

# The United Kingdom

## Country and people



# Group work

## Overview of the United Kingdom

- Location
- Countries
- Language
- Capital
- Population
- Area
- Flag

# Where is the United Kingdom?

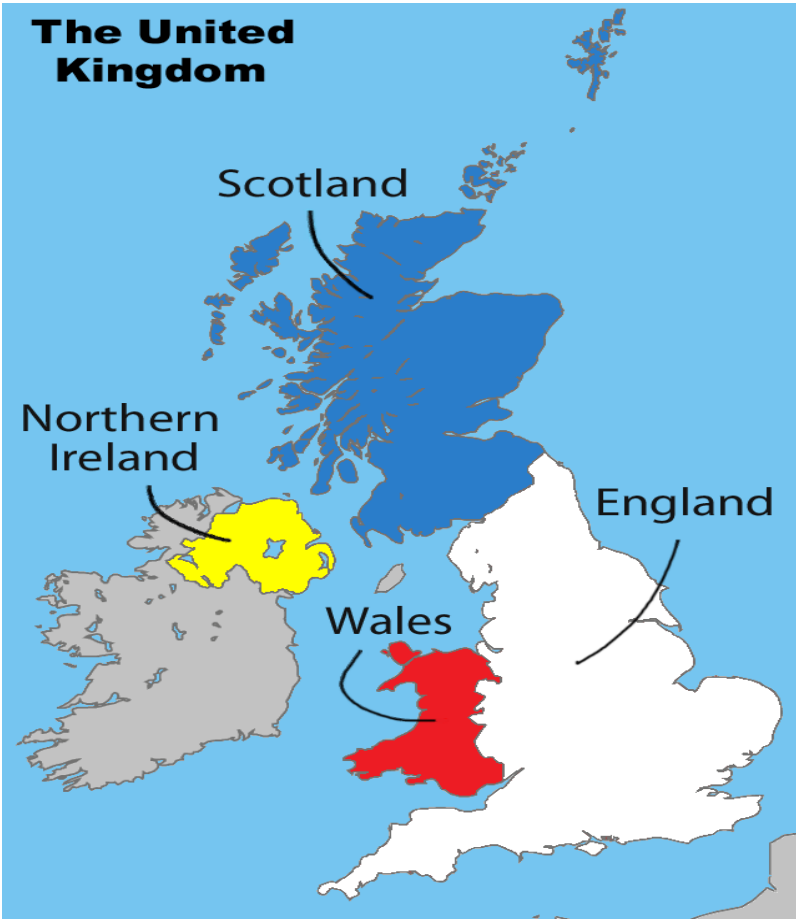


Northwestern Coast of Europe

# Name

- **Official name:** The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- **Shorter name:**
  - The United Kingdom or the UK
  - Great Britain
  - Britain

## The United Kingdom



The UK is made up of four countries:

- ❖ England
- ❖ Scotland
- ❖ Wales
- ❖ Northern Ireland

➔ **The UK:** sovereign country (makes laws and self governs)

**Great Britain:** 3 constituent countries (England, Scotland, Wales)

**The UK = Great Britain + Northern Ireland**

# England

- Capital city:

**LONDON**

- Patron Saint :

**GEORGE**



# England

- Plant:

**The rose**



# Scotland

- Capital city:

**EDINBURGH**

- Patron Saint:

**ANDREW**





# Scotland

- Plant:

**The thistle**



# Wales

- Capital city:

**CARDIFF**

- Patron Saint :

**DAVID**



# Wales

- Plants:



**The leek**



**The daffodil**

# Northern Ireland

- Capital city:

**BELFAST**

- Patron Saint:

**PATRICK**



# Northern Ireland

- Plant:

