

Lesson 4

The Role of Parliament, MPs & Political Parties

Registration Activity



What do you think the connection is between these pictures?

How the government is elected

- 1) **The UK is divided into 657** areas called
- 2) Before the general, the main political choose members who will represent them in each place.
- 3) These representatives campaign and hope that people will for them.
- 4) On the day of the **general election**, people vote for the candidate who they think would be the best for their **constituency**.
- 5) Whoever has the most votes becomes a of Parliament and goes to London, to the Houses of
- 6) The party with the most **MPs** forms the In our last government, we had a **COALITION GOVERNMENT**, that means our **Prime Minister is David Cameron** and his **political party** is the Party. However, we also had a Deputy Prime Minister called Clegg and he led the **Liberal Democrats** who formed the Coalition Government with the Prime Minister's Political party, this meant they ruled the UK together. However, in the last election 2015 the Conservative won the election so our Current Prime Minister is /
- 7) The/..... chooses the top 25-30, cleverest MPs to become the **government** and they rule the country.

STARTER ACTIVITY

Complete this worksheet

Constituencies		David Cameron		Election	
Parties	Vote	Government		MP	Nick
Member	Parliament	Conservative			
Prime Minister					

Is Honesty important in Politics?

How does Parliament ensure Integrity?



Write these in your book and consider them throughout the lesson





What
Are We
Learning
Today?

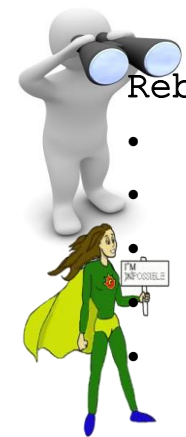
Learning Objective

Date: _____

To be able to explain the role of parliament in representing the people.

To Reach Level 4 you will ...	To Reach Level 5 you will ...	To Reach Level 6 you will ...	To Reach Level 7 you will ...
Identify & List the ways in which Parliament works and holds the government to account	Describe how Parliament works and explain how it makes sure the government are honest about their actions	Explain how the 3 parts of parliament work together to ensure the Integrity of the UK Democracy along with the media & public	Create a proposal to the UK Government to make key changes to ensure that the UK government remains Honest, respected and transparent.

W.I.L.F.-What I'm Looking For:

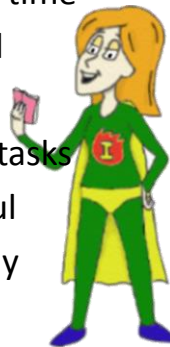


Rebecca Resilience

- Persevere
- Growth mind set
- Stay positive
- Avoid distractions
- Stay strong

Izzy Independence

- Manage your time
- Stay focussed
- Be motivated
- Engage in all tasks
- Be resourceful
- Think carefully



Key Words

Integrity

Honesty

Parliament

Democracy

Scrutinise

Transparent

There are 3 parts to our Parliament



NOT ELECTED BY THE
VOTERS (PUBLIC)

NOT ELECTED BY THE
VOTERS (PUBLIC)

Each part of Parliament reviews and can make changes to a new law or a change to a law. They all watch the actions of each other.

EVERY WEEK the Prime Minister has to go to Parliament to justify why he and his government have done what they have in the last week and any MP can ask him questions during this session.

Every **WEEK** the Prime Minister has an audience with the Queen to discuss what he and the government have done and plan to do next.

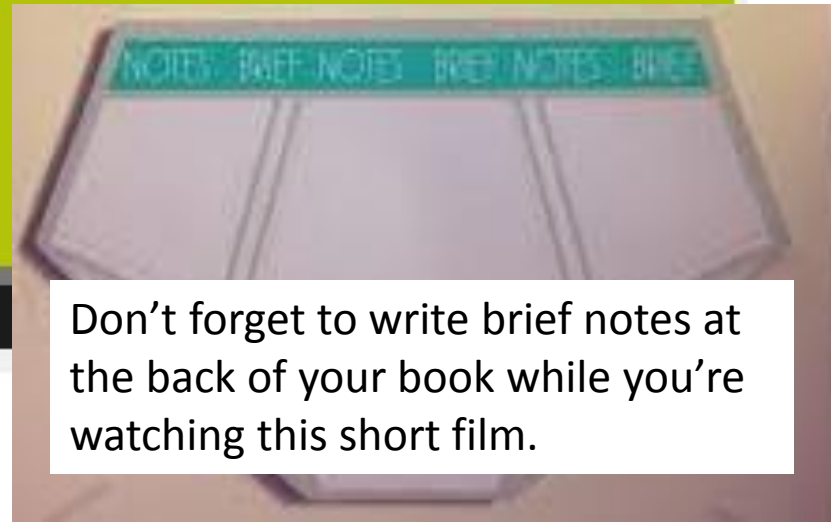
large day in which
becomes a Peer.

