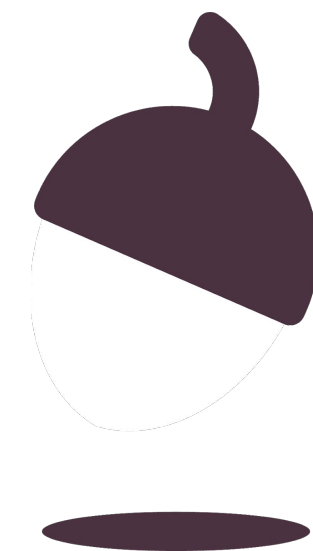


Citizenship

How does devolved government operate in the UK?

Downloadable Resource

Mr D. Henson



OAK
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ACADEMY

TASK 3	UK Parliament	Welsh Parliament	Scottish Parliament	National Assembly Northern Ireland
Where do they meet?				
How many seats?				
Full power/devolved power?				
What can they legislate?				



UK Parliament

The Parliament of the United Kingdom is the supreme legislative body of the United Kingdom. It alone possesses legislative supremacy and thereby ultimate power over all other political bodies and devolved governments in the UK. The two houses meet in the Palace of Westminster in the City of Westminster, one of the inner boroughs of the capital city, London.

The House of Commons is an elected chamber with elections to 650 single member constituencies held at least every five years under the first-past-the-post system.



Scottish Parliament

The Scottish Parliament is located in Edinburgh, in an area called Holyrood. You will often hear Holyrood mentioned as another word for Scottish Parliament, much like the area Westminster is often used to refer to the UK Parliament. The Scottish Parliament has 129 seats.

The devolved powers held by the Scottish Parliament include health, local government, housing and arts, among many other areas. Scottish Parliament has passed laws abolishing university tuition fees, abolishing NHS prescription charges, providing free care for the elderly, imposing a minimum price on alcohol, banning smoking in public spaces and many other laws.



Welsh Parliament

The Welsh parliament is called the National Assembly for Wales, and is located in Cardiff. It has 60 seats. Senedd Cymru (as it is also known) has a range of devolved powers, covering issues such as agriculture, transport, taxes, education, laws relating to the Welsh language and many other areas of life.

Another law passed in Wales is the Welsh Language Act of 1993, which officially gives the Welsh language equal importance with the English language in the public sector; the act also permits Welsh to be spoken in courts.

In Wales, NHS prescriptions are free for everybody.



Northern Ireland Assembly

The parliament in Northern Ireland is called the Northern Ireland Assembly, and is located in Stormont, an area of Belfast. It has 90 seats. Devolved powers include the ability to legislate on issues such as infrastructure, law, education, and many other matters.

Laws passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly include free NHS prescriptions, a reduction of the legal amount of alcohol allowed when driving, allowing maternity leave to be shared with another person, and banning people under 18 from purchasing or hiring sunbeds.

