

## **Topic 6: Parliament, Elections and the Law - instructions and questions**

Please, study the following resources to answer the questions below:

O'Driscoll, J.: Britain for Learners of English, Oxford University Press 2013 (pp. 43 - Encyclopedia Britannica (online))

1. What is the seating arrangement in the British Parliament?
2. House of Commons was deliberately designed in a way not allowing much personal space for the MPs and, in the same time, creating quite informal atmosphere. What is the history of this arrangement?
3. Describe “question time” in parliament debates (give details, p. 94).
4. What are some of the ancient habits still preserved in today’s House of Commons?
5. Describe / explain Frontbenchers and backbenchers in British parliament.
6. What is the order of happenings in a regular day in House of Commons? Describe each of them.
7. Explain how a bill becomes a law. Name the stages.
8. Explain the “Lords Spiritual” in House of Lords.
9. Who are the members of House of Lords and how they normally get there?
10. Explain how House of Lords lost its power (starting in 1910).
11. What is the House of Lords appointments Commission?
12. When the commons decide to vote, they do not vote immediately. Instead, the “division bell” rings throughout the Palace of Westminster after which MPs have ten minutes in which to vote. Why?
13. What is the evolution of the British electoral system? Give the time line starting in 1832.
14. What is the activity of “canvassing” in relation to elections in Britain?
15. What is the swingometer? (in relation to British elections).
16. What is the day (which day of the week) general elections have been held since 1931?
17. Describe the polling day and election night during general elections. What happens?
18. Explain “the race to declare” (in relation to elections in Britain).
19. What are “By-elections”?

20. What is the system of justice in Great Britain?
21. What is the Trial by jury?
22. Explain “the final appeal” in British justice system.