**shamrock**



# Flags



England



Ireland



Scotland



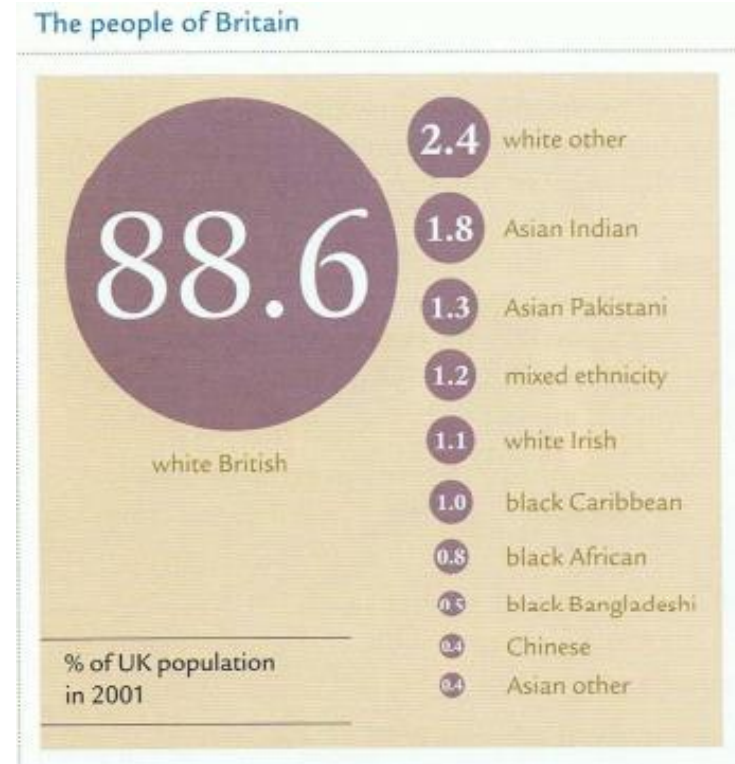
Wales

# The Union Jack/Flag



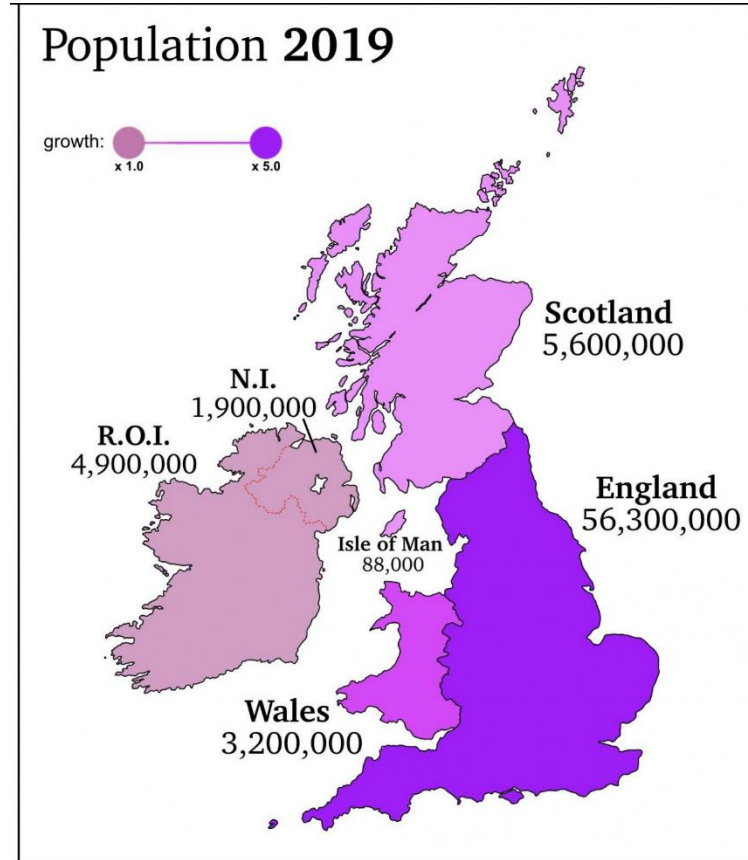
# People

- **British (Irish, Welsh, Scottish, English)**
- **Official Language:** English
- The largest recognizable ethnic grouping was formed by people in the **Indian subcontinent/South Asia** (Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi)





# The dominance of England



# Some historical and poetic names

- **Albion:** refer to England, Scotland, or Great Britain as a whole.
- **Britannia:** the name that Romans gave to their southern British province or female embodiment of Britain.



