

# 24 X REVISION TOPIC CARDS

# POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

## KEY WORDS/TERMS COVERED

PARLIAMENT  
GOVERNMENT  
HOUSE OF COMMONS  
HOUSE OF LORDS  
CONSTITUENT  
CONSTITUENCIES  
GENERAL ELECTION  
BY ELECTION  
CANDIDATE  
THE CABINET  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
PEER  
PRIME MINISTER  
CLERKS  
BLACK ROD  
CROSSBENCHERS  
MANDATE  
DIVISION LOBBIES  
ROYAL ASSENT  
ROYAL PEROGATIVE  
BICAMERAL  
MAGNA CARTA  
SPEAKER  
SERJEANT AT ARMS

KEY TERMS  
REVISION  
LITERACY SUPPORT  
SEN EAL & PP SUPPORT

KEY  
TERMS

EXAM  
TECHNIQUE



**EVERY KEY TERM INCLUDES:  
DEFINITIONS – SYNONYMS - EXAMPLES – DRAW IT - EXAM TECHNIQUE Q'S**

## NEW KEY TERM

## Politics and Government

**PARLIAMENT**

This is made up of both The Houses of Parliament and The Monarchy. Their main role is to check and challenge the work of Government (Scrutiny) and debate important issues.

Draw a picture

**Synonym:**

Westminster

**In a sentence:**

The **UK Parliament** has a big legislative role as it decides on new laws and amends old ones.

**Exam technique:**

How does Parliament hold the Government to account?  
What is Parliament made up of?  
Is the UK Parliament democratic?

## NEW KEY TERM

## Politics and Government

**GOVERNMENT**

A group of people with the authority and power to govern a country or state.

Draw a picture

**Synonym:**

The Executive

**In a sentence:**

In 2017 the Conservative Party are leading the UK **Government** and Theresa May is the Prime Minister.

**Exam technique:**

What responsibilities does the Government have to the people?  
What is a coalition government?  
How does parliament hold the government to account?

## NEW KEY TERM

## Politics and Government

**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

This is the lower chamber of parliament where the 650 MP's are elected to every general election. The seats are green and the 'speaker' will preside over debates and the running of it.

Draw a picture

**Synonym:**

Lower chamber

**In a sentence:**

I enjoy watching the PM at the dispatch box in the **House of Commons** responding to the opposition MP's.

**Exam technique:**

Why makes people want to volunteer?  
What are the benefits of volunteering?  
Explain why charities rely so much on volunteers.

## NEW KEY TERM

## Politics and Government

**HOUSE OF LORDS**

This is the upper chamber of parliament with around 800 members, which are known as peers. They are unelected members who have been nominated for their expertise. Seats are red.

Draw a picture

**Synonym:**

Upper chamber

**In a sentence:**

Some people believe that the unelected **House of Lords** should be abolished.

**Exam technique:**

What role does the House of Lords play?  
Is the House of Lords democratic?  
What kinds of people become peers?

## NEW KEY TERM

## Politics and Government

**CONSTITUENT**

A group of voters in a specified area who elect a representative to parliament (Legislative body)

Draw a picture

**Synonym:**

Specific voters

**In a sentence:**

As a **constituent** of Enfield North I have the right to contact my local MP about any concerning issues I have.

**Exam technique:**

Why does an MP have to listen to their constituents?  
What power do constituents have in influencing parliament?  
What is the electoral register?

## NEW KEY TERM

## Politics and Government

**CONSTITUENCIES**

An area (locality) that an MP represents. There are 650 Constituencies in the UK who each have a local MP that represents them.

Draw a picture

**Synonym:**

Specific area

**In a sentence:**

In 2015 the Scottish National Party won 56 out of 59 Constituencies in Scotland.

**Exam technique:**

How many constituencies are there in the UK?  
What is gerrymandering?  
What is a safe seat?

## NEW KEY TERM

## Politics and Government

**GENERAL ELECTION**

Every five years in the UK the whole country gets to vote for the political party they want to be in charge of the national government. They do this by choosing their local MP

Draw a picture

**Synonym:**

Peoples Vote

**In a sentence:**

Recently, in the 2017 **general election** no single party won a majority of the seats.

**Exam technique:**

Why is voter turnout low at General Elections?  
Why is it important to vote?  
Who can vote in elections?

