is debated but not amended. After the second reading the Bill is referred to a committee, either a special committee made up of certain members of the House, or to the House itself as a committee. Here it is discussed in detail and amended, if necessary. The Bill is then

presented for a third reading and is debated. If the Bill is passed by the Commons it goes to the Lords, and provided it is not rejected by them, it goes through the same procedure as in the Commons. After receiving the Royal Assent the Bill becomes an Act of Parliament. In order to be enforced, it must be published in Statute form, becoming a part of Statute Law. The power of the Lords to reject a Bill has been severely curtailed. A money Bill must be passed by the Lords without amendment within a month of being presented in the House. The Act of 1949 provides that any Public Bill passed by the Commons in two successive parliamentary sessions and rejected both times by the Lords, may be presented for the Royal Assent, even though it has not been passed by the Lords. The Lords, therefore, can only delay the passage of a Public Bill, they cannot reject it.

Ex.3 Find in the text the English equivalents for the following expressions.

1. абсолютное большинство
2. отклонить законопроект
3. выдвинуть законопроект
4. налогообложение
5. внести поправку в законопроект
6. обсуждать политические вопросы
7. королевская санкция
8. ассигновать деньги для нужд правительства
9. принять закон
10. обсуждать законопроект
11. подробно обсудить
12. направить законопроект на рассмотрение
13. отложить принятие законопроекта

Ex.4 Explain the meaning of the following expressions from the text

1. Statute Law
2. to be published in Statute form
3. to receive a formal reading
4. to enforce an Act of Parliament
5. to be severely curtailed
6. a money Bill

Ex. 5 Answer the questions

1. Which House can start a bill?
2. What is the difference between a Bill and an Act of Parliament?
3. What are the two types of Bills? Discuss the difference between them.
4. How many readings should a Bill receive to become an Act?
5. What is the role of the House of Lords in law-making process?
6. Which of the two Houses of Parliament has more power?
7. How does a Bill go through Parliament? How efficient and democratic is this process, in your opinion?

5. THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

Ex. 1 Read the text

In theory, the constitution has three branches: Parliament, which makes laws, the government, which “executes” laws, i.e. puts them into effect, and the law courts, which interpret laws. Although the Queen is officially head of all three branches, she has little direct power.

Parliament has two parts: the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Members of the House of Commons are elected by the voters of 650 constituencies. They are known as MPs, or Members of Parliament. The Prime Minister, or leader of the Government, is also an MP, usually the leader of the political party with a majority in the House of Commons.

The Prime Minister is advised by a Cabinet of about twenty other ministers. The Cabinet includes the ministers in charge of major government departments or ministries. Departments and ministries are run by civil servants, who are permanent officials. Even if the Government changes after an election, the same civil servants are employed.

The House of Lords consists of the Lords Temporal and the Lords Spiritual. The Lords Spiritual are the Archbishops of York and Canterbury, together with twenty-four senior bishops of the Church of England. The Lords Temporal consist of hereditary peers who have inherited their titles; life peers who are appointed by the Queen on the advice of the Government for various services to the nation[^] and the Lords of Appeal (Law Lords) who become life peers on their judicial appointments. The latter serve the House of Lords as the ultimate court of appeal. This appeal court consists of some nine Law Lords who hold senior judicial office. They are presided

over by the Lord Chancellor and they form a quorum of three to five when they hear appeal cases.

Ex.2 Match the words and their definitions

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| a. quorum | 1: in your mind but maybe not in real life |
| b. bishops | 2: in other words |
| c. hereditary | 3: understand/explain |
| d. in theory | 4: people who vote |
| e. inherited | 5: groups of voters or supporters |
| f. interpret | 6: enough people to legally vote on something |
| g. i.e. | 7: government worker |
| h. spiritual | 8: people in charge of something |
| i. temporal | 9: time-related |
| j. presided over | 10: related to religion or the soul |
| k. ultimate | 11: high-ranking church officials |
| l. appointed | 12: supervisors of several churches |
| m. constituencies | 13: related to things you get from your parents' genes |
| n. judicial | 14: received the |
| o. voters | 15: selected |
| p. civil servant | 16: opinions about what could or should be done |
| q. consists of | 17: different |
| r. the latter | 18: law-related |
| s. appeal | 19: the last thing just mentioned |
| t. officials | 20: final/very best |
| u. various | 21: taking a court case to a higher court for review |
| v. advice | 22: contains |
| w. archbishops | 23: ruled over |

Ex. 3 Answer the questions

1. Which of these people are not elected: a peer, an MP, a civil servant, the Prime Minister?
2. What is the difference between life peers and hereditary peers, Lords Temporal and Lords Spiritual?
3. What are civil servants?
4. Which areas of government do these people deal with: the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Home Secretary, and the Lord Chancellor?