# Signs of national identity

- **Briton:** citizen of the UK
- **Caledonia, Cambria, Hibernia:** Roman names for Scotland, Wales, and Ireland respectively.
- **John Bull** (can be compared to Uncle Sam in the USA) is a fictional character who is supposed to personify Englishness and English virtues.

# Surnames

- Irish or Scottish: the prefix- Mac, Mc (McCall, MacDonald)
- Irish: Prefix O' (O'Connor..)
- Welsh: Evans, Jones, Morgan, Price, Williams
- English, Scottish: the most common surname is Smith

# Clothes

- Kilt: skirt tartan pattern worn by Scottish men



# Homework

- EXERCISE 6

# CHAPTER 5: ATTITUDES

# Stereotypes and Change

## Public life

- The annual ceremony of the state opening of the Parliament → follow the customs carefully
- Military ceremony of “trooping the colour”
- Changing of the guard outside Buckingham palace



**NEVER CHANGE**



# Stereotypes and Change

- Private everyday life
- British are probably less inclined to follow tradition
- ➔ There are few age-old customs
- English language has fewer sayings or proverbs in common everyday use than other languages

# Stereotypes and Change

- Stereotype image of London “city gent” wearing **bowler hat** → not typical any more
- Traditional British breakfast is large “fry-up” → not typical any more
- The tradition of afternoon tea → minority activity (retired people, leisured upper – middle class)

# Queuing

- Why?
- Fairness/ they want everything to be fair

# Anti-intellectualism

- Teacher and academic staff although respected, do not have as high status in society as they do in most other countries
- Traditionally, large sections of both upper and working class were not interested in their children getting to university

- It is still unusual for parents to arrange extra private tuition for their children

➔ Small proportion of population holds such attitudes. (England)

British people like to know things especially **quizzes**

# English anti-intellectualism vocabulary

- Swot: someone who worked hard and did well academically
- Teacher's pet: students show desire to learn
- Clever: a person who cannot quite be trusted/  
somebody who "get all ideas from books"
- intellectual **Negative meaning**

# A multicultural society

- It's made up of four different nations - England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland are all different countries with different dialects, customs, music, and languages.
- Different cities in the UK also have different proportions of various ethnic groups.

For example:

# Conservatism

- British people like symbols of tradition

*For example:*

- ❖ Like traditional family values (both parents married and living together, parents as the main source of authority for children, ect)
- ❖ Enjoy living the the old houses
- ❖ Like Christmas cards to depict scenes from past centuries



# Being different

- Driving on left- hand side
- Remaining 1 hour behind Central European Time
- Start its financial year at the beginning of April
- System of measurement is metric system (feet/mile/stone...)

# Love of nature

- The first country in the world appoint a government-sponsored conservation body (1949) and the first large green pressure group was founded (1961)
- Ideal vision of the countryside: *Countryside means peace and quiet, beauty, health, and no crime*
- Gardening is one of the most popular hobbies

# Love of animals

- British tend to have a sentimental attitude to animals
- Half of households (50%) in Britain keep at least one domestic pet
- “Bird-tables” in the garden: **a raised platform on which birds can feed**

# Formality vs Informality

Formal	Informal
Clothes Public role (On duty)	Clothes Private role (being themselves)
Shake hand	Not shake hand
Address someone by his or her titles (Mr, Mrs...)	Not address someone by his or her titles (Mr, Mrs...)
Dressing smartly when entertaining guests	Not dressing smartly when entertaining guests
Saying 'please' when making a request	Not saying 'please' when making a request
Strangers/ Acquaintance	Friends

- Kiss when meeting friends (both women and women, men and women, rarely men and men)

# Privacy and sex

- Rude to ask personal questions (salary, family, sex life) or keep silent
- In passing, casual conversation, British people talk about the weather because they want to fill the gap (They don't like silence)

Who is she?