## NEW KEY TERM

## Politics and Government

**BY-ELECTION**

An election held in a single political constituency to fill a vacancy arising during a government's term of office. A by-election can arise due to an MP's resignation, retirement, death.

Draw a picture

**Synonym:**

Interim election

**In a sentence:**

The death of a popular MP sometimes evokes a sympathy vote at a **by-election**, while the resignation of an MP for misconduct might have the reverse effect

**Exam technique:**

What cases a by-election?  
Is a by-election a reflection on the sitting government?  
What other elections happen in the UK?

## NEW KEY TERM

## Politics and Government

**THE CABINET**

A group of 20+ senior MP's who are chosen by the Prime Minister to lead on specific policy areas such as health, transport etc.

Draw a picture

**Synonym:**

Senior MP's

**In a sentence:**

Theresa May recently order a reshuffle where some new MP's were promoted and some existing MP's lost their roles within **the cabinet**.

**Exam technique:**

What responsibilities do cabinet members have?  
What is the ministerial code?

## NEW KEY TERM

## Politics and Government

**PROTEST VOTES**

Voters know that their decision is unlikely to change the government. They can safely protest against the party in power by voting for a party that they probably wouldn't support in a General Election

Draw a picture

**Synonym:**

Higher Criminal Court

**In a sentence:**

Some people unhappy with being part of the European Union may have **protest voted** and given UKIP their vote instead of the Conservative party.

**Exam technique:**

What is tactical voting?  
Why would someone protest vote?  
What can be done to improve turnout at elections?

## NEW KEY TERM

## Politics and Government

**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**

A Member of Parliament. This person has been elected by their constituents to represent them in parliament.

Draw a picture

**Synonym:**

MP

**In a sentence:**

As a local **MP** I must not only support my political party but also balance this with the needs of my local area when deciding which way to vote on issues in parliament.

**Exam technique:**

What responsibilities does a Local MP have?  
How can you contact your local MP?  
Who is your local MP?

## NEW KEY TERM

## Politics and Government

**PEER**

Are members of the upper chamber (House of Lords). Most members are life peers although some still sit because they inherited the title/position from their parents.

Draw a picture

**Synonym:**

Lord

**In a sentence:**

Because peers are unelected representatives some people feel this is undemocratic.

**Exam technique:**

Where do peers sit in Parliament?  
What responsibilities do peers have?  
Should the UK consider removing the House of Lords?



## NEW KEY TERM

## Politics and Government

**PRIME MINISTER**

Leader of the party that wins the most seats in a general election. They are leader of the Government and therefore the Cabinet. They have residence and offices in 10 Downing Street

Draw a picture

**Synonym:**

PM

**In a sentence:**

As of November 2018 Theresa May is the current **Prime Minister** for the United Kingdom.

**Exam technique:**

Who is the Prime Minister?  
What responsibilities does the Prime Minister have?  
What qualities are needed from the Prime Minister?

## NEW KEY TERM

## Politics and Government

**CLERKS**

Senior officers in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Their role entails giving advice on the process and rules during debates

Draw a picture

**Synonym:**

Senior officers

**In a sentence:**

A **clerk** has to maintain authentic records of all proceedings

**Exam technique:**

What other roles exist within parliament?  
What responsibilities does a clerk have?  
What is the civil service?

## NEW KEY TERM

## Politics and Government

**BLACK ROD**

A senior officer in the House of Lords. He is in charge of keeping order and security within and around the House of Lords.

Draw a picture

**Synonym:**

N/A

**In a sentence:**

During the opening of Parliament the Commons Chamber doors are slammed in **Black Rod's** face to symbolise the Commons independence

**Exam technique:**

Explain the Role of Black Rod during the opening of Parliament ?  
Describe the responsibilities of Black Rod

## NEW KEY TERM

## Politics and Government

**CROSSBENCHERS**

Peers in the House of Lords that do not belong to a specific political party are called cross-benchers

Draw a picture

**Synonym:**

Adjudicators

**In a sentence:**

Due to the House of Lords consisting of so many **cross-benchers** there is no one party that has majority control in the Lords.

**Exam technique:**

Apart from peers who else sits in the House of Lords?  
How does one become a peer?  
What advantages does the House of Lords have over the Commons?

