

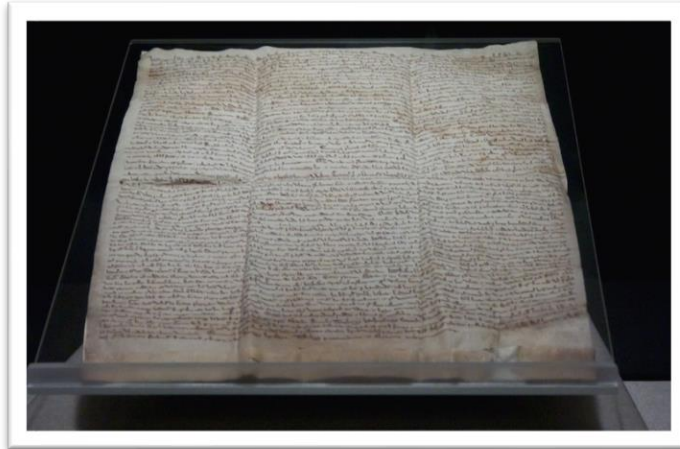
Topic Fact Sheet - Parliament and Democracy

Key Terms

Act	A law passed by parliament.
Barons	Held land for the King and collected taxes.
Candidate	Someone who is wants to be voted into parliament.
Charter	A written document
Democracy	Allowing people to vote on who runs the country.
Electoral system	The system of voting for a candidate to represent a particular set of beliefs.
Government	The party with the most seats in parliament, who run the country.
Great Council	A group of great nobles who advised the King. The first 'parliament'.
Great Reform Act	An act which changed how candidates were voted into parliament.
Magna Carta	A medieval document that limited the King's rights to change laws.
Parliament	The group of people elected to represent each town or borough.
Reform	The improvement of something by removing faults or problems.
Suffragettes	A group of women who protested for the right to vote.
Suffragists	Men and women who supported women's right to vote.

The Magna Carta was a charter that King John of England signed in 1215.

It stated that King John should recognise that his people deserve certain rights and should be treated fairly.



King John of England
1199 - 1216

The parliament in 1295 allowed more areas of the country to be represented. It became known as the model parliament. Parliament today is still organised in a very similar way.

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Key Dates

15 th June 1215	King John is forced to sign the Magna Carta.
1227	The Magna Carta becomes law.
1265	Parliament was expanded to allow representatives elected by land owners
1295	Parliament became known as the 'Model Parliament'
1629 - 1640	King Charles ruled England without Parliament.
1642 - 1651	English Civil War between supporters of King Charles and supporters of Parliament.
1689	The English Bill of Rights gave Parliament power over the monarchy.
1832	The Great Reform Act gave more representation of towns in parliament and more men the right to vote.
1872	The Ballot Act allowed voting to be carried out in secret.
1918	The Representation of People Act allowed men over 21 and women over 30 the right to vote.
1928	Women over the age of 21 were allowed to vote - in line with men.
1969	The voting age is lowered to 18

Before the Great Reform Act in 1832, only wealthy people were allowed to vote and often bribed others to vote for them.

After the act, small landowners and farmers (middle class) were given the right to vote.



Voting days were often violent affairs, as people fought to be elected.



Emmeline Pankhurst was the leader of the Suffragettes - a group who fought from 1880-1918 for women to be allowed to vote in elections.



Britain's Parliament consists of two houses: the House of Lords and the House of Commons. They hold their meetings in the Parliament buildings in London.



Today, anyone over the age of 18 has the right to vote for who they want to represent them in Parliament.