

3.1 Politics in Britain



Features of the
political system

- ➔ What kind of electoral system does Britain have?
- ➔ What is the role of the devolved parliaments?

1

PARLIAMENT

- ➔ House of Commons: MPs debate and make laws
- ➔ House of Lords: non-elected upper chamber → can delay laws but limited political influence

4

DEVOLUTION

- ➔ separate parliaments for Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland
- ➔ power to deal with issues such as education, health, environment on a regional level

2

ELECTORAL SYSTEM

- ➔ general election every 4-5 years
- ➔ "first-past-the-post" system: difficult for smaller parties to win seats

5

SCOTTISH INDEPENDENCE

- ➔ first referendum held in 2014: 55 % voted to remain in the UK
- ➔ growing popularity for independence since Brexit: many people would like to return to the EU

3

POLITICAL PARTIES

- ➔ two main parties: Conservatives and Labour
- ➔ smaller parties better represented in local/ devolved governments, e.g. Plaid Cymru in Wales

6

BREXIT

- ➔ hugely divisive political issue
- ➔ wide-reaching political, economic, financial consequences

IMPORTANT VOCABULARY

Brexit
to campaign
constituency
devolution
general election
hung parliament

Großbritanniens Austritt aus der EU
eine Kampagne/einen Wahlkampf führen
Wahlkreis
Dezentralisierung
Parlamentswahl
Parlament ohne absolute Mehrheit einer Partei

policy
proportional representation
referendum
snap election
sovereignty
treaty

politische Linie
Verhältnisswahlssystem
Volksentscheid
vorgezogene Neuwahl
Staatshoheit
Abkommen