

WALT: How was the vote won?

L4 – Describe the voting process in 1800.

L5 – Compare 1800 to modern day?

L6 – Explain what was wrong with the vote in 1800?

Politics Today

Everyone over 18 can vote except for the mentally ill, lords and some criminals.

Voting is secret. No one can see how you vote.

There are 651 constituencies in Britain, of roughly even size.

Each constituency sends one MP to Parliament.

In an election, voters vote for one person to be their MP. The candidate with the most votes becomes the MP.

General elections are held every 5 years.

The political party with the most MPs in Parliament forms the government.

Parliament is made up of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Parliament passes all the new laws.

MPs are paid a salary.

Define the following words.

Elections, Votes, Democracy

Politics in 1800

In 1800, nobody under 21 could vote. Fewer than 5% of the population had this political right. No women were allowed to vote.

Voting was open. There was no secret ballot, so it was possible to pay a voter to vote. Sometimes

voters were frightened into voting for a particular candidate.

The country was divided into constituencies made up of counties and boroughs. The seats were unevenly distributed. There were some boroughs where nobody lived or where there were only a few voters. These were called rotten boroughs.

In many constituencies, there was only one candidate for voters to choose from.

Elections were held at least once every seven years.

Most of the new cities and towns had no MP to represent them.

Parliament was made up of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The king chose the Prime Minister, but increasingly the Prime Minister and his Cabinet made the decisions of government.

MPs in Parliament were not paid a salary, so they had to have enough money to support themselves.

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