

Political system of Great Britain

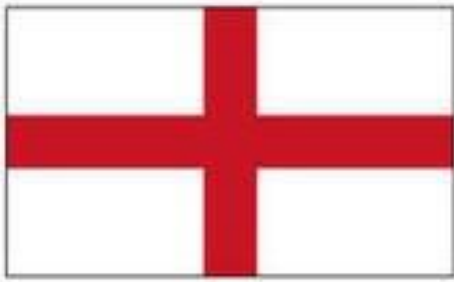
- The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is a constitutional monarchy.
- The present sovereign is Queen Elizabeth II.
- She was crowned in Westminster Abbey in 1953.



The British flag



It is called Union Jack and it symbolises the union of England. Flag is made up of the crosses of the patron saints of England.



England

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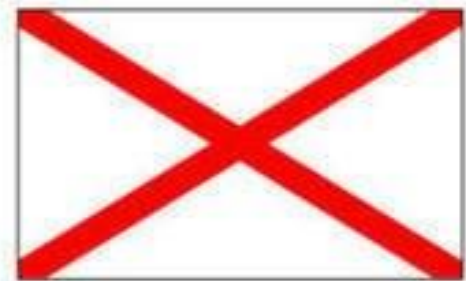


Scotland



**Original Union Flag
(1606)**

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Ireland



**Current Union Flag
(1801)**

The royal family



Front row, from left: Prince William, Prince Charles, The Queen, Prince Philip, the Duchess of Cornwall, Prince Harry. Middle row, Rear Admiral Tim Laurence, The Princess Royal, Zara Phillips, Princess Beatrice, Prince Andrew, Princess Eugenie, Prince Edward, The Countess of Wessex. Back row, Peter Phillips, Daniel Chatto, Autumn Kelly, Lady Sarah Chatto, Prince Michael of Kent, Princess Michael, the Duke of Kent, Princess Alexandra, Viscount Linley, Viscountess Linley, the Duchess of Gloucester, the Duke of Gloucester

Parliament

The Queen

House of Lords

The House of Commons



The House of Commons

- **MP-S are elected by the British public**
- **The House of Commons has 651 seats**
- **The chairman is called speaker**



The House of Lords



- **Members are not elected, they inherit their seats from their fathers**
- **Members are called life peers**

The Parties

The Labour Party	The Conservative Party	The Liberal Democrats
•emerged at the end of the 19 th century	• came to power in 18 th century	• Formed in the late 1980s
•The leader is Tony Blair	•M.Thatcher was deposed as leader in 1990	•Close relations with Labour Party
•It returned to power in 1997	•It is popular among older people	

Government

Prime minister

Senior MP-s

Members of the Lords

Government departments

They all form the cabinet



Elections...

- Are held every five years
- Voting is not compulsory and is from the age of 18
- The party which wins the most seats forms the government

The most important ministers...

Minister

- Chancellor of the Exchequer

Responsibility

- Government spending
- Presents the Budget annually in March
- Lives at 11 Downing street

10 Downing Street

Number 10, the official residence of the First Lord of the Treasury, which is recognized as the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom



Foreign Secretary

Responsibility

- Relations with other countries

Home Secretary

Responsibility

- Internal relations
- The police
- Law and order
- Law courts

Test

1. Who is the head of the UK?

- a) The Prime Minister
- b) The President
- c) The Queen

2. How many houses does British Parliament have?

- a) 2
- b) 4
- c) 3

3. What is the Prime Minister of G. B. responsible for?

- a) The allocation of functions among ministers
- b) Meetings in the Parliament
- c) Foreign visits

4. Who signs the laws in the U. K. ?

- a) The Prime Minister
- b) The Queen

5. The main political parties of the U. K. ?

- a) The Conservative,
The Labour
The Liberal
- b) Democratic Party
Republican Party

6. What kind of state is the United Kingdom?

- a) a parliamentary monarchy
- b) federal republic
- c) monarchy