Watch this video and be prepared to answer this question:

How does Parliament hold the government to account?



Holding Government to Account



Don't forget to write brief notes at the back of your book while you're watching this short film.

How does Parliament ensure Integrity?

What are the 3 parts to Parliament and how do they ensure the government don't just do what they want?

How do we make sure the Government is DEMOCRATIC in the UK?

How does the Government get it's money to pay for things?

The MP Expenses Scandal, 2009

Description of what it was.

Arguments why it was wrong

Arguments why it was not wrong

How do we make sure the Government is DEMOCRATIC in the UK?

Look at these images. What do they mean? How do we hold the government to account?



VOTE
MEDIA
LOBBY/
PROTEST
PARLIAMENT



How does Parliament ensure Integrity?

What are the 3 parts to Parliament and how do they ensure the government don't just do what they want?

How do we make sure the Government is DEMOCRATIC in the UK?

VOTE; MEDIA; LOBBY/ PROTEST; & PARLIAMENT

How does the Government get it's money to pay for things?

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Description of what it was.

Arguments why it was wrong

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How does the Government get it's money to pay for things?

National Insurance = You pay National Insurance contributions to qualify for certain benefits including the State Pension. You pay National Insurance if you're 16 or over, an employee earning above £155 a week, self-employed and making a profit of £5,965 or more a year. You need a National Insurance number before you can start paying National Insurance contributions which is posted to you when you're 16.

VAT = This stands for Value Added Tax and is the tax that suppliers of goods and services charge customers. It is currently 20%. So if you have ever bought something from a shop, you have paid VAT.

Income Tax = Income Tax is a tax you pay on your income (that means the money you make). You pay tax on things like money you earn from employment (wages), profits you make if you're self-employed - including from services you sell through websites or apps; some state benefits; most pensions, including state pensions, company and personal pensions and retirement allowances; interest on savings and pensioner bonds; rental income (unless you're a live-in landlord and get £4,250 or less); benefits you get from your job; income from a trust; dividends from company shares

Council Tax = Council tax is a system of local taxation collected by local authorities. It is a tax on domestic property (your Home).

Vehicle Excise duty (Commonly known as Car/Road Tax) = Car vehicle tax rates are based on either engine size or fuel type and CO2 emissions, depending on when the vehicle was registered. The rates are split into bands. The lower the emissions, the lower the vehicle tax.

In your life time the majority of people will pay all the RED taxes. Some may also pay the business taxes as well (in Blue).

Business Rates
Excise Duty
Corporation Tax
Other-including Stamp Duty

How does Parliament ensure ?

What are the 3 parts to Parliament and how do they ensure the government don't just do what they want?

How do we make sure the Government is DEMOCRATIC in the UK?

How does the Government get it's money to pay for things? FROM TAXES SUCH AS:

National Insurance, VAT, Income Tax Council Tax Vehicle Excise duty (Commonly known as Car/Road Tax)

The MP Expenses Scandal, 2009

Description of what it was.

Arguments why it was wrong

Arguments why it was not wrong

The MP Expenses Scandal, 2009

GORDON BROWN

Claim: The prime minister paid his brother, Andrew, £6,577 for arranging cleaning services for his Westminster flat for 26 months.

Since reporting the arrangement, the Telegraph group has clarified that there "has never been any suggestion of any impropriety on the part of the Prime Minister or his brother".

Response: No 10 said the two shared a cleaner who worked in both their flats. Andrew Brown paid her and was reimbursed for his share of the cost. He did not do the cleaning himself or gain financially.

There was a formal contract for the arrangement, Downing Street sources add, stipulating the cleaner's hours of work and pay. The cleaner wanted to be paid by one person for National Insurance purposes.

Claim: Gordon Brown also claimed twice for the same plumbing work within six months of each other.

Response: The House of Commons Fees Office said the mistake had been inadvertent and apologised for having not spotted it. Gordon Brown is understood to have repaid the sum involved - believed to be £150.

DAVID CHAYTOR

Claim: The Telegraph said the Bury North MP claimed nearly £13,000 for a mortgage he had already cleared. The paper says that between September 2005 and August 2006, the Labour backbencher claimed £1,175 a month in interest on his Westminster flat. However, Land Registry records show the mortgage was paid off in January 2004. The Telegraph also alleged that Mr Chaytor "flipped" the designation of his second home six times, including once to a house registered in his son's name. He reportedly blamed these actions on "changing and complex family circumstances".

