

Revision Summary Sheet – National, Local, regional and Devolved Government

House of Commons	Democratically elected Members of Parliament (MPs) form the house of Commons. The House of Lords is the second chamber in this Westminster Parliament	Monarch	The Country's ruler. The UK has a constitutional monarch whose power is limited by the democratic system. The Monarch is the Queen at this moment in time. They have important responsibilities in the British Constitution including inviting the leader of one of the political parties represented in the UK Parliament to form a government.
Prime Minister	The leader of one of the political parties in Parliament – usually the party with the most MPs. They are asked by the Monarch to run the country. The Prime Minister is NOT elected directly by the UK citizens.	Government Ministers	Senior MPs or Members of the House of Lords who have accepted the Prime Minister's invitation to be part of the Government and to lead departments responsible for matters such as defence, health or education. Together with senior civil servants, they form the executive.
Cabinet	The Prime Minister and the senior colleagues he or she has chosen to be part of the Government meet together at 10 Downing Street. They are known as the Cabinet.	Reserved Powers	The issues on which only the UK Parliament can make laws.
Devolved powers	The issues on which the Scottish Parliament, or the assemblies of Wales or Northern Ireland, can make their own laws.	Bureaucracy	Careful, detailed and often time-consuming decision-making and implementation in which nothing is left to chance. Bureaucratic organisation is likely to be fair but it can often be slow and costly.
Centralisation	The development and management of services across a wide area from one central point	Republic	A country with an elected head of state (usually known as a President) rather than a monarch. France and the USA are both republics.

- After a general election, the new MPs form a new **House of Commons**. If a political party has a majority – it will form the Government.
- If no political party has the majority of MPs, the leader of the largest party may try to go into coalition with one or more political party or may attempt to form a minority government.
- The **Monarch** will invite the leader of the largest political party or coalition of parties to become the PM.
- The PM will then choose some of the most experienced, skilled and loyal MPs to help run the country. These then become government ministers with responsibility for running one of 24 ministerial departments such as defence, taxation and immigration.
- The group of senior MPs is known as the **Cabinet**

The UK Government's Powers – In 2016, the UK Government had the following powers over the whole of the UK. These are known as **reserved powers**.

- Defence
- Management of the economy
- Elections
- Employment
- Foreign Policy (international links and relationships)
- Overseas development
- Border control, immigration and asylum
- Benefits and social security
- Taxation (But with major exceptions in Scotland)
- Trade and Industry
- Nuclear energy, oil, coal, gas and electricity
- Data protection
- The Constitution

The UK Government also has responsibility for:-

- All laws, regulations and services that apply to England
- The legal and justice system in England and Wales
- Final say on the powers for which the governments of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will be responsible.
- Granting permission for the Scottish Parliament, and Welsh and Northern Ireland assemblies to make strategic decisions in key areas
- Deciding the size of grants to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland from UK taxation.

Devolved powers of national governments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Although the governments of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland now have similar **devolved powers** or responsibilities, there are also some key differences:-

- The Scottish Parliament has greater power over the economy, taxation and law-making than either of the Welsh or Northern Ireland assemblies
- The Welsh and Northern Ireland governments have to ask the UK Government for permission to change policy in a greater number of key areas than the Scottish government does
- Although the Welsh Government does have some law-making powers, it shares England's legal and justice system.

The Scottish Parliament
Welsh Assembly
Northern Ireland Assembly



- Agriculture forests and fisheries
- Culture and sport
- Economic development and tourism
- Education and training
- Environment
- Health and social services
- Housing
- Justice and policing (not Wales)
- Local government
- Roads and transport
- Town and country planning.

Local and Regional Government
Local Authorities

- Local Authorities are also known as councils and make decisions about local services. They are controlled by councillors who are elected by local residents. Some local authorities are run by directly elected mayors supported by councillors.
- Councillors represent a neighbourhood known as a ward.
- Some areas do not have town or parish councils so community responsibilities are taken on by second-tier authorities.

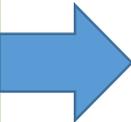
Local Government in London

- London co-ordinates transport, housing and policing across the whole city. This work is done by the Greater London Authority with its elected assembly and directly elected Mayor. The Mayor represents London across the world – encouraging business, investment and tourism.

Debates about the devolution of power
Devolution - the transfer or delegation of power to a lower level, especially by central government to local or regional administration.

There is general support for the idea of devolution. It is seen to have the following advantages:-

- Local decision-makers understand the culture and needs of their community and so will make good decisions
- Local decision-makers live in the area, and so are able to check that money is spent well, and that services are delivered on time
- Residents can contact local decision-makers easily and so are able to hold them to account
- Residents develop a stronger sense of identity and so increase their participation in the political process.



Some government responsibilities cannot easily be devolved to a local level. Decisions about matters such as national defence, border control and overall economic policy are made by the UK Government. Such **centralisation** enables decision-makers to consider the interests of the whole country and to achieve a coordinated approach at a national level.

<u>Scottish Independence</u>	
<u>Scotland should be independent of the UK</u>	<u>Scotland should remain in the UK</u>
Decision about Scotland's future should be taken by the people who care most about Scotland.	A strong Scottish Parliament with the UK gives the best of both worlds – real decision-making in Scotland, as well as a key role in a strong and secure UK.
Becoming independent is all about making Scotland a better place to live, with greater prosperity and higher standards of living.	In the future, Scotland could be wealthier by keeping the British connection
Scotland has the people, resources and ingenuity to prosper.	The size, strength and stability of the UK economy is a huge advantage for Scotland's businesses.
They would be able to speak with their own voice, choose their own direction and contribute in their own way.	In an uncertain world, Scotland's security will be strengthened as part of the UK. As part of the UK, we have real power and influence in the UN Security Council and the EU.
They will have a parliament and government just as they do now. But it will take all the decisions for Scotland. It will be elected in the same way, and so the people of Scotland will be able to choose the government they want.	Thousands of Scots and English have made their homes in each others nation. The coming together of family, friends, ideas, institutions and identities is a strength worth celebrating.