# **THE UNITED KINGDOM**

a democracy?

a constitutional

monarchy?



# **BRITISH MONARCHY**

***1. The appearance***

***2. The reality***

# The appearance

- “the Crown”- legal authority of the monarch
- The head of the state is a King or Queen.
- The Queen embodies the law in the courts.

# **British royal dynasties**

*Norman (1066-),*

*Plantagenet (1154-),*

*Lancaster (1399-),*

*York (1461-),*

*Tudor (1485-),*

*Stuart (1603-),*

*Hanover (1714-1901),*

*Windsor(1901/1917-present) =*

*British Royal Family name*

# The Windsors



George V

# The Windsors



Edward VIII



George VI

# The Windsors



- Queen Elizabeth II

the head of the state.



- Queen Elizabeth II  
6 February 1952





- Succession to the throne is hereditary.
- the oldest **males offspring** of the monarch.
- now - the oldest child irrespective of the sex becomes the heir to the crown.
- The heir has the title of **the Prince of Wales**

# British Royal family

**Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother** This was the official title of the mother of Queen Elizabeth II. She died at the age of 101 in 2002. Her tours of bombed areas of London during the Second World War with her husband, King George VI, made her popular with the British people and she remained popular until her death.

**Queen Elizabeth II** was born in 1926 and became Queen in 1952. At the time of writing, she is the second longest-reigning monarch in British history. She is widely respected for the way in which she performs her duties and is generally popular.

**Prince Philip Mountbatten** married Queen Elizabeth II in 1947. His outspoken opinions on certain matters have sometimes been embarrassing to the royal family.

**Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales**, was born in 1948. As the eldest son of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, he is heir to the throne. He is concerned about the environment and living conditions in Britain's cities. He sometimes makes speeches which are critical of aspects of modern life.

**Princess Diana** married Prince Charles in 1981. The couple separated in 1992 and later divorced. Diana died in a car accident in 1997. During her lifetime, she was a glamorous figure and the public loved her. They felt able to identify with her in a way that they could not with other 'royals'. (She was, in fact, the first Englishwoman ever to marry an heir to the throne.)

**Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall** married Prince Charles in 2005. Her long relationship with Charles is widely believed to have been a major cause of his separation from Diana. For this reason, she is not very popular with the public. On the other hand, people are generally sympathetic to those involved in long-lasting love affairs, so it is likely that she will become more popular (or at least less unpopular) as time passes.

**Princess Anne** is the Queen's daughter (also known as the Princess Royal), and was born in 1950. She separated from her husband after they had one son and one daughter. She married again in 1992. She is widely respected for her charity work.

**Prince Andrew, the Duke of York** was born in 1960 and is the Queen's second son. He is separated from his wife, Sarah Ferguson (known to the popular press as 'Fergie'). They have two daughters.

**Prince Edward** the Queen's youngest son, was born in 1964. He married Sophie Rhys Jones in 1999. He and his wife are the Earl and Countess of Wessex.

**Prince William** (born 1982) is the eldest son of Charles and Diana and therefore the next in line to the throne after his father. He and his brother **Prince Henry** (born 1984), like Charles and Andrew before them, have both embarked on military careers.



- Queen Regnant
- Prince Consort



Queen Elizabeth II and  
Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh



The reigning monarch is not only the head of the state but also a symbol of the unity of the nation.

# The reality

- The Queen has almost no power at all
- She receives her authority from Parliament and her power is limited.

***She reigns, but does not rule.***

- the Crown is only sovereign by the will of Parliament.
- The country is actually governed by Her Majesty's Government.
- the Queen has to act on the advice of her ministers.

