

The background features a light gray grid pattern. Overlaid on this are several large, overlapping triangles in various colors and patterns: red, white, blue with white polka dots, and gray with white diagonal stripes. Some triangles have small gray dots at their vertices, connected by thin gray lines, creating a network-like structure.

# Lesson 6 UK Political System



● Tian Tian



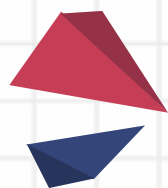
# C O N T E N T S

## **UK** **Political System**



Constitution and Monarch

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Separation of Powers

---



General Election

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# 1 Constitution and Monarch



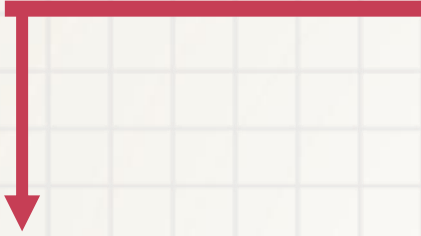
**heart of political system**

**fundamental rules**

- set out the allocation of governmental activities
- outline which structures will perform which tasks
- power relationships between the various institutions
- the limitations upon the powers of rulers
- guarantees of the rights of the ruled



# 1 Constitution and Monarch

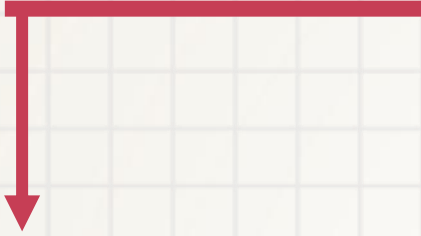


**UK**  
**No**  
**Single**  
**Written**  
**Constitution**

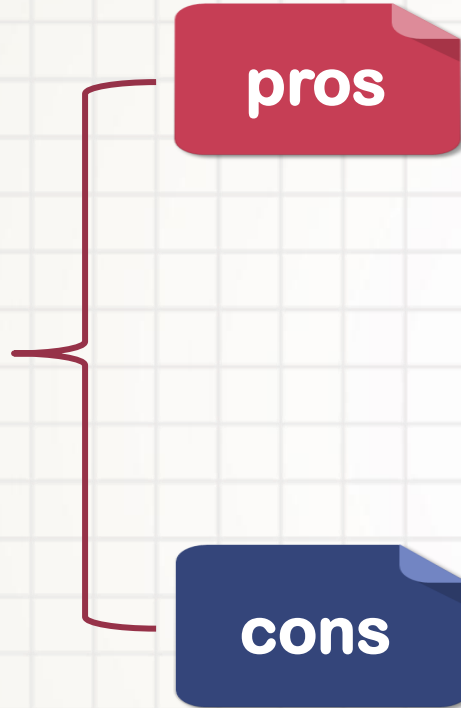




# 1 Constitution and Monarch



**UK**  
**No**  
**Single**  
**Written**  
**Constitution**



**pros**

- Changes in the constitution can come about more easily and less noticeably.
- Britain can adapt her system of government to suit a changing society with less difficulty.

**cons**

- There is no single body which has the sole responsibility for interpreting the Constitution.
- puzzling, ambiguous and imprecise to some extent



# 1 Constitution and Monarch



**head of state**

commander-in-chief of all  
the armed forces

temporal head of the  
Church of England



Elizabeth II

head of the executive

integral part of the legislature

head of the judiciary

**Reign but not Rule**





# 1 Constitution and Monarch



## Daily Work



Elizabeth II

## Symbolic Role

To participate in various important acts of government

- To summon, suspend(暂停) and dissolve(解散) Parliament
- To confirm major public appointments
- To declare war, make peace, recognize foreign states and conclude treaties

