

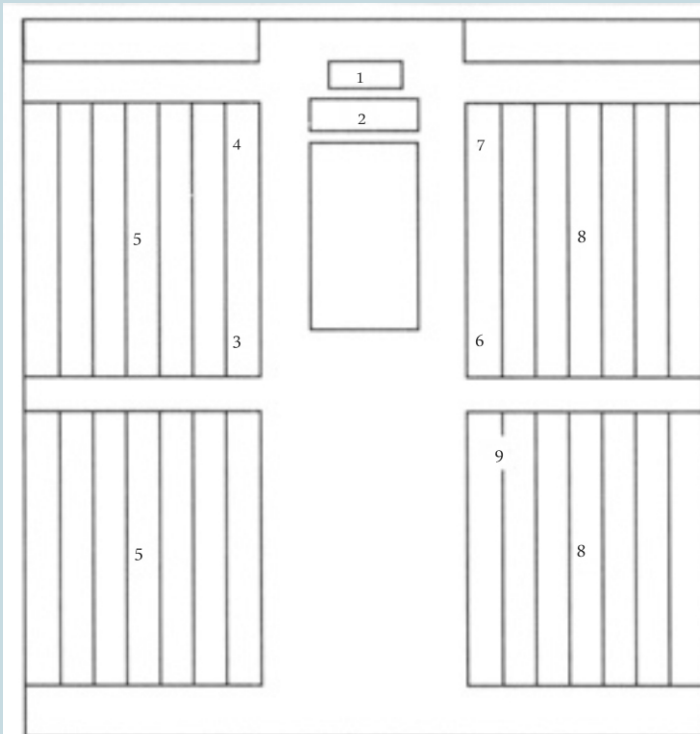
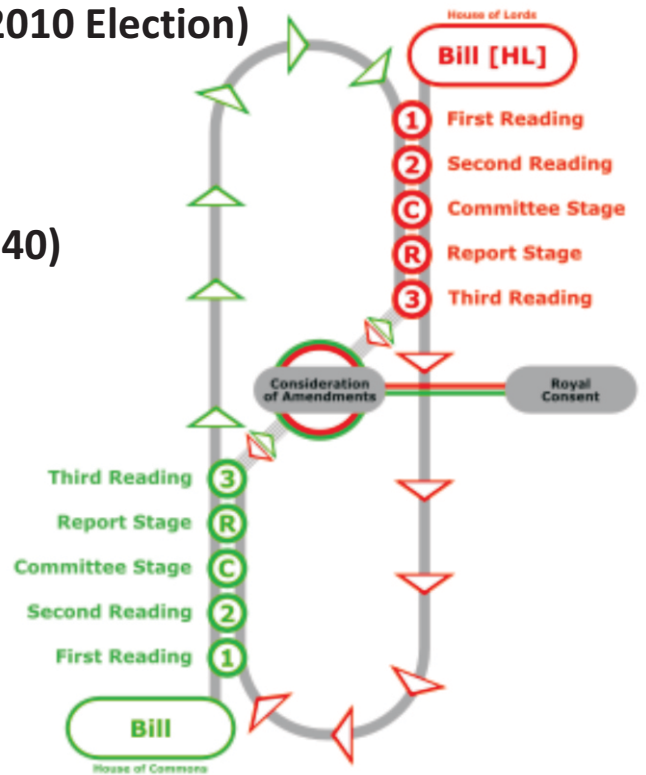
HOUSE OF COMMONS

Basics:

- 650 Members of Parliament (Mps) (after 2010 Election)
- Elected by **DIRECT UNIVERSAL VOTE, SMDP** ("First Past the Post")
- Term of Office: **5 years** maximum
- Session = approximately 155 days (Lords 140)

Duties:

- Represent Constituency
- Pass Laws
 - "Catch-all" committees* (debate, amend)
 - All **revenue bills** must originate
 - Parliamentary system = no veto
- Debate = Watchdog, Promote Accountability & Transparency
 - Eloquence over substance*
- Consult w/ Lords
- Keep in Mind: Parliamentary Government, Bloc Voting



Seating by Status...

1. SPEAKER
2. CLERKS
3. PRIME MINISTER
4. CABINET
5. GOVERNMENT BACKBENCHERS
6. LEADER OF OPPOSITION
7. SHADOW CABINET
8. OPPOSITION BACKBENCHERS
9. MP OF OTHER OPPOSITION PARTIES

The Royal Remnants

THE
MONARCHY



HOUSE OF
LORDS



The Monarchy

- Hereditary **HEAD OF STATE** (NOT HoG)
- Publically politically neutral
- Symbol of stability, tradition, permanence

FORMAL "POWERS"

- Officially **appoints PM**
(establishes "Her Majesty's Government")
- Weekly audience w/ PM
- **STATE OPENING** of Parliament
- **Royal Assent**



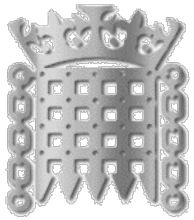
The House of Lords

- Session approx 140 days, attendance
- **Hereditary v. LIFE PEERAGES**
- **CROSSBENCHERS**

FORMAL "POWERS"

- **Introduce, debate, amend** bills (however...)
- Watchdogs (Accountability!)
- Serve in Cabinet
- **DELAY** legislation up to ONE YEAR (except...)

HOUSE OF LORDS REFORM ACT OF 1999
CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM ACT OF 2005



HOUSE OF COMMONS

Forming “The Government”

Post-Election “Invitation” from the Queen

Cabinet Appointments = 1/3 of party MPs

Plum Appointments: Treasury, Foreign Affairs, Defence, & Home

The Power of the Prime Minister

1. FUSION OF POWER

- **Legislative Powers (PM is a MP)**
Draft, Introduce, Amend, Debate
- **Executive Powers (Head of Government)**
Agenda Setting (State Opening)
Appointment + Removal
Cabinet - COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY
DISSOLVE PARLIAMENT
- **Party Chief**
Determine Constituencies - SAFE SEATS

2. PARTY GOVERNMENT

- BLOC VOTING
Public v. Private Bills

3. INDIRECT ELECTION

Checking the Government’s Power

1. VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE

- Backbencher Revolt, Government “Falls”

2. Party Revolt (internal leadership change)

3. Public Opinion

- Prime Minister’s Questions, Media



VOTE OF CONFIDENCE



WHY?

- Party feels Government no longer reflective of party goals and ideals
- The Government is an electoral liability
- Declining public opinion
- Government has public support, but not Commons support