

Year 12 Government and Politics Work

Parliament

- The elected body that forms the legislature
- Strong Parliaments control government and legislation, whereas weak Parliaments are minor advisory bodies

How is Parliament composed?

- Three elements: House of Commons, elected chamber
House of Lords, unelected chamber
Monarch
- Make laws, check and challenge work of the Government and approve government spending
- Monarch approves laws, appoints PM and officially opens Parliament every year

The UK Parliamentary system

The executive and the legislature are tightly linked. The executive - government ministers - sit in one of the two Houses of Parliament (the Commons or the Lords). Ministers take part in debate and vote together with the other members of Parliament. The executive is not independent of Parliament - the House of Commons can overthrow the government by a veto of no-confidence. On the other hand, the government, through the Prime Minister, can dissolve the legislature and hold a general election. In practice, however, the most important factor is the party system. Normally, the UK government is formed from the party holding a majority of seats in the House of Commons. The government expects its backbench MPs to support it by voting according to party instructions. This means, in effect, that the government brings into law legislation which it has itself proposed. In this sense, the government controls the House of Commons. In the UK, therefore, the executive and the legislature are not two independent branches of government, and legislation and execution are not two disconnected processes.

Parliament is the composition of both houses, who vote on the passage of laws. The government is the executive, who is also a part of Parliament, and the have more power as they put forward laws and policies.

Sub-titles are encouraged to be used to break down work within a lesson into understandable sections.

Hillsborough

- 2011 an e-petition^{out} ordered the publication of documents relating to 1989 Hillsborough disaster
- Over 100,000 signatures - parliamentary debate
- Gov. forced to release previously secret papers about the event
- New inquest - exonerated victims of all blame
- Produced a ruling of unlawful killing of all 97 fans and paved the way for prosecutions
- Joint Committee on Human Rights has called on gov. to go further in ^{improving} how the state responds to major tragedies

Real life examples are included to exemplify the content that is being discussed in the lesson.

Backbench MPs

13/12/24

Functions, eg

- Represent views and interests of their constituency
- Vote on and can propose legislation
- Challenge the work of the government, including laws

Scrutiny

- Select Committees
- Scrutinising legislation at the committee stage

Legislation

- Select Committees
- Voting in divisions on legislation

Representation

- Listening to constituents and trying to solve their problems and grievances
- Campaigning & lobbying on behalf of a particular issue or cause
- Attending important events
- Campaigning with other MPs on particular issues
- Membership of party committees (developing ideas on a particular issue)

Class notes are neatly organised with the use of sub-headings and columns if required.

Clear Presentation of classwork with the date and title neatly underlined with a ruler.

Evaluation of a key topic area is discussed and detailed notes taken on this in the lesson to enable the development of students analytical understanding.

Weaknesses

- Expectation of party loyalty as they are elected on the party manifesto
- Opposition MPs can have little impact if the Government has a decisive majority
- MPs lack research facilities or large teams supporting them
- MPs have few opportunities to raise issues in the HoC
- MPs have to divide time between HoC and London, and work in their constituencies

Strengths

- Select committees can be very influential
- Collectively MPs can defeat the government, especially if there is a party rebellion (e.g. Brexit vote)
- MPs have a lot of media and public attention, allowing them to raise issues of concern
- If the Gov. have a small/no majority, small groups of MPs can be very powerful (e.g. the ERG)

Examples of influential

- Small rebellions can have major impacts on a minority Government - Theresa May has been defeated 37 times, David Cameron only 9
- Dec 2018 Brexit Deals - supported an opposition motion (311-293) demanding full disclosure of legal advice to Cabinet on Brexit deal
- Commons also voted (321-299, 16 Eng rebels) for a motion by Dominic Grieve allowing MPs to exert more influence

One way in which the House of Lords improves legislation is through the 'expertise' and 'independence of thought' of peers, as stated in the source. Life peers, who are appointed into the House of Lords, are well-informed in certain areas, which allows them to be more effective in the creation of new legislation. For example, Lord Krebs is a scientist who focuses on zoology and ecology, so he provides expert insight and advice on legislation regarding environment protection. Moreover, Baroness Munningsham was a MI5 general, and so she can provide expert insight regarding security and surveillance. These expertise are useful in improving legislation as having people with large amounts of knowledge about the subject will mean legislation that is passed is more fact-checked and well-used by more qualified people, as well as more effective in practice.