To confer(授予) honors such as peerages and knighthoods

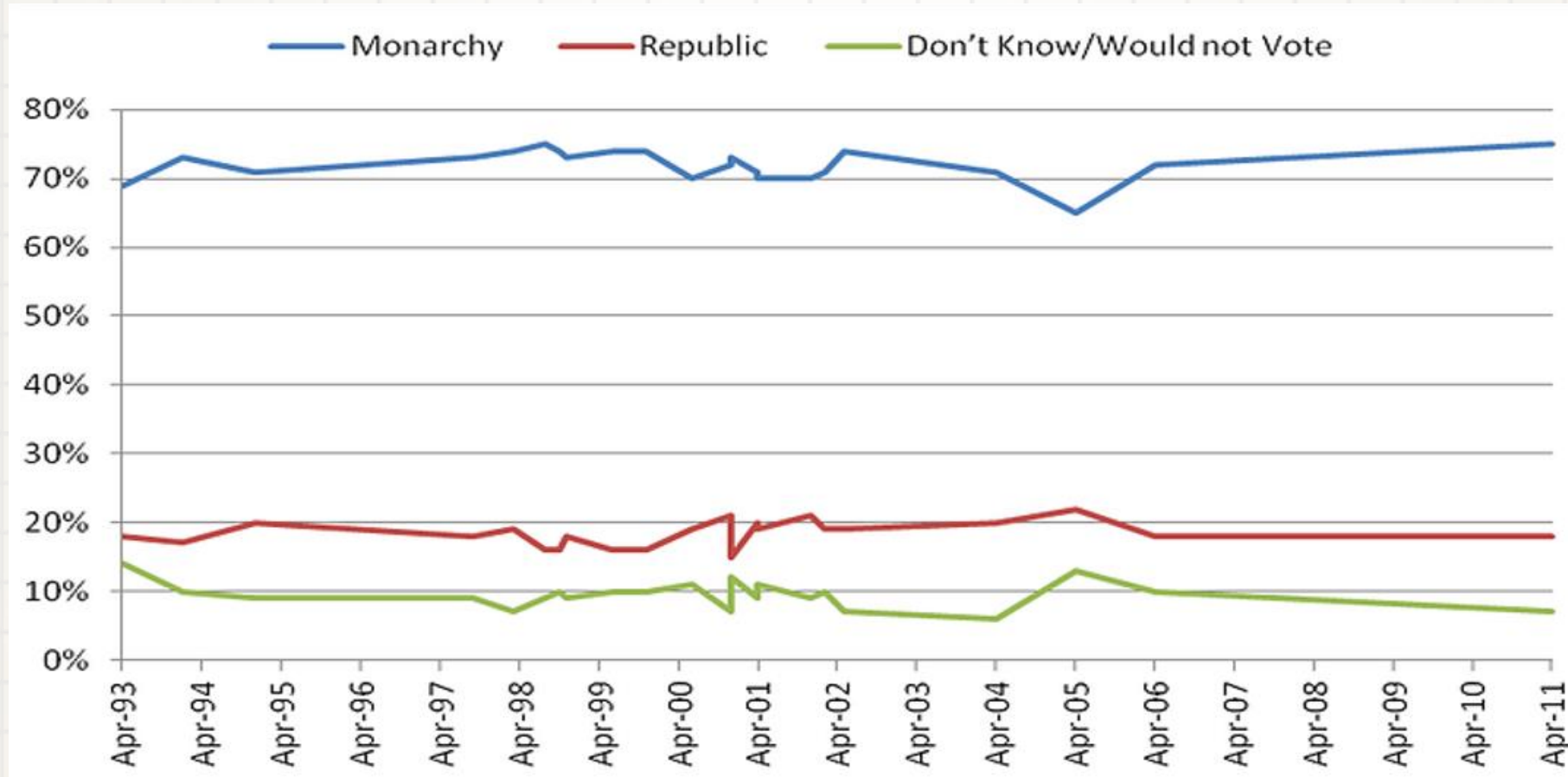
To get involved in the day-to-day workings of government



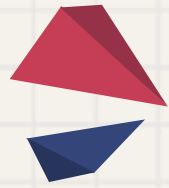
# 1 Constitution and Monarch



*“Would you favor Britain becoming a republic or remaining a monarchy?”*







# 1 Constitution and Monarch

constitutional monarchy



republics



how the head of state is elected

President

Monarchs  
inherit the position  
and symbolically  
validated by Parliament

Presidents  
elected  
directly or indirectly  
by the people



# 1 Constitution and Monarch

## constitutional monarchy



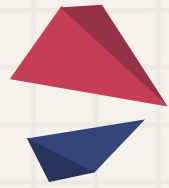
Monarchs  
inherit the position  
and symbolically  
validated by Parliament

pros

- Well prepared for the role
- With decent education
- To care more about the long term goals
- Coherence(连贯性) of the policy
- Political neutrality

cons

- Be lacking in democracy
- Be incompetent or undutiful
- Be extravagant
- To give rise to abuse of social status



# 1 Constitution and Monarch

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***monarchist or republican***