5. Find two examples of executive organisations outside central government.

Ex.4 Work in pairs and discuss the following questions

1. What differences are there between Parliament and the Government?
2. What are the similarities and differences between the UK parliamentary system and that of your own country?

6. THE EXECUTIVE

Ex.1 Read the text

The executive can be divided into the *three* parts.

The Privy Council: The Privy Council developed from a small group of royal advisers at court into the chief source of executive authority. But its position was weakened in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries as more of its functions were transferred to a developing parliamentary Cabinet.

Today its main role is to advise the monarch on a range of matters, like the resolution of constitutional issues and the approval of Orders in Council, such as the granting of Royal Charters to public bodies. The most important task of the Privy Council today is performed by its *Judicial Committee*. This serves as the final court of appeal from those dependencies and Commonwealth countries which have retained this avenue of appeal. It may also be used as an arbiter for a wide range of courts and committees in Britain and overseas, and its rulings can be influential. The office of Privy Councillor is an honorary one, conferred, for example, on former Prime Ministers.

The Ministry: The Ministry is the government of the moment. The head of the Ministry is the Prime Minister. The functions of the Prime Minister are: leading the majority party; running the Government; appointing Cabinet Ministers and other ministers; representing the nation in political matters.

Upon accepting office the Prime Minister must form a government, that is, select a cabinet and ministry from among the Members of Parliament of his own party. The Cabinet constitutes the centre of the government and is composed of about 20 of the most important ministers. All major decisions of the Government are made by the Cabinet, and therefore it is the Cabinet which forms Government policy. Decisions made by the Cabinet must be unanimous, i It makes its decisions collectively and is collectively responsible to Parliament.

After the Prime Minister has formed his cabinet, he selects the rest of his ministry. Most of these ministers are the political heads of Government Departments and are members of one of the Houses.

Government Departments: Government departments are responsible for implementing Government policy. Each department is headed by two people: a political head who is usually the minister, and an administrative head from the Civil Service, called a permanent secretary. They are responsible for a permanent staff which is part of the Civil Service. There are many such departments, for example the Home Office, the Department of Education, the Ministry of Defence, etc. The most important department is the Treasury, and the Prime Minister is usually its political head. It is the Department which controls the economy of the nation. As well as government departments there are government agencies formed to operate public services, e.g., the Post Office, British Rail, etc. Most of these agencies are subject to the control of one of the government departments.

Ex.2 Give Russian equivalents for the following words and expressions.

- The Privy Council
- Royal Charters
- Commonwealth
- The Ministry;
- Government Departments
- Civil Service
- The Home (Foreign) Office
- The Treasury

Ex.3 Find in the text the English equivalents for the following expressions

- вступать в должность
- сформировать правительство
- круг вопросов
- почетная должность
- единогласное решение
- осуществлять политику правительства
- подлежать контролю

Ex.4 Answer the questions

1. What are the functions of:

- a) *Parliament*
- b) *The Prime Minister*
- c) *The Privy Council*
- d) *The Cabinet*
- e) *The Government Departments?*

2. Who does the Cabinet consist of?

3. What is "collective responsibility"?

4. Who is each department headed by? What are their functions?

5. What is a government agency?

Ex.5 Work in pairs and discuss the following questions

1. What is the difference between the Constitutions of the United Kingdom and the Russian Federation?
2. If the Prime Minister wants to introduce a new law, what are the functions of the following: the Cabinet; the House of Commons; the House of Lords; the Queen?
3. What are the features of the British Constitution which you consider important? Compare them with the Constitution of your own country.

Ex.6 Write a description of the constitutional system of your own country using the texts above as a model.

7. A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Do you know? Work in groups and give answers to the following questions.

