

Summer 2025 'Flying Start'

Pre-September Learning Tasks

Section 1 – Parliament

Watch the 3 videos using the links below and then answer the 2 sets of questions and complete the gap fill on the House of Lords.

[How Parliament Works](#)

1. What does Parliament do?

Watch the 1:25 seconds on 'How Parliament Works' video using the link above and answer these 7 questions:

1. 4 things Parliament does:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

2. The 2 main groups in the H of C:

- 1.
- 2.

3. The number of constituencies:

4. What kind of chamber the H of C is:

5. The 3 types of members of the lords:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

6. Which types of Lords are non-party political:

7. The 4 things Parliamentary Committees do:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

[What is the House of Commons](#)

2. An Introduction to the House of Commons

Watch the 4.29 mins video on 'What is the House of Commons' using the link above and answer these 10 questions:

1. What is the name of the geographical area that MPs represent?
2. What 2 sets of interests do MPs have to balance?
3. What 3 different types of people do MPs represent?
4. Who becomes the Prime Minister?
5. Approximately how many senior ministers form the Cabinet?
6. What is the job of the Speaker?
7. What happens if an MP asks an urgent question?
8. What are the 3 stages a bill goes through in each House?
9. What does the Home Affairs Committee scrutinise?
10. What 2 groups are consulted by Select committees and how many days should the Government respond within?

3. An Introduction to the House of Lords

[What is the House of Lords](#)

Watch the 2.59 mins video using the link above and complete this gap fill:

The House of Lords is the chamber of the UK Parliament. It is independent from, and complements the work of, the House of Commons. Here members, also known as Lords and....., share the task of making and shaping laws and checking and the work of the government. The House of Lords has around 800 members. The majority of members are appointed as life peers, alongside a small number of hereditary peers and bishops. Life peers are selected for their knowledge and..... Although some have worked in politics, life peers bring expertise from many different fields including medicine, the arts, charities and..... They hold the government to account using their expertise and knowledge to look at laws and issues in detail. The chamber is laid out with the Government party on one side and the parties on the other. There are a group of members known as....., who don't belong to a political party. Although the political party in Government may have the

most seats in the House of Commons, it doesn't necessarily follow that they have a in the House of Lords. The House of Lords has three main functions: to scrutinise, check and challenge the work of Government; to debate and make laws to improve the way the country is governed; and to issues in depth through committee inquiries. Questions and debates in the chamber give members from all parties the opportunity to raise issues or to challenge Government policies. Another key responsibility is making and shaping laws. The House of Lords and House of Commons this role. The Government cannot make new laws or raise new taxes without Parliament's agreement. Away from the chamber, select committees, made up of small groups of members from across the House working together, scrutinise different aspects of Government work. Their investigations look into broad, long-term issues, taking advantage of the Lords' expertise and the greater amount of available to them to examine issues. Together committee members investigate specific subjects, speaking to experts and members of the public to understand how and policies affect our everyday lives. At the end of an inquiry, committees normally publish reports on their findings with which the Government must respond to.

4. Analysis of Parliament

Strengths of the current system	Weaknesses of the current system
If I was in charge of the UK political system, I would change.....(and explain why)	

Section 2 – The Government

Use the link below and any other sources of information you find, to research who is in the current Cabinet.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/ministers>

Name that Cabinet member

1. Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury, Minister for the Civil Service.

Name -

Key Duties –

2. Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

Name -

Key Duties -

3. Secretary of State for Defence.

Name -

Key Duties -

4. First Secretary of State, Minister for the Cabinet Office.

Name -

Key Duties -

5. Secretary of State for Health.

Name -

Key Duties -

6. Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Ministerial Champion for the Midlands Engine)

Name -

Key Duties -

7. Secretary of State for the Home Department.

Name -

Key Duties -

8. Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Name -

Key Duties –

9. Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice. Name -

Key Duties -

10. Secretary of State for International Trade and President of the Board of Trade.

Name -

Key Duties –

11. Chancellor of the Exchequer

Name -

Key Duties –

12. Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Name -

Key Duties –

13. Secretary of State for Education, Minister for Women and Equalities .

Name -

Key Duties –

14. Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union.

Name -

Key Duties –

15. Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport .

Name -

Key Duties –

16. Secretary of State for Transport

Name -

Key Duties –

17. Leader of the House of Lords, Lord Privy Seal

Name -

Key Duties –

18. Secretary of State for International Development

Name -

Key Duties –

19. Secretary of State for Scotland

Name -

Key Duties –

20. Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

Name -

Key Duties –

21. Secretary of State for Wales

Name -

Key Duties –

22. Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

Name -

Key Duties –

23. Chief Secretary to the Treasury

Name -

Key Duties –