→ Good. MPs may lack knowledge in this area.

Another way the House of Lords improves legislation is in their challenges.

Targeted feedback is provided to students on their timed written work.

Students are provided with a key clear overall feedback target based off their answers in the assessment.

2. more Explain what why time happened here

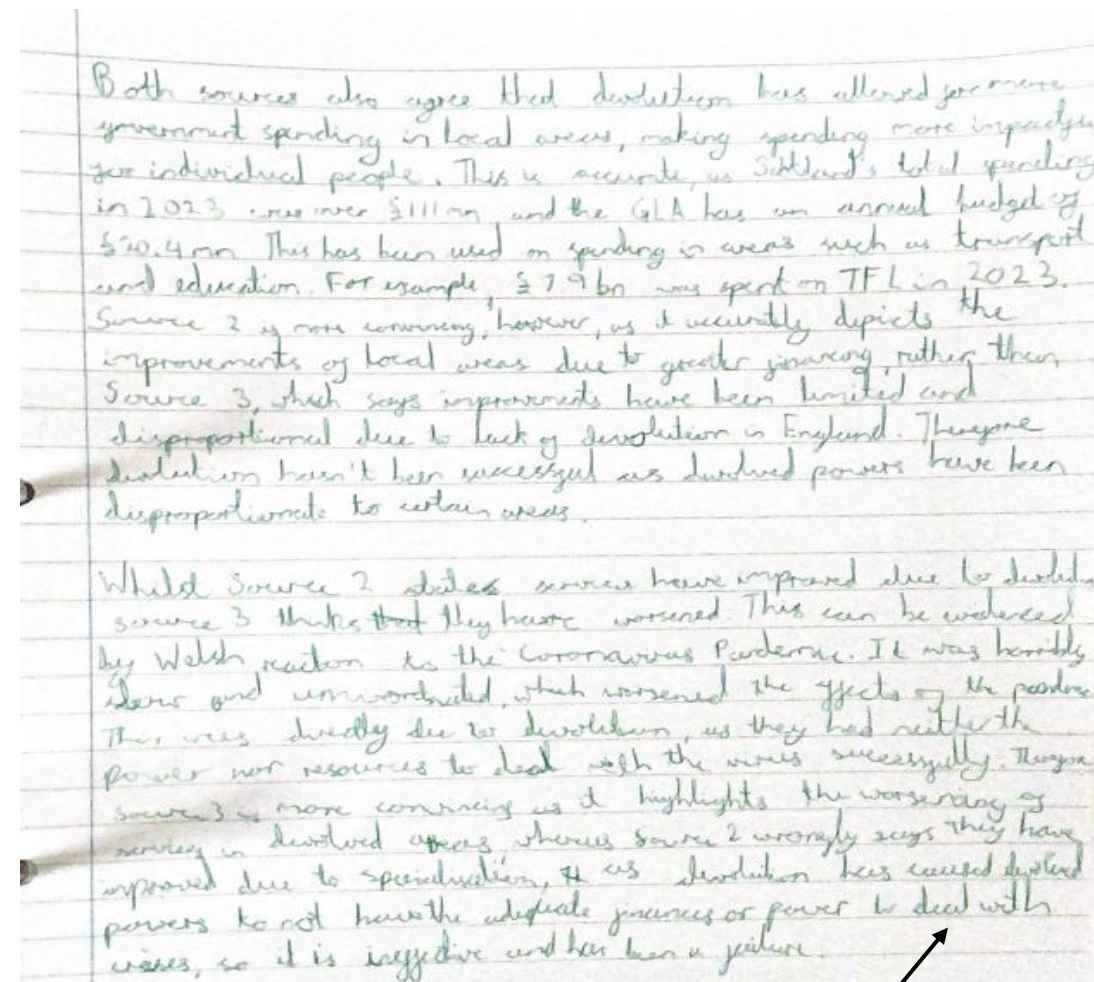
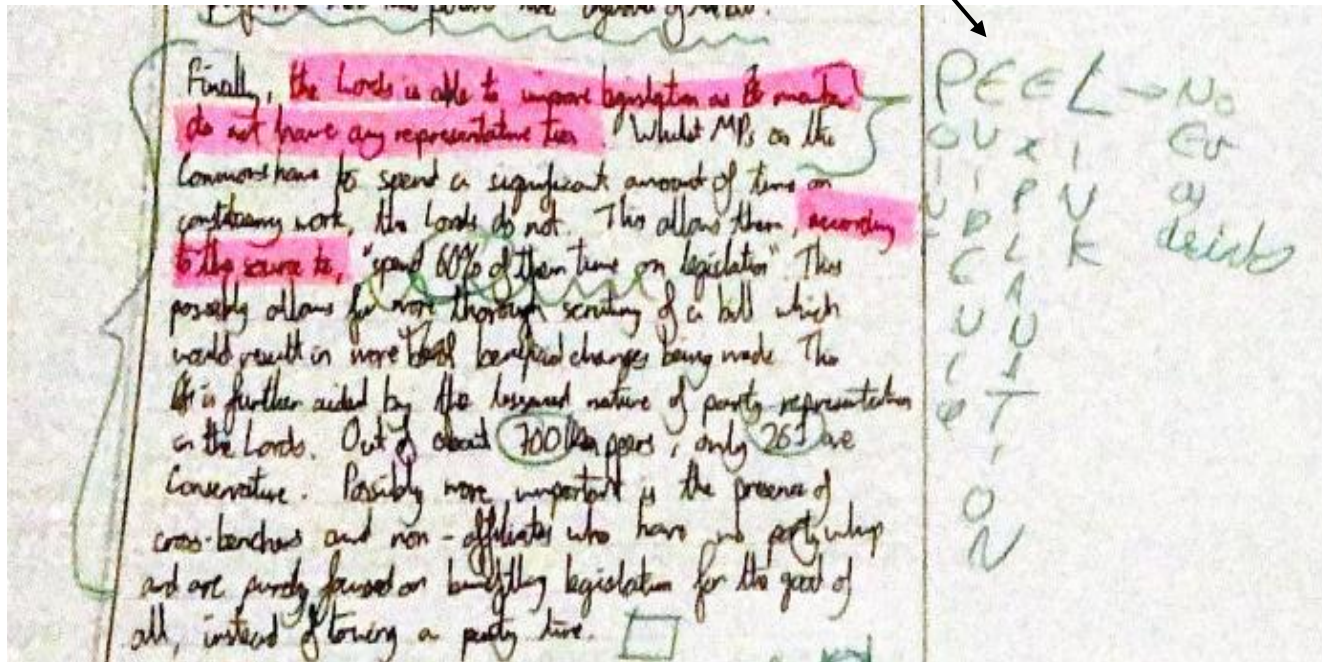
The final way the House of Lords improves legislation is through the large amount of time dedicated to legislation. The source states the House of Lords devotes '60% of their time' to this, whereas only 24% of the House of Commons' time is spent debating legislation. This improves legislation as it allows for more time for debate and review of legislation, ensuring that it is as effective as possible when passed and there are no small errors within it. The House of Lords is useful in doing this, whereas the House of Commons isn't as they are preoccupied with other issues, so it limits the workload of MPs and ensures legislation is rigorously and properly scrutinised.

example? such as?

*2 War Powers Act 1991

7 First paragraph was strongest.

An emphasis on the structure of the paragraphs is an importance focus of assessment green Pen feedback from an assessment as it is crucial for a student to understand the best structure to use to achieve a Grade A at AS-Level.



Green Pen Feedback from an assessment is crucial for a student to engage with effectively to respond to feedback given by the teacher and to correct mistakes/misunderstandings that were made in their written work.