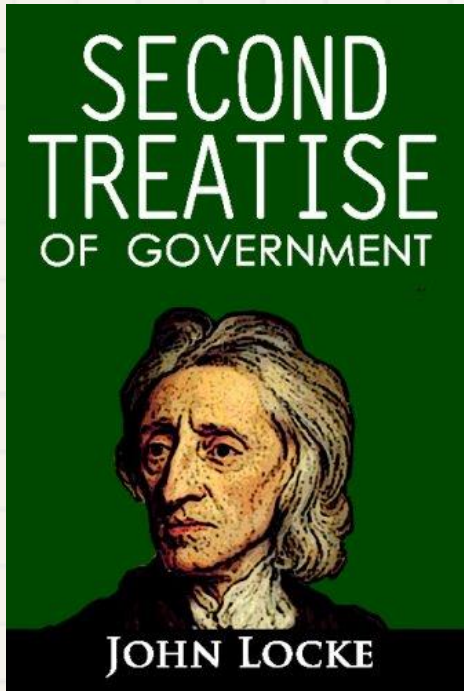
**if you were a citizen of the UK**



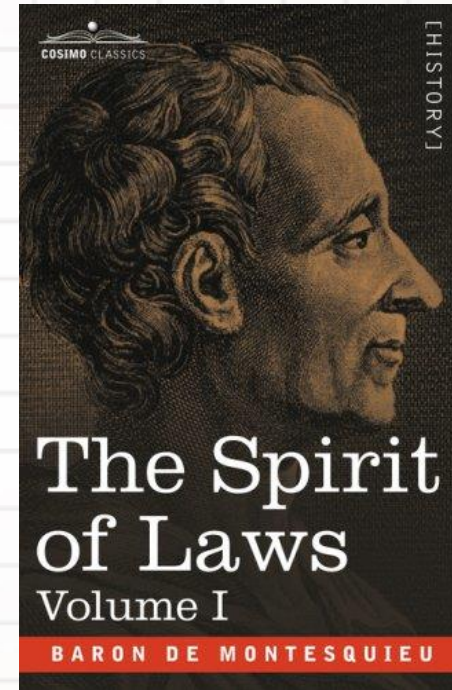
## ② Separation of Powers



**Base of British political system**



- John Locke (1632 –1704)**
- An English philosopher
  - One of the most influential of Enlightenment thinkers
  - Father of Liberalism



- Montesquieu (1689 –1755)**
- A French lawyer and political philosopher during the Age of Enlightenment



## 2 Separation of Powers

**state power**

### **Monarch (symbolic)**

head of the executive + integral part of the legislature + head of the judiciary

**legislatures**

- Carry out legislation
- Represent the public and public opinions with governing process
- Oversight the Executive

**executive**

carry out political system's policies, laws or directives

**judiciary**

administers and interprets the meaning of laws

## ② Separation of Powers -- legislature

**legislatures**

three board roles

legislation

represent the public

oversight the Executive

**Parliament**

law-making body

- Crown
- House of Lords 上议院
- House of Commons 下议院





## 2 Separation of Powers – legislature -- Parliament

### House of Lords

- around 800 members (majority of **life peers--appointed**)
- **hereditary peers**
- examine bills from House of Commons (limited)
- **final court of appeal** (special judicial function)