1. What are the main political parties in Great Britain? What is the difference between them?

2. What kind of people do you think might stand for Parliament in Great Britain?

Ex.1 Read the text Members of Parliament in Great Britain

Each Member of Parliament (MP) represents one of 650 constituencies in the UK. British elections are usually fought between political parties, not individuals.

Therefore, people who want to be elected to Parliament need to be nominated by one of the main political parties.

There is nothing to stop unconventional candidates from standing for election, however. A candidate has only to put down a deposit of 500 pounds and collect ten signatures from residents in the constituency where he wants to stand. A candidate who gets less than 5 per cent of the total votes loses his deposit. For somebody who is standing for election for publicity purposes, this is a small price to pay.

Although MPs will support a particular party, they are not controlled by that political party and theoretically do not have to vote with their party in Parliament. MPs represent everyone in the constituency, not just the people who voted for them.

A lot of MPs' work has nothing to do with voting in Parliament. There are hundreds of things MPs have to deal with in the day-to-day business of constituency life, such as housing or health care. MPs are there to help people and to try to make sure their rights under the law are not violated.

Some MPs hold an advice bureau in their constituencies, where people can go for advice. Anyone who feels that he has been unfairly treated by the central government can complain to their local MP who will do his best to see that the problem is solved.

Members of Parliament have been paid salaries since 1911. The rate has lately been nearly twice the average industrial worker's wages. Since 1965 the allowances for travel, living in London, and paying part-time secretaries and research assistants, have all been increased. Still many MPs insist that they need to have outside earnings, through journalism, work in the law courts or business, to enable them to live up to the standard they expect.

Ex.2 Find in the text the English equivalents for the following phrases.

- a. обращаться за советом
- b. баллотироваться в своем избирательном округе
- c. нарушать права
- d. выдвинуть свою кандидатуру от партии
- e. собирать подписи
- f. участвовать в избирательной кампании в рекламных целях
- g. средняя зарплата рабочего
- h. несправедливо обойтись с кем-либо

Ex. 3 Complete the following texts with the words and expressions from the box, using them in the appropriate form.

Text A: *to appoint; to elect (2); prominent; proportion (4); local councils; to appeal; minority; representation*

Some people suppose that there are few women and members of the ethnic (a) _____ in Parliament. In 1979, Margaret Thatcher became the first woman Prime Minister, yet she never (b) _____ a woman to her Cabinet, and until 1983 the (c) _____ of women (d) _____ to the House of Commons was under 5%. In the election in 1992, 59 women (e) _____ to the House of Commons. This total is still below the (f) _____ in other European countries. Although the Conservatives choose few women as their candidates for the House of Commons' seats, women are very active in the affairs of the party as a whole. The Labourists have also tried to (g) _____ to women voters by giving women (h) _____ positions. In all parties, a higher (i) _____ of women is elected to (j) _____ than the House of Commons. The 2019 General Election returned the highest number and (k) _____ of female MPs ever recorded: 220 (34%) of 650 MPs are women, up from 208 in 2017 (+12). This continues the trend of increasing female (l) _____ in Parliament.

Text B: *constituency; manifesto; private sector; opposition; inflation; unemployment; general election*

- 1) The United Kingdom is divided into 650 parliamentary _____.
- 2) A _____ takes place every four or five years.
- 3) Before an election, each party prepares a _____ which outlines their policies.
- 4) An important Conservative policy was the return of state industries to the _____.
- 5) During the period of Conservative government, _____ fell to 4% for the first time in nearly thirty years.
- 6) However, _____ continued to be unacceptably high.
- 7) While the Conservatives were in power, Labour formed the official _____.

Ex.4 Answer the questions

1. Who can stand for elections in Great Britain?
2. What does the job of an MP consist of? Is it a job you would like to do?
3. Who does an MP represent?
4. Is the job of an MP a well-paid one?
5. Are there many women in Parliament in Great Britain? Can you compare this proportion to the proportion of women in the legislative body in your country?

Unit III. POLITICAL PARTIES, ELECTIONS AND CAMPAIGNING

1. POLITICAL PARTIES

Ex.1 Read the information below

Political parties, and the competition and debate between them, are an important part of the democratic process. All political parties are based on key ideas and principles that members feel are particularly important such as creating a fairer society, giving people greater opportunities and protecting the environment. Political parties sometimes share certain aims, but they tend to differ on how those aims are best achieved.

