

Citizenship

How are laws made?

Downloadable Resource

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What is a Law?

Law is a system of rules that a country or community have agreed to and follow. It regulates your actions so that if you break the law, then there could be penalties.

- Laws state what your rights are and what your duties are under that law.
- Each country has its own laws that everyone has to obey, including visitors if they are not a citizen of that country.
- There is a police force to keep order, protect the public and to stop people breaking the law, and to arrest them if they do.



Glossary

Government

- the group of people with the authority to govern a country or state.

Member of Parliament

- A member of parliament (MP) is the elected representative of a constituency who sits in parliament.

House of Commons

- The House of Commons is the lower house of the Parliament of the United Kingdom when MPs sit.

House of Lords

- The House of Lords is the second chamber of the UK Parliament. It shares the task of making and shaping laws and checking and challenging the government's bills. Members are not elected.



Glossary

Monarch

- The King or Queen of a country who has inherited their title and role, usually from their parent, the previous monarch.

Constituency

- In a general election, each Constituency or local area chooses an MP to represent them.

Parliament

- Parliament is made up of the House of Commons and House of Lords and the monarch. Parliament is responsible for making and passing laws, deciding taxes and scrutinising the Government. The Monarch gives final assent (agreement) to any new law.



Glossary

Law-abiding

- Law-abiding means obeying or keeping the law; being obedient to law.

Punishment

- Imposing a penalty after someone commits an offence and is found guilty.

Debate

- To discuss and argue about (a subject), especially in a formal manner: "MPs debated the issue in the Commons".

Vote

- To express your choice or opinion, especially by officially writing a mark on a ballot paper or by raising your hand or speaking in a meeting.



Glossary

Reading

- A stage of debate in parliament through which a Bill must pass before it can become law: "the Bill returns to the House for its final reading next week".