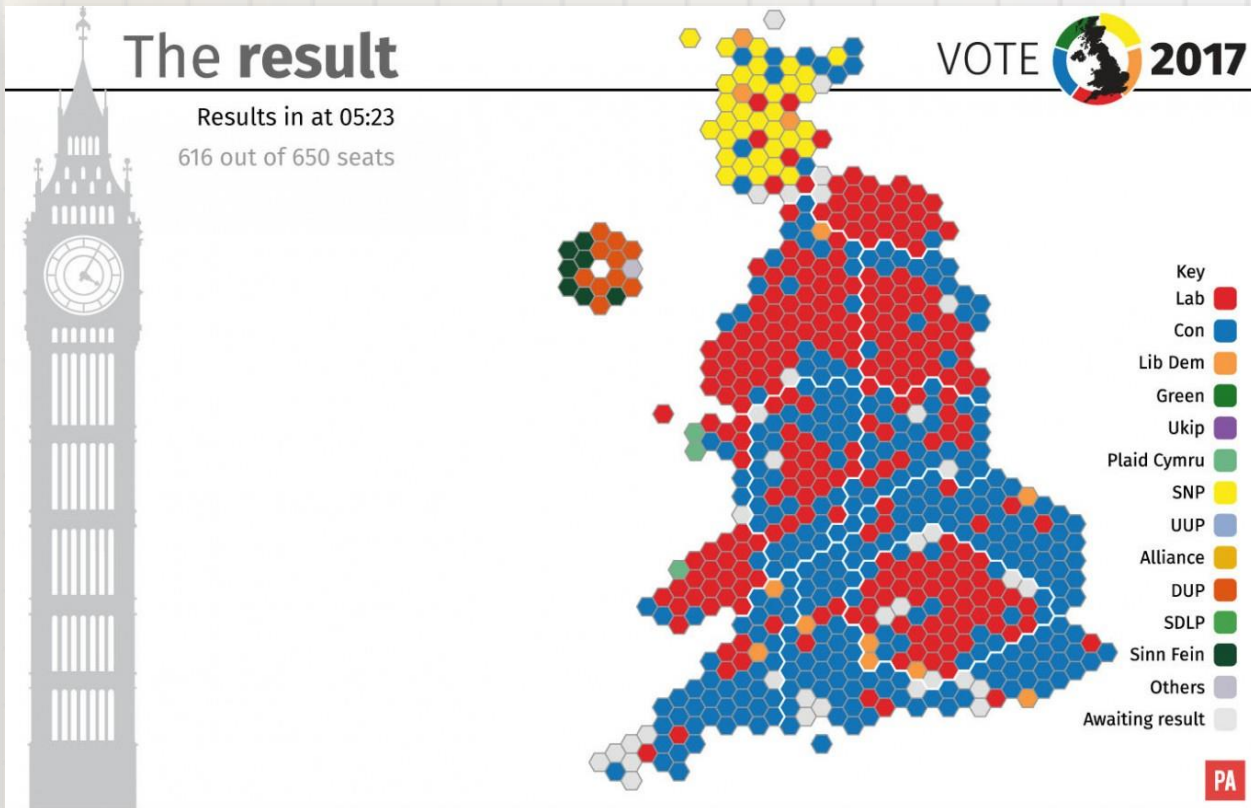
26 Church of England archbishops and bishops sit in the House.



## 2 Separation of Powers – legislature -- Parliament

### House of Commons

- real center, key part
- 650 **MPs** < **Members of Parliament** > (2020) from 650 **constituencies**



### constituencies

- 533 in England
- 59 in Scotland
- 40 in Wales
- 18 in Northern Ireland

### largest constituency:

Ross, Skye and Lochaber (about 12,000 square km)

### smallest constituency:

Islington North (7.35 square km)

### Electorate (people able to vote):

- 72,200 in England
- 67,200 in Scotland
- 56,000 in Wales
- 68,300 in Northern Ireland





## 2 Separation of Powers – legislature -- Parliament

### House of Commons

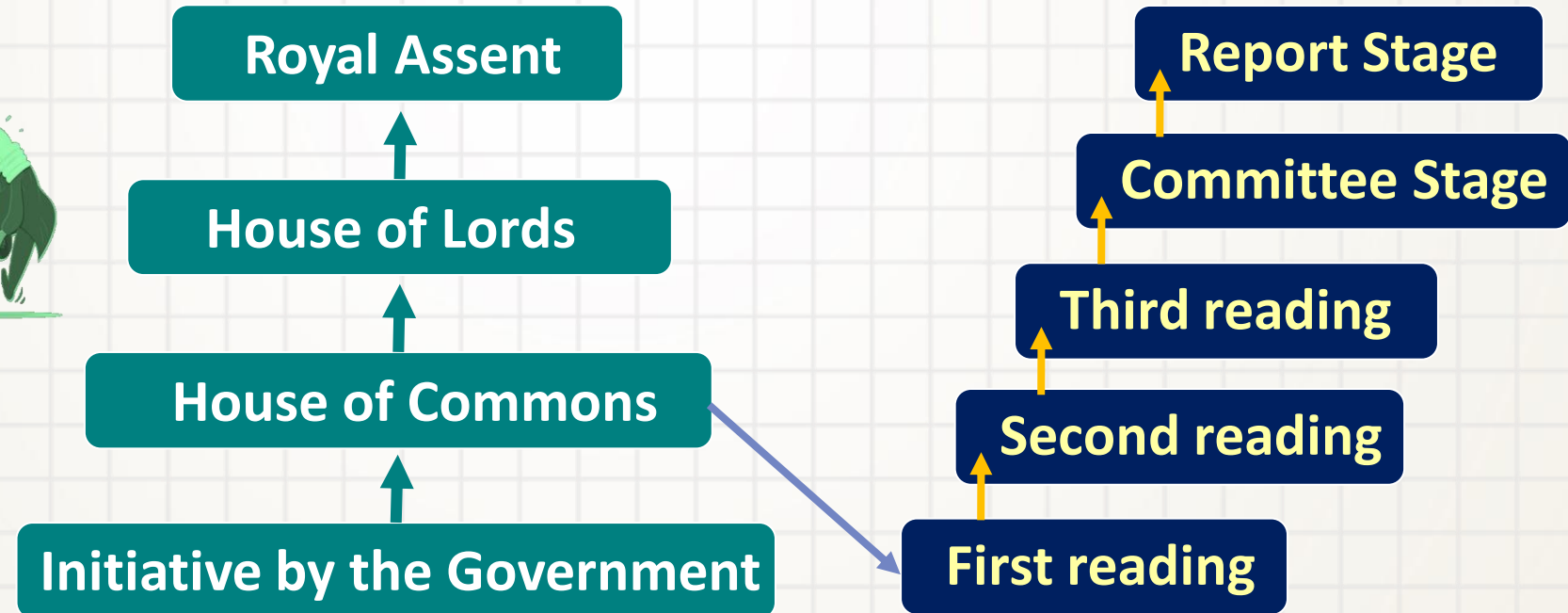
functions:

- law-making
- raising and spending public money
- acting as a watchdog over government

The Common's role in the legislative process---  
to react to the initiatives by the government or MPs



law-making





## 2 Separation of Powers – legislature -- Parliament

### House of Commons

functions:

- law-making
- raising and spending public money
- acting as a watchdog over government

Parliament's permission is needed for raising and spending money.

Parliamentary scrutiny is carried out via questions, debates, committees and of course by the opposition parties.

- **Question Time:** discussion of financial provisions, participation in general policy debates, asking questions



## 2 Separation of Powers -- executive

### executive

carry out policies,  
laws or directives

center and supreme  
decision-making body of  
British political system

**Prime Minister**

choose

**The Cabinet**

20 Senior Ministers  
Regular weekly meetings  
Thursday mornings  
10 Downing Street

**Civil Servants**

- initiates most legislation
- safeguards its passage through its Parliamentary stages
- controls all executive activities of central Government
- coordinates activities of different Departments
- examines all major issues of foreign and domestic policy



## ② Separation of Powers -- judiciary

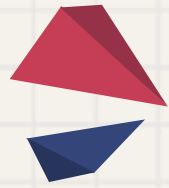
### judiciary

- It administers and interprets the meaning of laws.
- It is responsible for the resolution of disputes.
- In Britain, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland all have their separate legal systems though they resemble each other a lot.

*Constitutional Reform Act 2005 《2005年宪制改革法案》*

**the Lord Chief Justice** 最高法院的首席大法官-- President of the Courts of England and Wales and Head of its Judiciary, a role previously performed **by the Lord Chancellor**





### 3 General Election

#### Party System

- since at least the 18th century
- Since WWII, UK governments have been formed /led - by either



the Labor Party or the Conservative Party

Two-Party System





## 3 General Election

### Two-Party System

- a cautious approach to change;
- distrust of the role of 'big government' ;
- against too much government intervention ;
- emphasis upon law and order ;
- emphasis upon 'Britishness' (patriotism, defending institutions) ;
- preference for freedom over equality, and private enterprises over state ones ;
- favors reducing the influence of trade unions and minimizing expenditures on social welfare



#### Recent conservative PM :

Margaret Thatcher (1979-1990)

David Cameron (2010-2016)

Theresa May (2016-2019)

Boris Johnson (2019- )



## 3 General Election

### Two-Party System



#### Beliefs in

- an egalitarian [i, gæɪ 'teəriən] economy
- the necessity of government provision of a range of public services, such as social welfare, education and public transport.

#### Recent Labor PM :

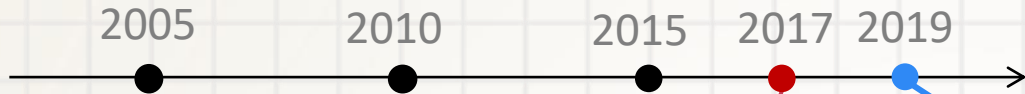
Tony Blair(1997-2007)

Gordon Brown (2007-2010)



