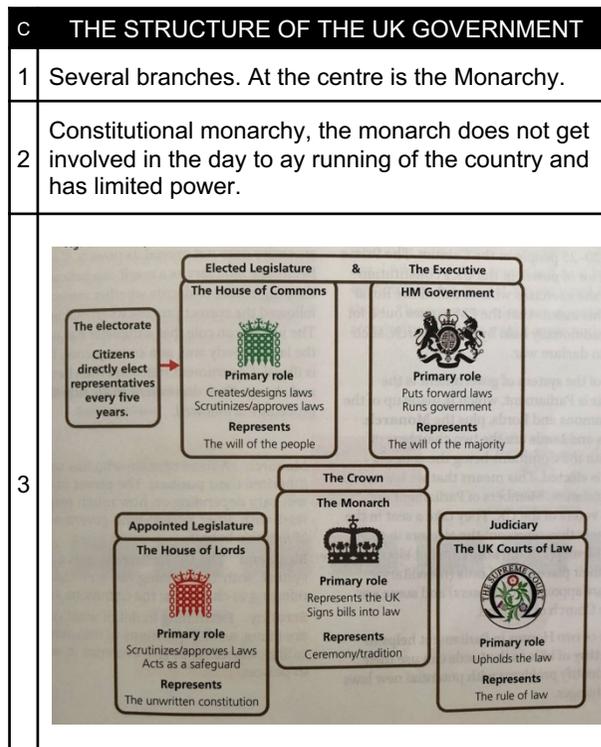


YEAR 10 CITIZENSHIP: THE BRITISH CONSTITUTION

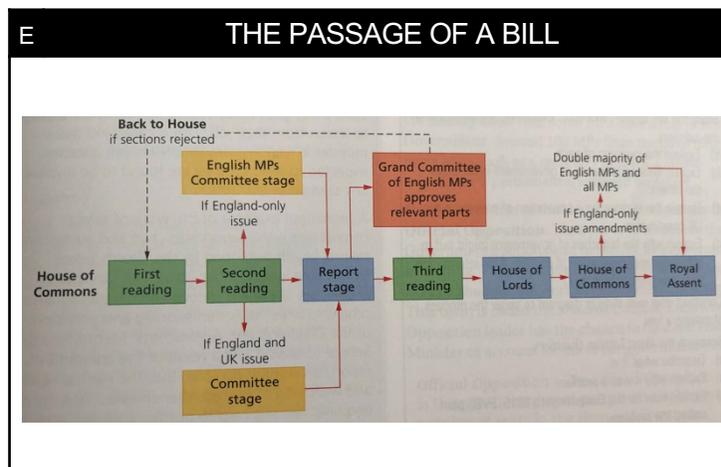
A		KEY WORDS
1	Government	Made up of elected members of the House of Commons. Government ministers are chosen by the PM.
2	Parliament	The decision-making body of the UK. Split into three parts.
3	Legislature	The name for Parliament as a whole. The place where laws are made.
4	Parliamentary sovereignty	Parliament is the supreme authority on law-making in the UK.
5	Executive	Government ministers chosen by the PM to run big government departments.
6	Judiciary	The system of courts and judges through which the law is applied.
7	Uncodified constitution	The rules and important guidelines about how the country should be run are not found in one single document.
8	Civil service	Makes sure the government runs properly and that decisions are carried out.



D		ROLES IN PARLIAMENT
1	Official opposition	Their job is to scrutinise the government's actions and to behave as a government-in-waiting.
2	Shadow cabinet	Opposition leader appoints MPs to 'shadow' the work of government ministers.
3	Front Benchers	MPs who are members of the government or official opposition, they sit on the front bench.
4	Commons Speaker	Elected by other MPs, remains politically impartial. The speaker chooses MPs to speak and makes sure they follow the rules of the House.
5	Party Whips	MPs whose role it is to enforce party discipline and make sure all its backbencher MPs follow the party line.
6	Black Rod	An officer of the House of Lords who is responsible for the security and controlling access to the House of Lords.

B THE NATURE OF THE UK'S CONSTITUTION

1	The Queen is the UK's Monarch and Head of State. She is in charge of the country.
2	The Prime Minister is head of the Government.
3	Parliament scrutinises the OM's decisions and votes on their proposals and makes new laws.
4	Parliament is said to have the most importance; this gives us the concept of Parliamentary Sovereignty.
5	The Judiciary is another part, Judges apply the laws proposed by the executive and approved by the legislature.
6	The UK has an uncodified constitution.



F THE CIVIL SERVICE

1	The administrative body that implements government decisions and provides policy advice to ministers.
2	Civil servants are politically neutral.
3	Work in 1 of 24 government ministerial departments like the Home Office.
4	Work in 1 of 22 non-ministerial departments like OFSTED.
5	Non-ministerial departments are run by senior civil servants.