Political parties have several key functions:

- To enable people with similar views about how the country should be run to come together and campaign for change.
- To structure the choices available to voters in elections, making it easier for citizens to compare candidates based on their party policies.
- To provide a strong source of opposition to the government by giving parties who are not in power the tools to scrutinize and question the parties which are.

Choice for voters

Around *eight* political parties are usually represented in the House of Commons. Some parties campaign on broad principles, such as *the Conservative and Labour parties*; some parties have a specific national or local focus, such as *Plaid Cymru* (Party of Wales) and *the Scottish National Party*; and other parties have a campaign focus, such as *the Green Party*. Traditionally, single parties hope to gain a majority in the House of Commons through a general election so they can form a government without having to cooperate with a different party. However, smaller parties also play an important role, raising issues which other parties may neglect. Not all MPs are affiliated with political parties, though it can be more difficult to gain recognition in a constituency without one. Independent MPs sit in the opposition benches.

Models of voting behaviour are theories about why people vote the way they do. These can be useful in helping to explain voting patterns, but can often be simplistic.

Sociological - This model states social class is the biggest indicator as to which party a person would vote for.

Rational Choice - This theory proposes that voters can accurately assess which choice will benefit them in order to make a rational decision about who to vote for.

Party ID - This model suggests that voter's choices are defined by their allegiance to political parties.

Other terms:

WHIPS

MPs or members of the House of Lords who are appointed by each political party to inform and organise their own members in Parliament. One of their responsibilities is to make sure that their members vote in divisions, in line with party policy.

PARTY REBEL

Sometimes MPs disagree with their party's view and will vote against it – this is known as 'voting against the whip'.

COALITION GOVERNMENT

A government formed jointly by more than one political party. Parties may decide to form a coalition government if there is a hung Parliament where no single party has a clear working majority in the House of Commons following a General Election.

PARTISAN - Being committed to a party or group.

PARTISAN DEALIGNMENT

When individuals become less committed to specific parties.

Ex.1 Answer the questions:

1. Why are political parties an important part of the democratic process?
2. What makes political parties different and what unites them?
3. What model of voting behaviour do you have? Why?
4. What is 'voting against the whip'? What is a whip?
5. What happens if there is a hung government?

Ex.2 Read the text

The main parties in the UK are the Conservative party (right wing), the Labour party (left wing) and the Liberal Democrats (centre).

The Conservative party goes back to the Tories, or Royalists, who originated in King Charles' reign (1660-1685). The Tories were the party that supported Church and King; the other main party at the time was the Whigs, who were a group eager

for political reform. The Tory party gave way to its successor, the Conservative party, in around 1830.

The Conservative party believes in free enterprise and the importance of a capitalist economy, with private ownership preferred to state control.

In 1899 the Trade Union Congress summoned a special conference of trade unions and socialist bodies to make plans to represent labour in Parliament. The proposal for such a meeting had come from Thomas Steels, a member of the Independent Labour Party which had been formed in 1893. The conference met in February 1900 in London and has always been looked on as the foundation of the Labour Party. The Labour party believes that private ownership and enterprise should be allowed to flourish, but not at the expense of their traditional support of the public services.

There has been a Liberal party in Great Britain since 1868 when the name was adopted by the Whig party. The Whig party was created after the revolution of 1688 and aimed to subordinate the power of the Crown to that of Parliament and the upper classes. In 1981 a second centre party was created by 24 Labour MPs. It was called the Social Democratic party, and soon formed an alliance with the Liberal party. They formed a single party which became the Liberal Democrats after the 1987 election.

The Liberal Democrats believe that the state should have some control over the economy, but that there should be individual ownership.

There are other political parties within the UK. The Green party offers economic and industrial policies that relate directly to the environment. The Scottish Nationalist Party wants independence for Scotland within the European Community. Plaid Cymru - the Welsh Nationalist Party - is determined to preserve the Welsh language and culture as the foundation of a distinctive Welsh identity within the UK. Its radical wing has resorted to arson attempts as a means of protest.

Ex.3 Explain the meanings of the following words and expressions

- a. Free enterprise
- b. To flourish
- c. At the expense of
- d. To subordinate
- e. Environment

Ex.4 Answer the questions

1. What are the origins of the main political parties in Great Britain?
2. What political priorities do the main political parties in Britain have?
3. If you were a British voter, which party do you think you would vote for and why?

