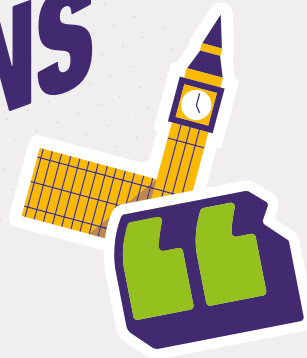
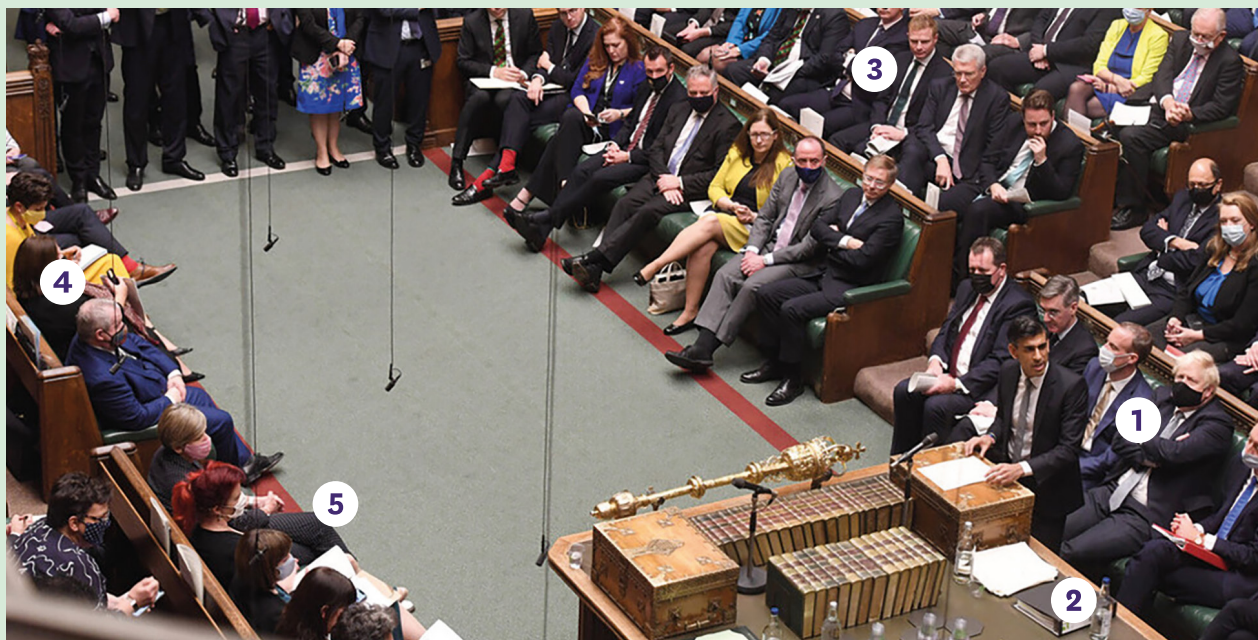


THE ESSENTIALS: HOUSE OF COMMONS



Use this handout to explore who's who in the House of Commons and what they do.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS



The House of Commons is the elected Chamber of UK Parliament. There are 650 MPs in the House of Commons, each representing a different constituency in the UK. MPs debate the big issues of the day and proposals for new laws. In the House of Commons Chamber, MPs can hold the government to account through weekly Prime Minister's Questions and Ministerial Questions.

MPs represent their constituents (including those who didn't vote for them) and their party. They split their time between working in UK Parliament itself and working in their constituency.

1. **Ministers**
2. **The Speaker**
3. **Government benches**
4. **Backbenchers**
5. **Opposition benches**

THE ESSENTIALS: HOUSE OF LORDS



Use this handout to explore who's who in the House of Lords and what they do.

THE HOUSE OF LORDS



The House of Lords is the second Chamber of the UK Parliament. It is independent of the elected House of Commons and shares the task of making and shaping laws and checking and challenging the work of the government.

There are over 800 members of the Lords. Most members are life peers and have been appointed based on their knowledge and experience. Many are experienced politicians, but others have expertise in areas such as business, health, education, the arts and sport.

The House of Lords Act 1999 ended the right of most hereditary peers to sit and vote in the House and led to significant changes in its membership.

- 1. Government benches**
- 2. Government front bench**
- 3. Lord Speaker**
- 4. Crossbenchers**
- 5. Opposition benches**
- 6. Backbenchers**