- to appoint Prime Minister,  
→ the leader of the party which  
have won the majority in the  
House of Commons/ the  
leader of the strongest party

Windsor Castle - Royal residence - one of the Queen's favourite homes.





# Buckingham Palace – The Queen's official London residence



# Civil List

- The money which the Queen and some of her relatives get from Parliament each year so that they can carry out various public duties.

# Politics in Britain

## The Government and Parliament



British *sovereignty* consists  
in 3 elements:

- the Crown
- Government
- Parliament

# Group work

1. Who runs the UK?
2. What are the most important ministers called? What are the most important Secretaries of State?
3. Who are in the Cabinet of the UK?
4. Who is the Prime Minister and what is his job? Where does the British Prime Minister live?
5. What is Parliament?
6. Where does the British Parliament work? Describe the building?
7. What is structures inside the meeting room of the House of Commons?
8. How many members are there in the House of Commons? Who chairs and controls discussion in the House of Commons?
9. Who are frontbenchers and backbenchers?
10. How does Parliament make new laws?

# The Government

- **Prime Minister (PM):** leader of the party which has the majority in the Parliament (largest numbers of MPs)
- **The Cabinet:** Prime Minister appoints a team of main ministers as the Cabinet (about 20 people).
- Most heads of the government departments have the title **Secretary of State**

The Cabinet meets at the  
Prime Minister's house  
(official residence) – number  
**10 Downing street.**



# The Parliament

- British Parliament works in a large building called the Palace of Westminster or The House of Parliament



