

Politics and Government

A. Elections

absentee ballot	<i>vote par correspondance</i>
absolute majority	<i>majorité absolue</i>
abstainer	<i>abstentionniste</i>
abstention	<i>abstention</i>
abstention rate	<i>taux d'abstention</i>
acceptance speech	<i>discours d'acceptation</i>
amendment	<i>amendement</i>
ballot box	<i>urne électorale</i>
ballot paper	<i>bulletin de vote</i>
ballot selfie	<i>selfie dans l'isoloir</i>
bipartisan	<i>biparti</i>
blank vote	<i>vote blanc</i>
block vote	<i>vote en bloc</i>
by-election	<i>élection partielle</i>
campaign	<i>campagne</i>
campaign ad	<i>publicité de campagne</i>
campaign finance	<i>financement de campagne</i>
campaign mailing	<i>mailing de campagne</i>
campaigner	<i>militant</i>
candidacy	<i>candidature</i>
candidate	<i>candidat</i>
canvassing	<i>prospection</i>
caucus	<i>caucus</i>
citizen	<i>citoyen</i>
closed primary	<i>primaire fermé</i>
constituency	<i>circonscription</i>
constituent	<i>électeur</i>

contender	<i>concurrent</i>	
contributor	<i>donateur</i>	
convention	<i>convention</i>	
counting of votes	<i>dépouillement des votes</i>	
cross-party/coalition majority	<i>majorité multipartite/de coalition</i>	
debate	<i>débat</i>	
debater	<i>débatteur</i>	<p>Majority at Westminster, the House of Commons, UK Parliament</p> <p>326 seats, just over half of the seats (650), must be held so that a government will have a simple majority. However, the working majority is less (since the Speaker, the three Deputy Speakers and anyone elected (currently 7 MPs) from Sinn Fein (who do not take up their seats in Westminster do not participate in votes). So, the 2019, working majority is 320 seats.</p>
defeat	<i>défaite</i>	
delegate	<i>délégué</i>	
direct election	<i>élection directe</i>	
direct suffrage	<i>suffrage direct</i>	
dissolution	<i>dissolution</i>	
dissolved	<i>dissous</i>	
donor	<i>donateur</i>	
election reform	<i>réforme électorale</i>	
electoral college	<i>collège électoral</i>	
electoral fraud	<i>fraude électorale</i>	
electoral roll	<i>liste électorale</i>	
electorate	<i>électorat</i>	
eligibility	<i>admissibilité</i>	
enactment	<i>promulgation</i>	
exit poll	<i>sondage à la sortie des bureaux de vote</i>	
first ballot	<i>premier tour de scrutin</i>	
first round of elections	<i>premier tour des élections</i>	
front runner	<i>grand favori</i>	
general elections	<i>élections générales</i>	
handshake	<i>poignée de main</i>	
hung parliament	<i>parlement sans majorité</i>	
incumbent	<i>titulaire/sortant</i>	
indirect suffrage	<i>suffrage indirect</i>	
ineligibility	<i>inéligibilité</i>	
landslide	<i>écrasante (victoire)</i>	
landslide victory	<i>victoire écrasante</i>	
leader	<i>chef</i>	
leadership qualities	<i>qualités de leader</i>	
leaflet	<i>brochure</i>	
list system	<i>système de liste</i>	
local elections	<i>élections municipales/locales</i>	
loser	<i>perdant</i>	
majority	<i>majorité</i>	
mandate	<i>mandat</i>	
manifesto	<i>programme électoral</i>	
marginal constituency	<i>circonscription marginale</i>	
media	<i>médias</i>	
midterm elections	<i>élections de mi-mandat/midterms</i>	
multi-party politics	<i>politique multipartite</i>	
nominee	<i>candidat</i>	