Response: In a statement, Mr Chaytor told the Telegraph he apologised "unreservedly" for what had been "an unforgivable error in accounting procedures". He reportedly told the paper he would arrange repayment to the Commons fees office immediately. Mr Chaytor has referred himself to the parliamentary standards watchdog and has also been suspended from the Parliamentary Labour Party pending the outcome of investigations. He has decided to stand down as an MP at the next election.



Why do you think people were upset that our then Prime Minister Gordon Brown had paid his brother £6, 577?

What right did the public think they had to be upset do you think?

**Friday 23 October 2009
10.56 BST**

The British economy is mired in its longest recession on record, as government figures out this morning showed a shock 0.4% drop in gross domestic product (GDP) in the third quarter of the year.

SHAHID MALIK

Claim: The Telegraph says the Dewsbury MP claimed £66,827 from the second home allowance - the maximum allowed - over three years towards the cost of his London flat - bought in 2001 before he was elected. According to the paper, Mr Malik's claims over the period included £2,100 for a flat screen television, £1,420 for a bathroom, £671 for a fireplace and £730 for a massage chair. It says the Fees Office rejected the TV claim - ultimately granting the MP £1,050 for a TV and £250 for a DVD system - and a further claim for an iPod. Mr Malik is also reported to have claimed for a £65 court summons for not paying council tax. While claiming the equivalent of £443 per week for his London flat, the Telegraph says Mr Malik was paying less than £100 a week to rent a property in his constituency from a local businessman. It says the rental agreement with the businessman, from whom it says the MP also rented a constituency office - began in 2004 and continued until 2008 when Mr Malik married and moved into a larger property in the town.

Response: The justice minister defended his claims as being totally within the rules but did temporarily step down from his post pending an inquiry into whether he had received a preferential rent on his Dewsbury property and if so, whether that breached the ministerial code. He emphatically rejects claims he was paying a peppercorn rent for his Dewsbury property, saying this was a fabrication. Mr Malik has repaid the £65 claim for council tax summons and has said he will make a £1050 donation - relating to the value of the TV - to good causes in his constituency as a "gesture". He said he would not give the money back to the fees office because they had approved all his expenditure in the first place. He said he had claimed for "basic essentials" under the second home allowance such as mortgage interest, utility bills and council tax and had behaved "one million per cent by the book". As for furnishings, he said he did not receive a "good service" from the Commons Fees Office which didn't tell him there was an upper limit on individual claimable items. He says the Green Book which governs what MPs can claim was full of "subjective rules" and the system was now "in tatters". He said he had never "flipped" his home arrangements and always spent most of his time in Dewsbury. He said the Telegraph had picked him out - rather than David Cameron, who he said had claimed as much as him - because it was a Conservative-supporting newspaper. Mr Malik was investigated by No 10's adviser on ministerial interests, who, No 10 said, cleared him of receiving a preferential rent or breaching the ministerial code. After that verdict he was appointed as communities minister.



The MP Expenses Scandal, 2009

JACK STRAW

Claim: The justice secretary over-claimed £1,500 on council tax on his second home.

He made a claim for the full bill despite getting a 50% discount from the local authority for the property.

Response: A spokesman for Mr Straw said he acted within the rules. He spotted the mistaken council tax claim himself and repaid the money himself. Mr Straw later told the BBC: "I have acted in complete good faith and within the rules. It is an error, which obviously I wish hadn't happened, but in circumstances in which I was incredibly busy during that period - that is not an excuse, it is just an explanation."



ANDY BURNHAM

Claim: The culture secretary was reportedly battling with the fees office for eight months over a £16,500 expenses claim to buy and renovate a new London flat which was eventually paid, after being rejected three times.

He also claimed a £19.99 bath robe bought from Ikea in 2007 that was not allowed.

Response: Mr Burnham insists he did not profit from the property transaction. He made only permissible claims and returned a £1,000 surplus to the Fees Office for allowances he did not spend.



On the Ikea receipt, he made a "genuine oversight" on one item. When it was discovered, he corrected it and he was not reimbursed.

Does it count as being dishonest if you are working within the guidelines that were in place as Mr & Mrs Keen argued?

MPs' Expenses: The Telegraph's investigation, The Expenses Files, into how politicians - from the Cabinet to backbenchers of all parties - exploited the system of parliamentary allowances to subsidise their lifestyles and multiple homes.