# The Houses of Parliament

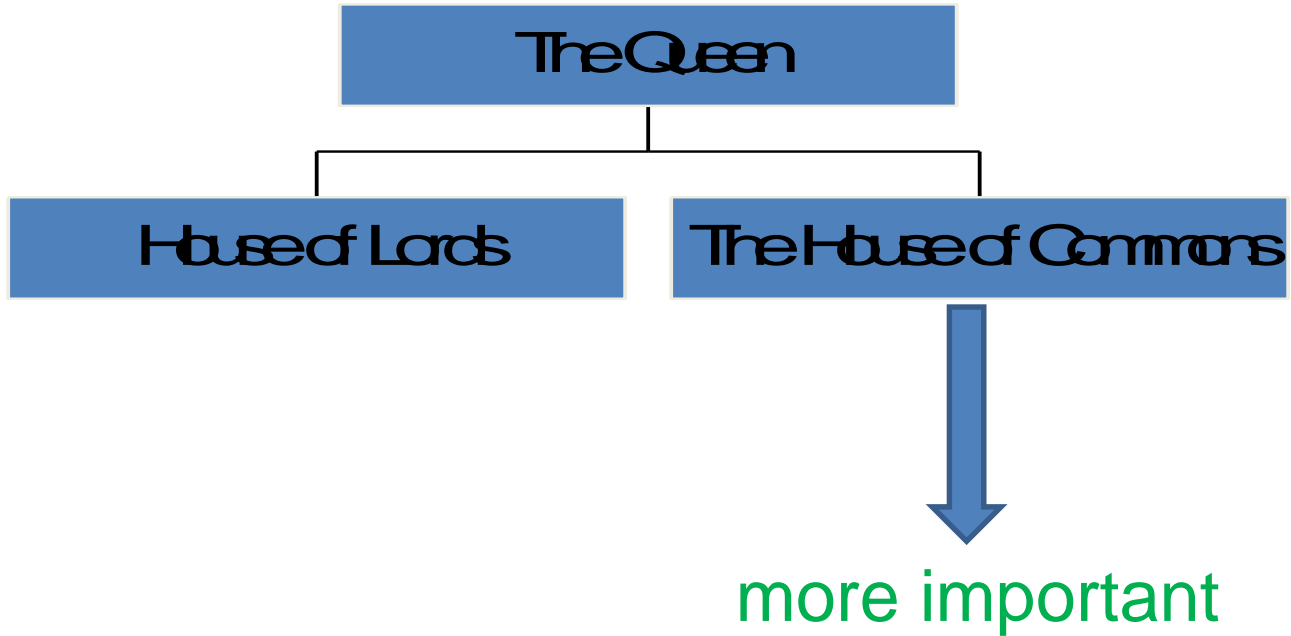


British Central Office of Information

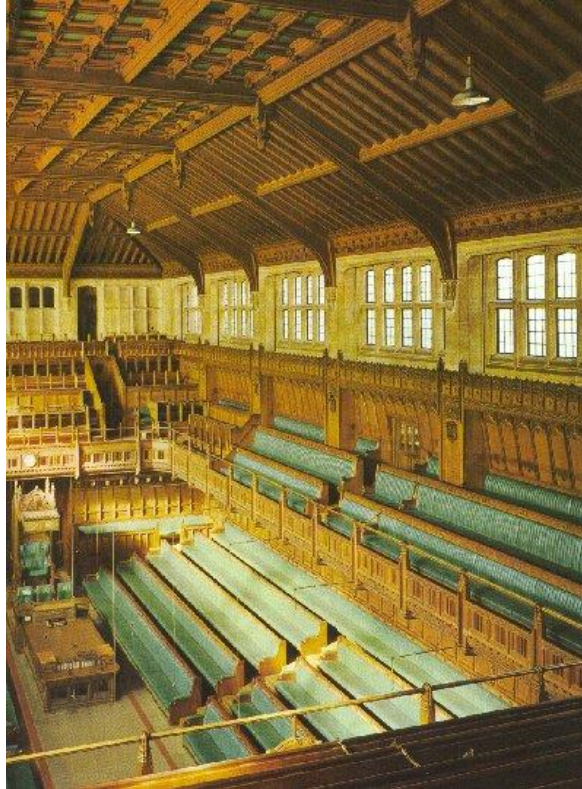
## Contains

- Offices
- committee rooms
- Restaurants
- bars
- libraries
- and even some places of residence

Parliament consists of the House of Commons and the House of Lords.



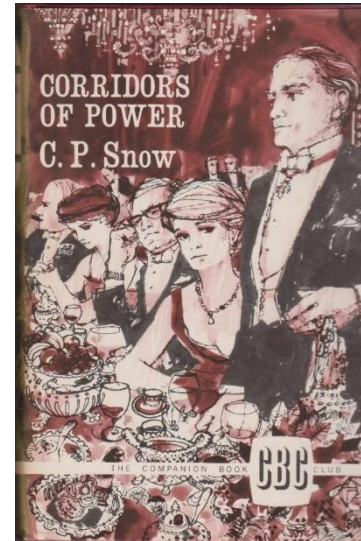
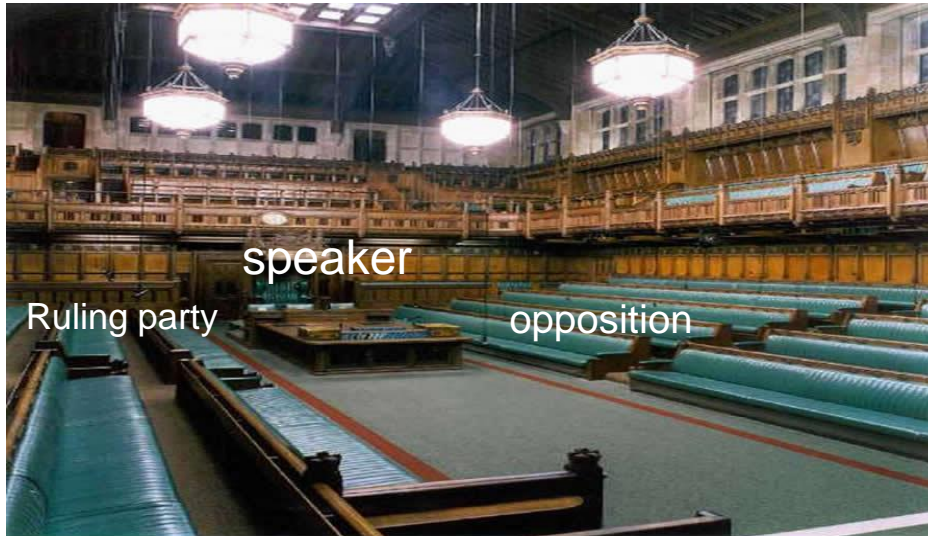
# The House of Commons



