

Democracy

Direct democracy	Where people make laws and decisions together.
Representative democracy	Where people choose representatives to make decisions for them.
The Three Branches of Government	The powers of Government are split into three sections to try to stop one part having too much control: the executive , legislature and judiciary .
General election	A vote for Members of Parliament (MPs) usually every 5 years in the UK. The political party with the most MPs become the Government.
Members of Parliament (MPs)	Representatives from every part of the UK. There are 650 and they are usually part of political parties, groups of people with the same idea about how to run the country.

Magna Carta

King John is forced to sign the 'Great Charter' in **1215** by angry **barons** after they were angered by his unfair **taxes** and laws. This ended the complete control by kings and queens. It went on to inspire the American colonists declaring independence from Britain, the Chartists who called for votes for all men, and the Suffragettes who called for votes for women.

Key vocabulary

Democracy	The word comes from ancient Greek and means 'rule by the people'.
Representation	Speaking and making decisions on behalf of someone.
Taxation	Money workers and businesses pay that the government uses to pay for things.
Referendum	A kind of direct democracy still used where people vote on one decision.
Executive	The people who run the country. In UK Parliament, the Government led by the Prime Minister.
Legislature	The people who make the laws. In UK Parliament, the House of Commons and House of Lords.
Judiciary	The people who carry out the laws. In the UK, the Courts.
Political Party	A group of people with similar ideas about how to run the country.