ALAN AND ANN KEEN

Claim: The Telegraph says Labour MPs Alan and Ann Keen - who are married - have claimed £137,679 between them towards a central London flat despite the fact their family home is less than ten miles away. According to the paper, the couple bought the London property in 2002 and have, between them, claimed more than £30,000

towards it in each of the past four years. The couple's main home is in Brentford. Alan Keen is MP for Feltham and Heston while Ann Keen - a junior health minister - is MP for neighbouring Brentford and Isleworth. The paper said the couple claimed for interest payments on a £520,000 mortgage for the London flat even though the actual purchase price of the property was £500,000. It also claims the Fees Office had reduced their awards in 2007 because both MPs had claimed for council tax on the London property. Among the couple's claims on the London property, the paper adds, were a £50 call-out fee for fixing the sound on a home cinema system.

Response: The couple say that, under the second home allowance rules, married MPs are entitled to separately claim for a property that they share and live in together. Alan Keen said the Commons authorities had agreed to the mortgage repayment claims after the couple explained to them that their bank had asked for the loan to be secured against both properties for added security. He said the authorities had agreed that the value of the London flat was £520,000, the couple having bought it for £500,000 and agreed to pay the seller an additional £20,000 for fixtures and fittings.



THINK-PAIR-SHARE

You have a MORAL & HUMAN RIGHT to speech. You also have a MORLA RESPONSIBILITY to listen to the others in your group/your partner.

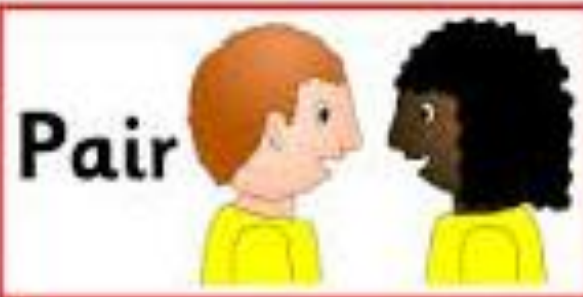


MINI TASK = USE THE CHECKLIST –HOW WELL DID YOU DO IN THE DISCUSSION?



THINK- about the question/task

- What do you know?
- What experience have you had?
- What connections can you make?



PAIR- with your partner

- Listen to ideas
- Share your ideas
- Create new ideas together



SHARE- your ideas with others in the class/group discussion when your teacher says

- Listen to ideas
- Share your ideas
- Share your partner's ideas
- Create new ideas together

Ways We Can Partner Talk...



DISCUSSION CHECKLIST



We all need to be a reflective Roger sometimes and consider what we have done and how we have done it. By doing this we can look at our strengths and consider how to overcome the things we find difficult so we can 'grow'. Look at the statements below and consider the discussion exercise you have just done. Tick the boxes in each column that best represent you during that task.

	Did you STOP?	Did you NOTICE?	Did you LISTEN?
Stage 1	<input type="checkbox"/> I didn't pause to assess the situation and what was expected of me in this activity	<input type="checkbox"/> I didn't notice what was going on during this activity as I was not engaged	<input type="checkbox"/> I couldn't avoid making the same mistakes I usually make in situations like this and got distracted
Stage 2	<input type="checkbox"/> I found it difficult to pause to assess the situation and what was expected of me in this activity	<input type="checkbox"/> I was aware of what was happening e.g. what the activity was	<input type="checkbox"/> I found it difficult to avoid making the same mistakes I usually make in situations like this e.g. getting distracted
Stage 3	<input type="checkbox"/> I managed to pause and assess the situation and what was expected of me in this activity	<input type="checkbox"/> I was aware of what was happening and what was expected of me in this activity	<input type="checkbox"/> I knew the right thing to do in this situation <input type="checkbox"/> I was aware of the mistakes I often make in situations like this and tried to avoid them
Stage 4	<input type="checkbox"/> I managed to pause and assess the situation and what was expected of me in this activity, but I may have been swayed off task even though I knew what the right action was	<input type="checkbox"/> I was well aware of what was happening and had a good understanding of what was expected of me in this activity and what others were doing	<input type="checkbox"/> I knew the right thing to do in this situation <input type="checkbox"/> I did not make the same mistakes I have before, because I have learned from them

How does Parliament ensure Integrity?

What are the 3 parts to Parliament and how do they ensure the government don't just do what they want?

How do we make sure the Government is DEMOCRATIC in the UK?

How does the Government get it's money to pay for things?

