

Answers to review questions in Theme 3

Chapter 11. Political power in the UK

Page 101

1. An absolute monarchy is where a monarch holds all power.
2. A form of direct democracy is a referendum where people vote on a single issue and the result is based upon which point of view gains the most votes. The 2016 EU referendum in the UK is a good example of direct democracy.
3. A manifesto is the name given to a document containing the policies of a political party and is produced at the time of a general election.
4. The separation of powers in the UK relates to the division of power between the monarchy, the executive, parliament and the judicial system. The concept relates to the idea that they are all independent of each other.

Chapter 12. Local and devolved government

Page 120

1. The term 'tiers of government' refers to the different levels of government i.e., local, national, central and any sub- divisions within these.
2. The Westminster Parliament is the most powerful body in the UK as it has the power to abolish another part of government.
3. The two taxes that raise the largest amounts of money in the UK are income tax and VAT.
4. The UK used to have a mixed economy but in recent years has moved more to a market economy.
5. Since 2009/2010 the GDP of the UK has risen slowly but in 2020 there was a massive decrease in GDP due to the corona virus pandemic.
6. The Greater London Authority is the elected body that is responsible for the running of major services in London. It is headed by a directly elected mayor.
7. Members of the House of Lords; EU citizens living in the UK; convicted prisoners.
8. For Scottish elections the voting age is 16. People in Scotland still have to be 18 to vote in a general election. In the England and Northern Ireland you have to be 18 to vote in any public election. In Wales the voting age has been lowered to 16 as in Scotland, but you have to be 18 to vote in a general election.

Chapter 13. Where does political power reside?

Page 142

1. Seats are defined as safe or marginal for a political party. There are then two, three or even four-way marginals.
2. A bicameral parliament is one made up of two chambers i.e., the House of Commons and House of Lords or, in the USA, the House of Representatives and the Senate.
3. In the 2019 General Election the party with the third highest number of MPs was the SNP (the Scottish Nationalist party) with 48.

4. Black Rod is an official of the House of Lords parliament who is responsible for major parliamentary ceremonial events.
5. The Monarch appoints the Prime Minister.
6. The cabinet are members of parliament chosen by the Prime Minister to be their senior ministers and run government departments. They meet together regularly to determine government policy hence the term 'cabinet government'.
7. The function of the legislature is to discuss, amend and approve legislation.
8. FPTP stands for the First Past the Post electoral system used in the UK.

Chapter 14. How do others govern themselves?

Page 143

1. Member countries of the European Union use proportional systems to elect members of the European Parliament.
2. A transnational group- refers to the groupings in the European Parliament where political groups are made up of parties from different member countries.
3. An example of an absolute monarchy would be Saudi Arabia or Brunei.
4. Theocracy relates to power being held by a religious group.

Chapter 15. Bringing about political change

Page 160

1. Greenpeace is a pressure group established to campaign about environmental issues. The Human Rights Commission is a UK government established body that promotes Human Rights and Equality rights in the UK and can take enforcement actions through the courts.
2. In order for the House of Commons to consider an e-petition for debate it must attract 100,000 valid signatures.
3. The online e-petition system.
4. Citizens Advice offers free of charge advice to citizens regarding housing, benefits, legal issues etc. It also promotes policy discussion on issues.