



Who runs the United Kingdom?

Key Stage 3 scheme of work

Key Stage 3 (Year 7) Citizenship scheme of work

Who runs the United Kingdom?

About this scheme of work

This scheme of work is designed to introduce Year 7 students to Parliament, government and devolved power, enabling them to address the key enquiry question: Who runs the United Kingdom?

Having learnt about Parliament and its functions, students explore its relationship with government and the importance of accountability in a democracy. They investigate general and local elections, developing an understanding of the first-past-the-post system.

They then move on to learn about devolution at both a national and local level. They investigate how and why power is devolved and explore examples of devolution in practice. Finally, they draw together their learning across the scheme of work in an assessment task.

Citizenship skills

Political literacy, debate, active participation

Citizenship concepts

Democracy, making a difference

National curriculum links

Develop pupils' understanding of government, democracy and the rights and responsibilities of citizens; the development of the political system of democratic government in the United Kingdom, including the roles of citizens, Parliament and the monarch; the operation of Parliament, including voting and elections

Building progression

This scheme of work is part of ACT's model core curriculum for Citizenship in secondary schools, which has been designed to develop and deepen students' knowledge, skills and understanding throughout Key Stages 3 and 4. Other units linked to this Year 7 scheme of work include:

Year 9: Are elections the best way to decide who runs our country?

Year 10: Should the UK be called a democracy?

Year 11: How can we become future political leaders?

What do the six lessons cover?

Lesson 1: What is Parliament?

1. What makes up Parliament?
2. What are the functions of each part of Parliament?
3. Who are some of the people that work in Parliament?

Lesson 2: What's the difference between government and Parliament?

1. What is government?
2. How does Parliament make the government accountable?
3. Why do we need to hold government to account?

Lesson 3: How are our leaders elected?

1. How are MPs elected?
2. How are local councillors elected?
3. How does first-past-the-post work?

Lesson 4: Does the Westminster Parliament hold all of the power in the UK? (1)

1. What is devolution?
2. How is power devolved nationally?
3. Why is power devolved nationally?

Lesson 5: Does the Westminster Parliament hold all of the power in the UK? (2)

1. How is power devolved locally?
2. Why is power devolved locally?
3. What are examples of local devolution?

Lesson 6: Who runs the United Kingdom?

1. What is Parliament?
2. What is the government, and how is it different to Parliament?
3. How are our leaders elected?
4. Does Westminster hold all of the power?

Key question: Who runs the United Kingdom?

National curriculum links: develop pupils' understanding of government, democracy and the rights and responsibilities of citizens; the development of the political system of democratic government in the United Kingdom, including the roles of citizens, Parliament and the monarch; the operation of Parliament, including voting and elections

Lessons	<h2>1. What is Parliament?</h2>	<h2>2. What's the difference between government and Parliament?</h2>	<h2>3. How are our leaders elected?</h2>	<h2>4. Does the Westminster Parliament hold all of the power in the UK? (Part 1)</h2>	<h2>5. Does the Westminster Parliament hold all of the power in the UK? (Part 2)</h2>	<h2>6. Who runs the United Kingdom?</h2>
Overview	<p>Students develop an understanding of what makes up Parliament and the functions of each component. In tasks focusing on knowledge, review and think-pair-share, they learn about the House of Commons, the House of Lords and the monarch. A retrieval task at the end of the lesson provides an opportunity to assess acquired knowledge.</p>	<p>Students apply the knowledge they gained in lesson 1 to explore the differences between government and Parliament. They learn about the relationship between the two, focusing on how Parliament holds the government to account. They discuss and write about why it is important we hold the government to account.</p>	<p>To understand how the UK's democracy works, students will learn what general and local elections are. They will also have the opportunity to explore the first-past-the-post voting system, and will take part in an election within the classroom.</p>	<p>This is the first of two lessons exploring devolution of power in the UK. Students learn what devolution means, how power is devolved to the four nations, and what type of issues are devolved and reserved. They consider the pros and cons of devolution and begin to understand that Westminster Parliament does not hold all of the power in the UK.</p>	<p>Students continue their learning about devolution by exploring, in-depth, how power is devolved locally. They find out what local devolution means and learn about examples of issues that are devolved locally. Finally, they consider why power is devolved locally.</p>	<p>Students produce a piece of work addressing the key enquiry question: 'Who runs the United Kingdom?' They choose whether to create a leaflet, essay or mind map and use success criteria to shape the content. They peer assess each other's work and end the lesson by considering whether they could become the leaders of tomorrow</p>
Learning questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What makes up Parliament? 2. What are the functions of each part of Parliament? 3. Who are some of the people that work in Parliament? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is government? 2. How does Parliament make the government accountable? 3. Why do we need to hold the government to account? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How are MPs elected? 2. How are local councillors elected? 3. How does first-past-the-post work? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is devolution? 2. How is power devolved nationally? 3. Why is power devolved nationally? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How is power devolved locally? 2. Why is power devolved locally? 3. What are examples of local devolution? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is Parliament? 2. What is the government, and how is it different to Parliament? 3. How are our leaders elected? 4. Does Westminster hold all of the power?
Concepts and skills	<p>Concepts: democracy Skills: political literacy, debate</p>	<p>Concepts: democracy Skills: political literacy, debate</p>	<p>Concepts: democracy, making a difference Skills: political literacy, debate, active participation</p>	<p>Concepts: democracy Skills: political literacy, debate</p>	<p>Concepts: democracy Skills: political literacy, debate</p>	<p>Concepts: democracy Skills: political literacy, debate</p>
Activities	<p>Parliament mind map Worksheet: What is Parliament? Video Discussions Writing tasks</p>	<p>Retrieval true and false Video Worksheet writing tasks Discussions Read aloud tasks</p>	<p>Multiple choice quiz Video Discussions Writing task and gap fill Vote</p>	<p>Match the correct terms worksheet Devolution worksheet Writing task Discussion Video</p>	<p>Retrieval grid Read aloud Discussion Writing task Case study</p>	<p>Multiple choice quiz Assessment task – making a leaflet, writing an essay or creating a detailed mind map Peer assessment Discussion</p>
Resources	<p>Slide presentation Worksheet: What is Parliament? Worksheet: Make a poster Glossary of key terms</p>	<p>Slide presentation Worksheets: Differences between Parliament and government Worksheet: Who is my MP? Glossary of key terms</p>	<p>Slide presentation Multiple choice quiz Ballot materials Takeaway task worksheet Glossary of key terms</p>	<p>Slide presentation Devolution worksheet Do now worksheet Takeaway task worksheet Glossary of key terms</p>	<p>Slide presentation Retrieval grid Read aloud Takeaway task worksheet Glossary of key terms</p>	<p>Slide presentation Multiple choice quiz Success criteria worksheet Peer assessment worksheet</p>
Differentiation	<p>Questioning techniques Modelling Student groupings Different levels of support & challenge</p>	<p>Sentence starters Modelling Questioning techniques Talk for writing scaffolding</p>	<p>Modelling Questioning techniques Use of worksheets to support students Different levels of support & challenge</p>	<p>Sentence starters Modelling Questioning techniques Different levels of support & challenge</p>	<p>Sentence starters Modelling Questioning techniques Different levels of support & challenge</p>	<p>Choice of tasks for assessment Sentence starters Questioning techniques Different levels of support & challenge</p>
Assessment Opportunities	<p>Mind map for prior knowledge Written assessment (worksheet) Group discussion and questioning</p>	<p>Assessment of main written task Review tasks Group discussion and questioning</p>	<p>Multiple choice quiz Group discussion and questioning Writing tasks Review tasks</p>	<p>Do now task Group discussion and questioning Writing tasks</p>	<p>Do now task Group discussion and questioning Writing tasks</p>	<p>Multiple choice quiz Assessment task Discussion</p>
Takeaway task	<p>Students revise the lesson by making an informative poster of what Parliament is. Success criteria provided.</p>	<p>Students research their local MP, and complete the MP worksheet.</p>	<p>Students write a campaign speech, to become a local councillor, using success criteria.</p>	<p>Students revise the lesson by making an informative poster about national devolution. Success criteria provided.</p>	<p>Students research a case study of local devolution in their area, and complete the takeaway task worksheet.</p>	<p>Students are encouraged to look at the different opportunities to get involved in politics on the British Youth Council website.</p>

