

The UK is a representative democracy.

The country is divided into 650 constituencies and each constituency votes for a Member of Parliament, or MP, to represent it at the UK Parliament in Westminster.

The voting system used to elect MPs is called First Past the Post or FPTP.

On election day, voters receive a ballot paper with a list of candidates.

As only one MP will represent each constituency, each political party puts forward one candidate.

There can also be independent candidates.

Voters put a cross next to their favourite candidate.

All the votes are counted and the candidate with the most votes wins.

This is a simple majority voting system.

A candidate only needs one more vote than any of the others to be elected.