# The House of Commons

There are at present **650 members** of the House of Commons, who are elected by people **every five years**.

Members of the House of Commons are known as MPs (Members of Parliament)



# The Speaker

- The Speaker is the person who chairs and controls discussion in the House



# House of Lords

- Has no real power and only limited influences
- Four different types of Lords
  1. Life Peer
  2. Law Lords
  3. Bishops and archbishops
  4. Hereditary peers

# The atmosphere of the Parliament

- Seating arrangements: two rows of benches facing each other





# The atmosphere of the Parliament

- No desks for MPs
- The room is small (there isn't enough room for all MPs)



# Atmosphere?

- Formal



Informal

MPs are forbidden to address one another by **NAME**  
my honourable member for Winchester or my right  
honourable friend

MPs never say “**you**”

# Hansard

- This is the name given to the daily verbatim reports of everything that has been said in the Commons



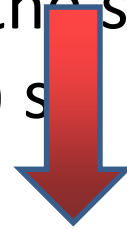
# Frontbenchers and Backbenchers

- Front benches are where the leading members of both parties sit



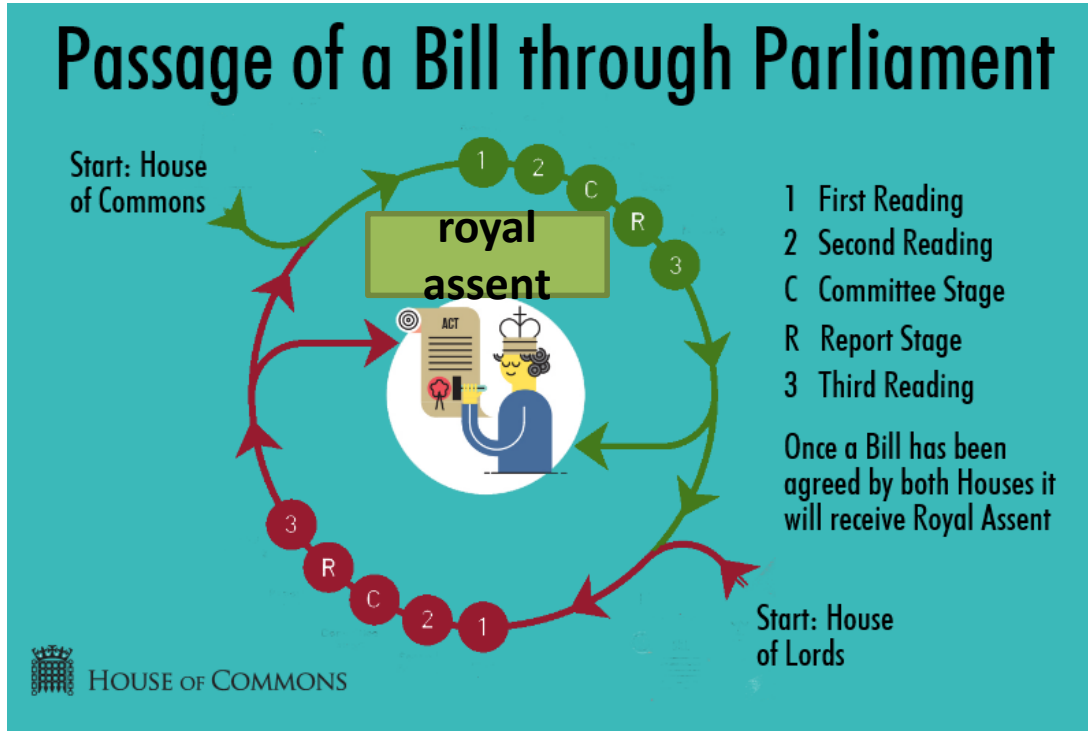
**Frontbenchers**

- Back benches are where other MPs (do not hold a government post or a post in the shadow cabinet) sit



**Backbenchers**

# How a bill become a law



Act of  
Parliament/  
Law

***EDUCATION  
OF THE UK***

Children in the UK attend primary and secondary education which runs from about 5 years old until 16 years old. ==> Compulsory

Academic year begins at the end of summer / the beginning of September



# Primary Education

Primary education begins in the UK at age 5 and continues until age 11

Students are taught by a class teacher who teach all subjects





## Secondary Education

From age 11 to 16, students will enter secondary school

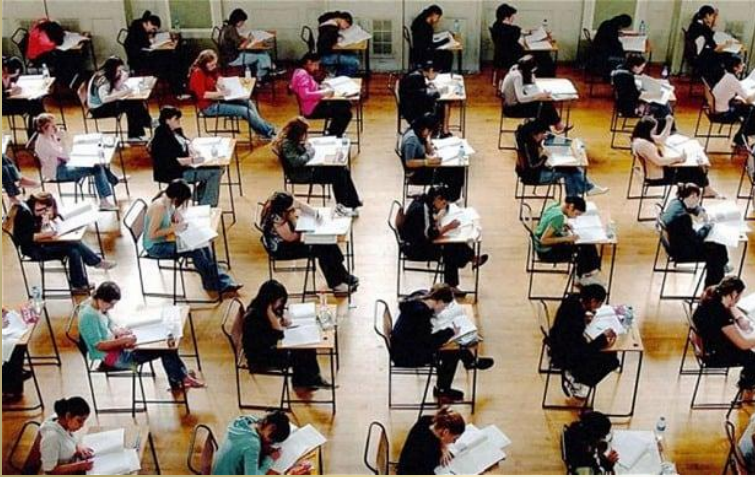
Pupils get different teachers for different subjects

After 16, education is optional.