## NEW KEY TERM

## Politics and Government

**MANDATE**

The authority to carry out a policy, regarded as given by the electorate to a party or candidate that wins an election.

Draw a picture

**Synonym:**

Instruction

**In a sentence:**

Theresa May called a general election in 2017 to give her a clear **mandate** to carry out her Brexit withdrawal plan .

**Exam technique:**

What is a mandate?  
Why is it important for the government to have a mandate?

## NEW KEY TERM

## Politics and Government

**DIVISION LOBBIES**

The corridors that run along either side of the Chamber in both Houses. They are used to record the votes of members when there is a division

Draw a picture

**Synonym:**

Corridors of power

**In a sentence:**

In the House of Commons the **division lobbies** are called the Aye Lobby and the No Lobby.

**Exam technique:**

What does the term lobbying mean?  
What happens in the division lobbies?  
What does the term 'dividing the house' mean?

## NEW KEY TERM

## Politics and Government

**ROYAL ASSENT**

This is where the Queen signs the bill and it becomes an Act of Parliament (Law).

Draw a picture

**Synonym:**

Queen's Signature

**In a sentence:**

As a bill passes through both of The Houses of Parliament it must be signed with the **Royal Assent** before it becomes official.

**Exam technique:**

Explain how a bill passes through parliament  
Is this process too long or justifiable?  
How democratic is this process?

## NEW KEY TERM

## Politics and Government

**ROYAL PREROGATIVE**

Enables Ministers, among many other things, to deploy the armed forces, make and unmake international treaties and to grant honours

Draw a picture

**Synonym:**

Prerogative

**In a sentence:**

The **royal prerogative** is a body of customary authority, privilege, and immunity attached to the British Monarch

**Exam technique:**

What is the royal prerogative?  
Why is it important to reserve some powers?  
What powers does the UK monarch still hold?

## NEW KEY TERM

## Politics and Government

**BICAMERAL**

A system used by UK Parliament in which there is two 'bi' 'cameral' chambers, the Commons and the Lords

Draw a picture

**Synonym:**

Two Houses

**In a sentence:**

In the UK the two chambers work together to run the legislature in a **bicameral** way.

**Exam technique:**

*What are the advantages of having a bicameral parliament?  
What arguments support the removal of the House of Lords?*

## NEW KEY TERM

## Politics and Government

**MAGNA CARTA**

Written in 1215. It contains promises made by King John to the people of England. There are promises to the Barons, the Church, the Knights, the Merchants and the Freemen.

Draw a picture

**Synonym:**

Great Charter

**In a sentence:**

Before the **Magna Carta** was signed the monarch had complete control over what happened in the country.

**Exam technique:**

Why was the Magna Carta significant?  
Why is it still relevant today?  
How has the Magna Carta shaped modern day democracy?

## NEW KEY TERM

## Politics and Government

**SPEAKER**

Elected by fellow MPs they will oversee the business in the House of Commons. They must remain impartial and act as chair during debates

Draw a picture

**Synonym:**

Chair person

**In a sentence:**

The current speaker John Bercow is responsible for ensuring the rules are observed and order is maintained.

**Exam technique:**

What is the role of the Speaker?  
Why should the Speaker remain impartial during debates?  
What skills are needed to be an effective Speaker?

## NEW KEY TERM

## Politics and Government

**SERJEANT AT ARMS**

Responsible for the order and security of the House of Commons. This person will also perform ceremonial duties including carrying the mace

Draw a picture

**Synonym:**

N/A

**In a sentence:**

the Serjeant at Arms is the only person allowed to carry a sword upon them in parliament

**Exam technique:**

What responsibilities does the serjeant at arms?  
What other roles exist within parliament?

# GCSE

AQA OCR  
EDEXCEL

# CITIZENSHIP

How can this resource be used?



1. Students discuss and complete the exam questions in pairs

2. Cut them out, hide them around the room and allow students to create links between the different key terms when they are found

3. Cut the key terms in half and create a matching exercise. Print in black and white to make more difficult

4. Use as literacy support for weaker students or use as mini extensions for the most able students

5. Use as revision for topics and as vocabulary hints for extended written responses

6. Upload to your secure online virtual learning environment for students to revise from

7. Revision for vocabulary spelling tests

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# CRE<sup>8</sup>TIVE RESOURCES