# 3 General Election

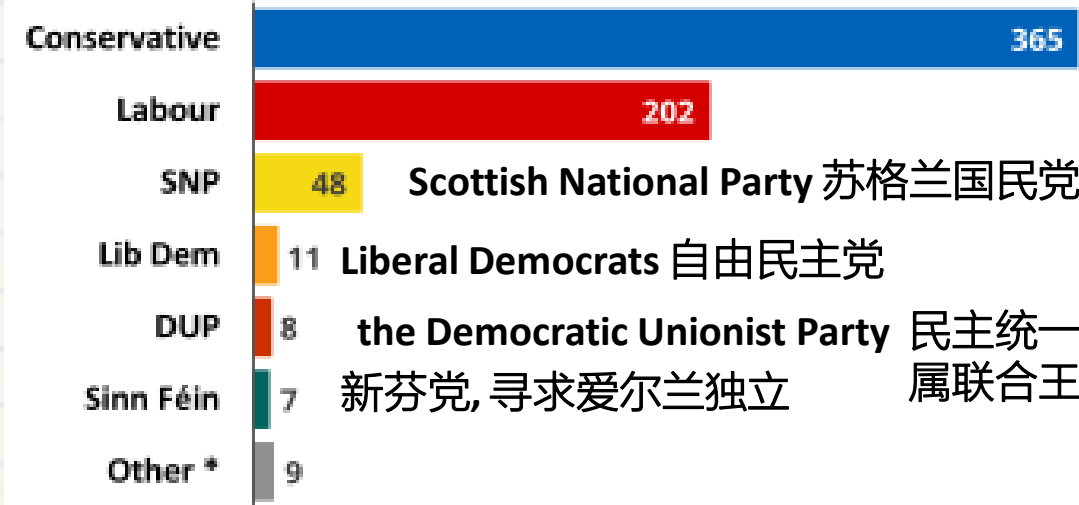
held every 5 years normally



- Snap election is an election called earlier than expected
- resulted in a hung Parliament

- resulted in a Conservative victory

## UK seat totals



Scottish National Party 苏格兰国民党

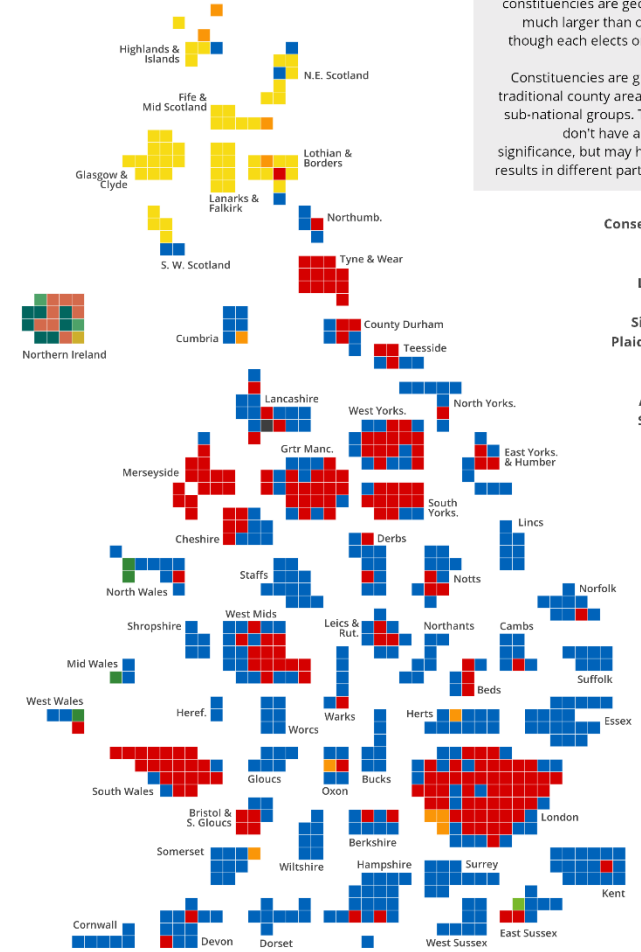
Liberal Democrats 自由民主党

the Democratic Unionist Party 民主统一党 (主张北爱尔兰归属联合王国的北爱尔兰政党)

新芬党, 寻求爱尔兰独立

\* 'Other' includes the Speaker.

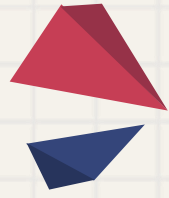
## Tile Map of winning party by constituency



On this map, each constituency is represented by a single square. This is an alternative way of visualising seat winners which adjusts for the fact that some constituencies are geographically much larger than others, even though each elects only one MP.

Constituencies are grouped into traditional county areas and other sub-national groups. These areas don't have any electoral significance, but may help identify results in different parts of the UK.

