

Knowledge Organiser – I – How has political representation changed in the UK? - 1000 to present (Medieval, Early Modern and Modern periods)



Key people, ideas and developments

1	Magna Carta	England was an absolute monarchy ; kings could abuse their power. The barons got angry with King John and forced him to agree to Magna Carta, the first legal restriction on royal power.
2	Inter-regnum	Political and religious differences between the King and Parliament in the 1500s and 1600s led to a civil war ; Parliament won. King Charles I was executed and for 11 years there was no monarchy. The monarchy returned with Charles II in 1660.
3	Glorious Revolution	Kings continued to fall out with Parliament. In the Glorious Revolution, William III and Mary II became joint monarchs and agreed to have a constitutional monarchy .
4	Prime Minister	The first prime minister was Robert Walpole in 1721. The prime minister's powers have grown since the 1700s.
5	Peterloo & Chartists	In 1800, only rich men could vote in elections. People protested in many ways, including a peaceful protest in Manchester known as Peterloo (the police treated the protesters with violence), and an organisation called the Chartists which fought for fairness and equality.
6	Reform Acts	Various acts of parliament in the 1800s made changes to the rules so that more men could vote (particularly poorer men) and every area had political representation.
7	Women's suffrage	In 1900, women did not have the vote. Lots of women joined organisations – some peaceful, some militant – to argue for their right to vote. After a long campaign, some women were given this right in 1918 and women had equal voting rights in 1928.



⇒ King John being forced to agree to Magna Carta by the barons

⇒ Women protesting for the right to vote



Key terms

8	absolute monarchy	There is a monarch (king/queen) who has a lot of power in the country and makes a lot of the decisions.	
9	act of parliament	A law that is made in Parliament by MPs voting on it.	
10	baron	In the Medieval and Early Modern periods, barons were high up in society, with lots of money and power. Barons still exist, but they have less influence than they did in the past.	
11	civil war	A war where both sides are from the same country.	
12	constitutional monarchy	There is a monarch (king/queen) but their power is limited and the political decisions are made by an elected parliament.	
14	democracy	A system where the people decide who makes laws about them and people's rights are protected.	
13	execute	To kill someone as a punishment for a crime.	
14	MP	Member of Parliament – someone that is elected to represent people's views and make laws by passing acts of parliament. They represent a certain area in the country.	
15	parliament	The people who are chosen and elected to pass laws (acts of parliament) and make decisions about how the country is run.	
16	prime minister	The person who runs the country day-to-day. She or he will have other people to help her/him in a group called the cabinet.	
17	protest	Actions (e.g. a march) to show you want something to change because you think it is wrong.	