## Further Education

Once a student finishes secondary education they have the option to extend into further education



# Higher Education



# Types of Schools in Britain

There are two different types of school:

- state schools
- private schools



# State Schools

- There are schools run by the Government. These schools are known as State Schools and parents do not pay. They are financed by public funds, which means that the money comes from the national and local taxes.
- 90% of children in England and Wales attend a state school.

# Private schools

- All students at private schools must pay. The fees at private schools are exactly the same for British students as for overseas students.



# School life

- The total number of hours in a year which children spend is longer than in other European countries
- School day: 9am-3/4pm

# Examinations

All students must take two very important examinations:

- GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education) taken by most 15-16 years old students in England, Wales and Northern Ireland
- A-level (Advanced Levels): They are taken mostly by people around 18 who wish to go to higher education.



**University of Cambridge**  
International Examinations  
International General Certificate of  
Secondary Education (IGCSE)



## Universities and Colleges in Great Britain

- Education in Great Britain, considered one of the best in the world. Superb Colleges and Universities, where the choice of courses is almost unlimited. From Mathematics to Medicine.
- There are over 90 universities in GB.

# Colleges in Britain

- There are not only universities in Britain but also colleges. Colleges offer courses in teacher training, courses in technology and some professions connected with medicine.



# The Best U.K. Universities

- University of Cambridge
- University of Oxford
- University of Birmingham
- University of Manchester
- University of Leeds
- Durham University
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Warwick
- University College London
- University of Southampton