- Conservative
- Labour
- SNP
- Lib Dem
- DUP
- Sinn Féin
- Plaid Cymru
- SDLP
- Green
- Alliance
- Speaker



### 3 General Election

electorate/ voter

citizens over 18

vote in the **polling station** in the **constituency** where he/she resides

disqualified: criminals, lunatics, members of the house of Lords

**Candidate for election**

get ten electors in the constituency to be nominated

make a deposit of £ 500







# 3 General Election

## Ballot form 选票表格







Westminster Abbey

### Election of councillors to *[insert name of local authority]*

\* [Vote for **only one candidate** by putting a cross  in the box next to your choice]

\* [Vote for **no more than \_\_\_ candidates** by putting a cross  in the box next to **each** of your choices]

\* *Returning Officer to amend as appropriate.*

1	<b>BASWRA, Paresh</b> 2 The Cottages, Anytown XY8 9JG Liberal Democrat		<input type="checkbox"/>
2	<b>CRANLEY, Alana</b> 4 The Walk, Anytown XY9 5JJ Green Party		<input type="checkbox"/>
3	<b>EDGBASTON, Richard</b> 6 The Heath, Anytown XY4 0BH The Common Good Party		<input type="checkbox"/>
4	<b>GUNNIL-WALKER, Roger</b> 33 The Lane, Anytown XY6 3GD The Labour Party Candidate		<input type="checkbox"/>
5	<b>SMITH, Catherine Angelina</b> 21 The Grove, Anytown XY2 5JP Independent		<input type="checkbox"/>
6	<b>SMITH, Keith James</b> 3 The Road, Anytown XY3 4JN The Conservative Party Candidate		<input type="checkbox"/>
7	<b>ZANUCK, George Henry</b> 17 The Parade Anytown XY9 5KP The United Kingdom Independence Party Candidate		<input type="checkbox"/>





### 3 General Election

First-Past-The-Post (FPTP)  
得票最多者当选

- The most straightforward non-proportional system
- The one who receives the most votes in the single-member constituency is the winner
- It is possible for a party to win a majority of seats in the House of Commons without having a majority of votes in the election

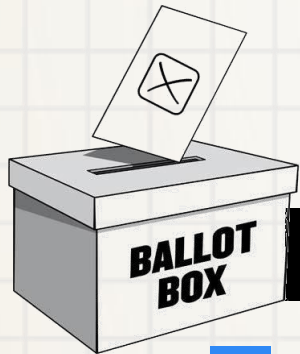


# 3 General Election

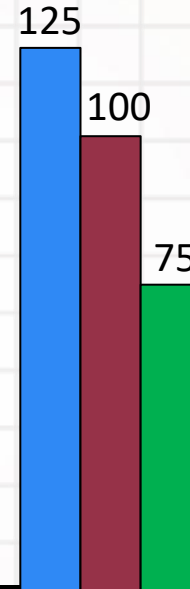
First-Past-The-Post (FPTP)  
得票最多者当选

EXAMPLE

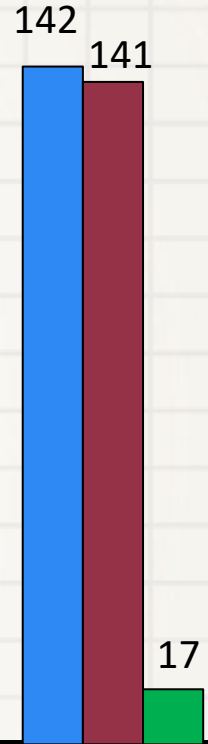
Total Votes =  $103 + 125 + 142 + 99 + 100 + 141 + 98 + 75 + 17 = 900$   
Votes Proportion: ■ 41% ■ 38% ■ 21%  
MP seats =  $1 + 1 + 1 = 3$



Constituency 1



Constituency 2



Constituency 3

■ Conservative Party  
Votes =  $103 + 125 + 142$   
MPs =  $1 + 1 + 1$

■ Labor Party  
Votes =  $99 + 100 + 141$   
MPs =  $0 + 0 + 0$

■ Liberal Democrat Party  
Votes =  $98 + 75 + 17$   
MPs =  $0 + 0 + 0$



### 3 General Election

First-Past-The-Post  
electoral system

the smaller parties are  
underrepresented which is  
without any doubt undemocratic

Proportional Representative  
electoral system

a reduction in the accountability  
of governments to the electorate  
and a loss of control by the  
electors over the composition of  
the next government



## 3 General Election

### Prime Minister

- the leader of the party with the largest number of MPs in the House of Commons
- invited/ appointed by the Monarch to form a Government (Royal Consent)

### Official Opposition

- party with the next largest number of MPs in the Commons

### No Majority Party

- If no party has an overall majority in the House of Commons, the Conservative/the Labor Party can come to power with the support of the minor parties.