Ex.5 Work in pairs and compare the major (the minor) political parties in Britain to those in your own country.

2. ELECTIONS

Ex. 1 Complete the following text with the words and expressions

election campaign; support; polling day; ballot box; vote; predict; opinion poll; polling station; candidate.

People sometimes try to (a) _____ the result of an election weeks before it takes place. Several hundred people are asked which party they prefer, and their answers are used to guess the result of the coming election. This is called an (b) _____. Meanwhile each party conducts its (c) _____ with meetings, speeches, television commercials, and party members going from door to door encouraging people to (d) _____ their party. In Britain everyone over 18 is eligible to (e) _____. The place where people go to vote in an election is called a (f) _____ and the day of the election is often known as (g) _____. The voters put their votes in a (h) _____ and later they are counted. The (i) _____ with the most votes is then declared the winner.

Ex.2 Read the text The Election Timetable

The British government is elected for up to five years, unless it is defeated in Parliament on a major issue. The Prime Minister chooses the date of the next General Election, but does not have to wait until the end of the five years. A time is chosen which will give as much advantage as possible to the political party in power. Other politicians and the newspapers try very hard to guess which date the Prime Minister will choose.

About a month before the election the Prime Minister meets a small group of close advisers to discuss the date which would best suit the party.

The date is announced to the Cabinet. The Prime Minister formally asks the Sovereign to dissolve Parliament.

Once Parliament is dissolved, all MPs are unemployed, but government officers continue to function.

Party manifestos are published and campaigning begins throughout the country, lasting for about three weeks with large-scale press, radio and television coverage.

Voting takes place on Polling Day (usually a Thursday). The results from each constituency are announced as soon as the votes have been counted, usually the same night. The national result is known by the next morning at the latest.

As soon as it is clear that one party has a majority of seats in the House of Commons, its leader is formally invited by the Sovereign to form a government.

Ex.3 Find in the text the English equivalents for the phrases below

- a. избирательный округ
- b. правящая партия
- c. вопрос первостепенной важности
- d. дать кому-либо преимущество
- e. сформировать правительство
- f. широкое освещение предвыборной кампании в прессе
- g. объявить дату выборов
- h. объявить результаты выборов
- i. иметь большинство мест в палате общин
- j. распустить парламент
- k. подсчитывать голоса
- l. потерпеть поражение в парламенте

Ex.4 Answer the questions

1. What is an opinion poll? Does it predict the result of the election accurately?
2. What does an election campaign include?
3. How is the Election Day chosen?
4. Why do you think the polling day in Britain is Thursday?
5. What is the successful result for a political party?
6. What role does the Queen play in the elections?
7. Who forms the government?
8. What happens to the party with not enough votes?

Ex.5 Speak about the election timetable in Russia using the vocabulary from the exercises above

3. CAMPAIGNING

Campaigns seek to influence the activities of the government and public policy. They can be started by individuals or groups known as pressure groups. Effective campaigns usually focus on one specific issue.

Pressure groups

Pressure groups generally fall into two categories:

Those who campaign on one issue (known as *causal groups*), and those who campaign on a range of issues linked to a theme (known as *sectional groups*). Pressure groups sometimes provide the government with information and assist with inquiries related to their area of interest.

It can be difficult for individuals on their own to influence policy and political decisions.

A group of like-minded people working together can have more impact and be more successful in getting their concerns heard by both the government and the general public. Pressure groups include registered charities, trade unions, women's organisations, faith-based organisations, professional and business associations and community groups.

INSIDER PRESSURE GROUPS

Pressure groups which include, or work closely alongside, politicians. They will often have strong party affiliations.

OUTSIDER PRESSURE GROUPS

These groups, and their campaigning methods, are public-driven. They will tend to use mainstream media more than insider pressure groups.



Raising awareness

The second series of the BBC's wildlife documentary, *Blue Planet*, was a major force in raising awareness of the effect of plastic waste on marine life. It was suggested that 88% of viewers changed their behaviour after watching the show.