The MP Expenses Scandal, 2009

Description of what it was.

The Telegraph's investigation, The Expenses Files, into how politicians - from the Cabinet to backbenchers of all parties - exploited the system of parliamentary allowances to subsidise their lifestyles and multiple homes.

Arguments why it was wrong

The country was in a recession so the average voter was struggling to keep food on the table & a roof over their heads. It was our Taxes that were being used to help pay for 2nd homes etc.

Arguments why it was not wrong

The majority of the MPs were not breaking the rules that had been laid out by parliament as to what was ok to count as expenses.

Is Honesty important in Politics?

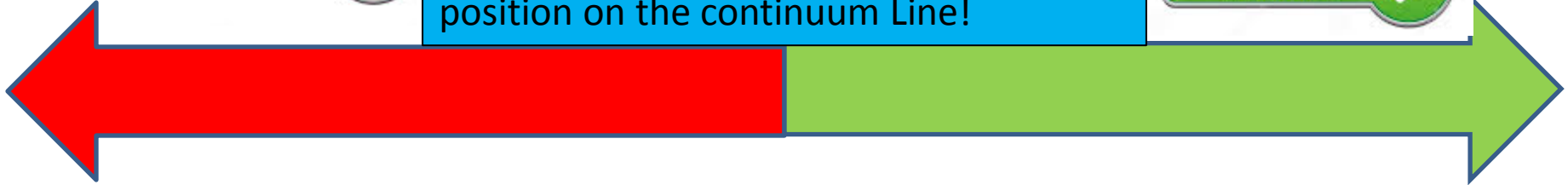
Continuum Line time!

DISAGREE



You have 5 minutes to write your answer to this question in your book and get into position on the continuum Line!

AGREE



Remember:

I will ask YOU WHY you are where you are so you need to be prepared to EXPLAIN & JUSTIFY your opinion!



Making Parliament more transparent

20 July 2015

For the first time ever, members of the public will be able to electronically petition the House of Commons. Any British citizen or UK resident will be able to start or sign a petition, raising concerns about issues that either the Government or the Commons are responsible for. <http://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2015/july/e-petitions-site-launch/>

The Commons goes live

Even after the House of Lords was televised there was still considerable resistance from MPs over extending this to the Commons. When Members debated an experiment in late 1985 it was narrowly rejected by 275 votes to 263. In 1988 MPs debated televising the Commons for the eleventh time in 22 years. Prior to the debate the Labour leader, Neil Kinnock, asked why Mrs Thatcher

We can watch Parliament Debate new ideas for laws, we can petition the government directly and follow them on social media as well as visiting our MP directly in MP Surgeries or at Parliament. Committees of MPs & Lords SCRUTINISE

Does this go far
enough in YOUR
OPINION?

1990 the House agreed to make the experiment permanent. Important occasions such as the Budget and resignation speeches by ministers were all broadcast live on television.



Parliament on Facebook



Google+ – find UK Parliament on Google+ and add us to your circles

HOMEWORK TASK

The PEE Chain

PEE CHAIN QUESTION:

Is Parliament Efficient in ensuring the Integrity of our Democracy?

P = **POINT**
GLITTERFY.COM

For Example:

Parliament ensures that the UK Democratic system has integrity because....

Link Phrase= I know this because.....

E =

EXAMPLE OR EVIDENCE
GLITTERFY.COM

For Example:

Parliamentary sessions in the house of Commons are televised to help create an ethos of honesty with the voters...

Link Phrase=This example highlights...

E =

EXPLAIN AND EXPLORE
GLITTERFY.COM

For Example:

This is important as it allows voters & the media to monitor the actions of the government & MPs rather than just Parliament. If more people are watching it means we will spot 'wrong doing' more quickly.

Lesson Review

I think the Level I have been working at today is ...

I think I have been working at this Level because

To Reach Level 4 you will ...

Identify & List the ways in which Parliament works and holds the government to account

To Reach Level 5 you will ...

Describe how Parliament works and explain how it makes sure the government are honest about their actions

To Reach Level 6 you will ...

Explain how the 3 parts of parliament work together to ensure the Integrity of the UK Democracy along with the media & public

To Reach Level 7 you will ...

Create a proposal to the UK Government to make key changes to ensure that the UK government remains Honest, respected and transparent.

Plenary-Traffic Light your Learning Objective

L/O=

To be able to explain the role of parliament in representing the people.



(R) RED = Have not met My Learning Objective

(A) AMBER = Kind of have met the Learning Objective

(G) GREEN = Definitely have met the Learning Objective today