## 3 General Election

### Prime Minister

- selecting ministers for various departments of government
- selecting members of the Cabinet
  - balance of power within the party
  - people who represent the various viewpoints within the party
  - balance of ages
  - sectional interests



## 3 General Election

### Cabinet members

Lord Chancellor

Lord Privy Seal

Home Secretary

Foreign Secretary

Chancellor of the Exchequer

Secretary of State for Defense

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

Secretary of State for Employment

Secretary of State for Social Security

Secretary of State for the Environment

Secretary of State for Scotland

Secretary of State for Wales

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland





# Case Study

snap election in June 2017

Royal Assent

House of Lords

House of Commons

Initiative by the Government

MPs

Prime Minister + Cabinet

To reappoint some ministers and select members for the Cabinet

The Conservative to return more parliament members

Executive

Legislature

Early/Snap Election



# Case Study

snap election in June 2017



Party

conservative

labor

leader

Theresa May

Jeremy Corbyn

Last election

330 seats

232 seats

Seats won

317(<326)

262

Seats change

13 ↓

30 ↑

Hung Parliament--with no party winning an overall majority

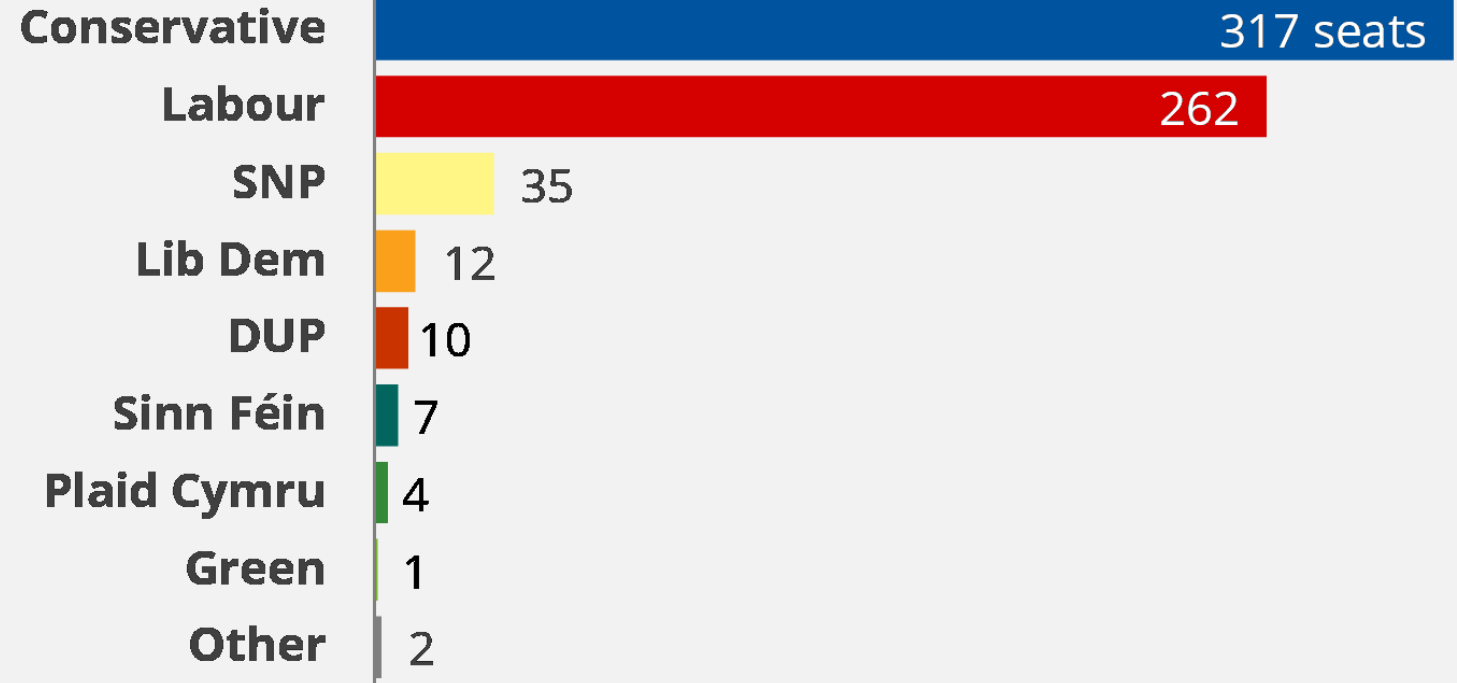


# Case Study

snap election in June 2017



coalition government



Hung Parliament--with no party winning an overall majority



*Ciao*

# UK Political System

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**Constitution and Monarch**

- **Separation of Power**
- **General Election**

● *Tian Tian*