accountable	Required or expected to justify actions and decisions. In the UK, the government is accountable to Parliament.
Cabinet	The committee of senior ministers responsible for controlling government policy.
ceremonial	In politics, involving little real authority or power. The monarch's role in Parliament is mainly ceremonial.
community	A group of people living in the same place and having certain characteristics in common.
constituency	A geographical area represented by an MP.
debate	A formal discussion on a particular matter, in which different views are put forward. A debate usually ends with a vote.
democracy	A system of government where the citizens are able to vote in regular and fair elections for representatives, who will make laws and decisions on their behalf.
devolution	The transfer of power to a lower level.
devolved powers	Powers that the UK Parliament gives to the regions, such as education and health.
elected	Chosen by voting.
electorate	The people who are able to vote.
first-past-the-post	The voting system used in the UK to elect members of some local councils and members of Parliament, whereby the candidate with the most votes in a constituency wins.

general election	When the citizens of a country vote to elect a new government. A general election in the UK usually happens once every 5 years.
government	The group of people who have been elected to run the UK, led by the Prime Minister (PM).
House of Commons	An elected body currently consisting of 650 members of Parliament. It is the lower house of Parliament and meets in the Palace of Westminster.
House of Lords	The upper house of Parliament, meeting in the Palace of Westminster. It comprises of life peers and hereditary peers, who scrutinise the bills approved by the House of Commons.
laws	The system of rules a country uses to regulate the actions of its citizens.
legislation	Legislation is a law or a set of laws that have been passed by Parliament. The word is also used to describe the act of making a new law.
local council	A system of government that operates at a local level, providing services to its community.
local councillor	Oversees the work of local councils.
local devolution	National governments passing down some of their decision-making powers and funding to local councils.
local election	An election in which people in a geographical area vote for people to become local councillors.
mace	The symbol of royal authority, without which the House of Commons cannot meet or pass laws. The mace is a large silver ornamental club.
manifesto	A document outlining a political party's intentions and promises if they win an election.
minister	The head of a government department, e.g. Defence Minister.

monarch	The king or queen. Our current monarch is King Charles III.
MPs	Individuals elected to represent a constituency.
national devolution	The UK Parliament passing down some of its powers to the national government in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
Parliament	The institution of government in the UK. It comprises of three parts: the House of Commons, the House of Lords and the monarch.
political party	An organisation that co-ordinates candidates to stand in elections. People who belong to a political party tend to share similar ideas about politics.
power	Having control or authority over something or someone.
Prime Minister (PM)	The head of government.
reserved power	Power that the UK Parliament does not devolve to the regions. Reserved powers involve issues that have a UK-wide or international impact.
royal assent	Approval of legislation by the monarch, after which it becomes law.
sovereign power	The highest power. In the UK, the UK Parliament in Westminster has sovereign power.
United Kingdom	The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) is an island country that sits north-west of mainland Europe. It is made up of mainland Great Britain.
vote	A formal choice between two or more candidates or courses of action. In an election, voting is by ballot.
Westminster	The part of London where the Houses of Parliament are located.