open primary	<i>élection primaire</i>
opinion poll	<i>sondage d'opinion</i>
opponent	<i>adversaire</i>
opposition	<i>opposition</i>
outgoing	<i>sortant</i>
overall majority	<i>majorité globale</i>
pamphlet	<i>brochure/propagande électorale</i>
party-political broadcast	<i>émission électorale</i>
personal appearance	<i>le fait d'apparaître en personne</i>
platform	<i>plate-forme</i>
plebiscite	<i>plébiscite</i>
pledge	<i>promesse électorale</i>
plurality	<i>pluralité</i>
policy	<i>politique (ce qui est appliqué)</i>
political	<i>politique (adj.)</i>
political machines	<i>machines politiques</i>
political symbols	<i>symboles politiques</i>
politician	<i>politique (personne)</i>
politics	<i>politique (science)</i>
poll	<i>sondage</i>
poll card	<i>carte de scrutin</i>
polling clerk	<i>greffier de scrutin</i>
polling day	<i>jour des élections</i>
polling station	<i>bureau de vote</i>
pollster	<i>sondeur</i>
popular vote	<i>vote populaire</i>
popularity rating	<i>cote de popularité</i>
postal vote	<i>vote par voie postale</i>
poster	<i>affiche</i>
presidential election	<i>élection présidentielle</i>
presiding officer	<i>président (de bureau de vote)</i>
press secretary	<i>attaché de presse</i>
presumptive nominee	<i>candidat présumé</i>
promises	<i>promesses</i>
proportional representation	<i>représentation proportionnelle</i>
prorogation	<i>prorogation</i>
protest vote	<i>vote de protestation</i>
proxy vote	<i>vote par procuration</i>
Queen's speech	<i>Discours de la Reine</i>
recount	<i>recomptage des votes</i>
redistricting	<i>redécoupage électoral</i>
referendum	<i>référendum</i>
registered	<i>inscrit</i>

Referendum

Referendums in the United Kingdom are seen as unconstitutional and without great value since they do not have to legally be acted upon. They are rarely used. There have been three UK nationwide referendums in the UK:

- **1975**, to continue membership of the EU (YES vote at 67.23%).
- **2011**, to have an alternative voting system than the first-past-the-post one (NO vote at 67.9%).
- **2016**, asking whether or not the UK should remain part of or leave the EU (LEAVE vote, 51.89%).

There have been other referendums but there have not been very many and there have not been any other national ones.

relative majority	<i>majorité relative</i>	
representative	<i>représentant</i>	
returning officer	<i>directeur de scrutin</i>	
running mate	<i>partenaire de course</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">Gerrymandering</p> <p>The term was coined on 26th March 1812, in reference to Governor Elbridge Gerry, who agreed to the redistricting of Massachusetts during the Senate elections there, in order to benefit his Democratic-Republican Party. It was said to resemble a Salamander.</p>
safe seat	<i>siège sûr</i>	
second ballot	<i>second tour de scrutin</i>	
secret ballot	<i>vote à bulletin secret</i>	
silent majority	<i>majorité silencieuse</i>	
sitting	<i>séance</i>	
snap election	<i>élection surprise</i>	
speech	<i>discours</i>	
spin	<i>influence/communication politique</i>	
spin doctor	<i>conseiller en communication politique</i>	
spoiled ballots	<i>votes nuls</i>	
spoilt ballot	<i>bulletin nul</i>	
stance	<i>position</i>	
straw vote	<i>vote de paille</i>	
Super Tuesday	<i>Super mardi</i>	
swing vote	<i>vote décisif</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">(Universal) Suffrage (UK)</p> <p>Universal suffrage, with voting rights for women came about in 1918. However, it was partially universal (excluding voting rights for women under the age of 30 or those that did not own property). The Equal Franchise Act of 1928 brought about complete universal suffrage in the UK. In 1832 only 3% of the population in England and Wales had the right to vote. Reform Acts of 1832, 1867 and 1884, gradually widened that number and increased suffrage. Lord Charles Grey, the UK Prime Minister (1830-1834) stated that it was essential “to prevent the necessity of revolution” in 1832. The Secret Ballot was introduced in 1872. Until 1791, Catholics were excluded from voting in the UK.</p>
swing voters	<i>électeurs versatiles</i>	
tactical voting	<i>vote tactique</i>	
tactics	<i>tactiques</i>	
tally	<i>pointage</i>	
tellers	<i>scrutateurs</i>	
term	<i>terme</i>	
term limits	<i>limites de durée</i>	
the run-off/second round	<i>second tour des élections</i>	
to abstain	<i>s’abstenir</i>	
to be on the electoral roll	<i>être sur la liste électorale</i>	
to be registered to vote	<i>être inscrit sur la liste électorale</i>	
to bribe	<i>corrompre</i>	
to call a snap election	<i>appeler une élection anticipée</i>	
to call an election	<i>appeler une élection</i>	
to campaign	<i>faire campagne</i>	
to canvass	<i>faire une tournée électorale/faire campagne</i>	
to cast a vote	<i>voter</i>	
to challenge someone	<i>défier qqn</i>	
to choose	<i>choisir</i>	
to come into office	<i>entrer en fonction</i>	
to compete for someone	<i>concourir pour qqn</i>	
to contest a seat	<i>disputer un siège</i>	