Petitions

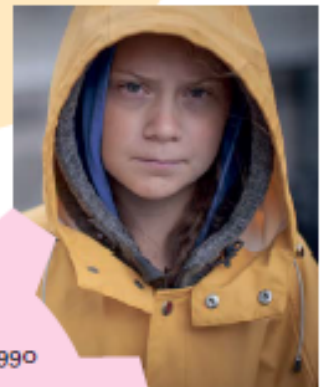
In 2018, a petition suggesting the law should require all supermarkets to offer plastic-free produce was debated in Parliament having gained 128,001 signatures. Petitions can be circulated and submitted to Parliament through petition.parliament.uk. All petitions made on the site which get over 10,000 signatures receive a written response from the government, and 100,000 signatures qualifies a petition to be considered for a debate in Parliament.

Direct Action

Extinction Rebellion is a movement that was formed in 2018 during a climate protest. The group advocate 'non-violent civil disobedience', and has used methods such as occupying bridges, planting trees in public spaces and attaching themselves to landmarks such as Buckingham Palace.

Popular protest

At the age of 15, Greta Thunberg skipped school to protest alone outside the Swedish Parliament, and in doing so, started a global movement of mass protests by young people, calling for more decisive action to be taken against climate change.



METHODS OF CAMPAIGNING

Climate Change

Political party

The Green Party formed in 1990 with the aim of preventing systematic damage to the environment through the political system. They campaign for electoral reform and stand upon a manifesto produced by their membership.

Lobbying
 Surfers against Sewage was set up in 1990 by a group of water sports enthusiasts in reaction to increasingly polluted waters. The group campaigned for measures to be taken to protect the quality of water, attending government and business lobbies wearing a distinctive uniform of wetsuits and gasmasks. Since the group was set up, the quality of the water around the UK has improved hugely.

Non-Government organisations (NGOs)
 NGOs are organisations which use a range of campaigning methods to work towards their goals. In 2010, Greenpeace contributed to the government postponing plans to build a third runway at Heathrow airport having taken a range of measures, from petitioning and protesting to purchasing and dividing land, and mounting legal challenges against the government.

Ex.3 Read about the 10 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

1. Vote in elections

You can register to vote from age 16, which will mean you are ready to participate in local and general elections. You can find out more at www.yourvotematters.co.uk

2. Follow UK Parliament on social media

Parliament has a range of channels to help you stay up to date – you can follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

3. Join a political party

Most political parties have youth sections which deal with issues most relevant to you. Joining a party may entitle you to certain benefits, including voting for party leaders.

4. Contact your MP

Find details of your local representative at www.parliament.uk/findyourmp and get in contact. MPs hold ‘surgeries’ in their constituencies to give people an opportunity to meet them and discuss matters of concern in person.

5. Petition Parliament

If you feel strongly about an issue you may want to start or sign a petition. Find out more at petition.parliament.uk

6. Visit Parliament

UK Parliament is free to visit, and no appointment is necessary. You can watch debates from the public viewing galleries or attend a select committee evidence session. The Scottish Parliament, Senedd Cymru and Northern Irish Assembly also allow visits.

7. Stand for election for the UK Youth Parliament

Any young person who is a resident of the UK, and aged between 11 and 18 years old has the right to stand for election and the right to vote for their Youth Parliament Member.

8. Keep up to date

At www.parliament.uk you can find Hansard's official record of what is said in parliamentary debates, as well as details of the week's business. Newspapers and political websites and TV programmes will also help you stay up to date.

9. Take part in a select committee inquiry

Select Committees inquire into pressing issues affecting government and the public, often using online surveys and requests for evidence from the public. This is a great way to influence Parliament's scrutiny process.

10. Stand as an MP

Anyone over the age of 18 who is a citizen of Britain, Ireland or the Commonwealth, and resides in the UK, is entitled to stand as an MP.

Ex.4 Being a Politology student and a citizen, how are you involved in politics? Using the information in Ex.3 speculate about your participation, present similar resources/sites which involve young people into politics. Present your findings/ideas to the group.

Елена Борисовна Ходырева, Варвара Валерьевна Голубкова

THE UK POLITICAL SYSTEM SIMPLY

Учебно-методическое пособие

Федеральное государственное автономное
образовательное учреждение высшего образования
«Национальный исследовательский Нижегородский государственный
университет им. Н.И. Лобачевского».
603950, Нижний Новгород, пр. Гагарина, 23