

British Values – Democracy – Key words

Act of Parliament	A law passed by Parliament.
Bi-cameral	Parliament with two Houses. The UK is bi-cameral as it has the House of Commons and House of Lords.
Bill	A proposal to change something into law.
British Constitution	The laws and conventions which set down how the UK is governed.
Budget	The process where the government explains how they will raise and spend its money.
Cabinet	A group of MPs who head major government departments, it meets weekly to make decisions about how government policy will be carried out.
Coalition	A government made of more than one party. Its formed when no one party has enough seats to form a government.
Constituency	The area represented by a Member of Parliament.
Devolution	The transfer of power from central to regional government.
The Executive	Makes policy and puts it into practice. It's made up of the Prime Minister, Cabinet and Civil Service.
First Past the Post	Our current electoral system where voters have one vote in their constituency and the candidate with the most votes wins.
General Election	An election for a new government in the UK, these take place at least every five years.
House of Commons	The most powerful house in Parliament. Its members are elected by the public.
The Judiciary	Makes judgements about the law. It is made up of judges and magistrates in court.
The Legislature	Makes laws. It is made up of the House of Commons and House of Lords.
Opposition	Political parties that are not in power.
Prime Minister	The leader of the majority party.
Proportional Representation	An electoral system in which the number of seats a party wins is roughly proportional to its share of the votes in an election.
Referendum	A vote by the whole electorate on a particular issue.
Representative Democracy	A form of democracy in which people elect a representative to make decisions for them, we have this in the UK.

Teacher tips:

This sheet includes the key words a student will need to know to demonstrate political literacy

It should be used to supplement your schools British Values scheme of work/lessons

Students should use the sheet to improve their political oracy and add depth to their written work