to count	<i>compter/dépouiller</i>
to debate	<i>débattre</i>
to elect	<i>élire</i>
to gag the opposition	<i>bâillonner l'opposition</i>
to gerrymander	<i>faire du charcutage électoral</i>
to go to the polls	<i>aller aux urnes</i>
to invalidate	<i>invalider</i>
to launch a campaign	<i>lancer une campagne</i>
to lose	<i>perdre</i>
to make a speech	<i>faire un discours</i>
to obtain a majority	<i>obtenir l'appui de la majorité</i>
to press the flesh	<i>prendre un bain de foule</i>
to recount	<i>recompter</i>
to represent	<i>représenter</i>
to rig	<i>truquer (une élection)</i>
to run for office	<i>se présenter aux élections</i>
to spin	<i>faire influence sur l'opinion politique</i>
to stand as candidate	<i>se porter candidat</i>
to stuff ballot boxes	<i>bourrer les urnes (faux bulletins)</i>
to turn out	<i>participer</i>
to vote by proxy	<i>voter par procuration</i>
to win office	<i>être élu</i>
to win the election	<i>gagner l'élection</i>
to withhold	<i>retenir</i>
to woo voters	<i>courtiser les électeurs</i>
turnout	<i>taux de participation</i>
two-stage election	<i>élection à deux tours</i>
under-representation	<i>sous-représentation</i>
universal suffrage	<i>suffrage universel</i>
useful vote	<i>vote utile</i>
veto	<i>veto</i>
victory	<i>victoire</i>
volunteers	<i>bénévoles</i>
vote	<i>vote</i>
voter	<i>électeur</i>
voting age	<i>âge de voter</i>
voting booth	<i>isoloir</i>
voting machine	<i>machine à voter</i>
voting system	<i>système de vote</i>
winner	<i>gagnant</i>
writ of election	<i>bref électoral</i>
youth	<i>jeunesse</i>

Voting age

The Representation of the People Act 1969 lowered the age of voting from 21 to 18 years of age in the UK.

However, the Scottish Parliament has reduced the age of voting in Scottish elections to the age of 16, since 2015.

Translation**A. English to French**

Translate the following sentences using the vocabulary from the lists above. Suggested answers are provided afterwards.

1. The second 'Queen's Speech' ends a session of parliament
2. Initially, the proposed legislation was going to be featured in the Queen's Speech on 9 May.
3. Boris Johnson is set to win a landslide Tory majority of 86 seats in the general election, according to an exit poll.
4. The poll, conducted by Ipsos Mori for the BBC, ITV and Sky News, suggested the Conservatives would win 368 seats, with Labour on 191 and the SNP on 55.
5. If the forecast is correct, the Prime Minister will return to power with a commanding mandate enabling him to drive through his Brexit deal.
6. It would represent the largest majority for a Tory leader since Margaret Thatcher in the 1980s, as well as Labour's heaviest defeat since 1935.
7. How many seats are needed for a majority?
8. There is a total of 650 seats in the House of Commons, so a party needs to win 326 seats in order to command a majority and have a realistic chance of getting its laws through parliament. (Q. 3-8 taken from *The Economist*, 12th December 2019).
9. The Queen's Speech takes place on Thursday, one week after the Conservatives secured a majority at the general election.
10. The last Queen's Speech was held just nine weeks ago. So, what is it and why is another one happening?
11. What is the Queen's Speech?
12. The Queen's Speech provides the government with an opportunity to highlight its priorities for the months ahead.
13. It forms part of the State Opening of Parliament ceremony, which marks the start of the parliamentary year.
14. The ceremony begins with a procession, in which the Queen travels from Buckingham Palace to Westminster – usually by carriage. (Q. 9-14 taken from *BBC*, 16th December 2019).

B. French to English

Translate the following sentences using the vocabulary from the lists above. Suggested answers are provided afterwards.

1. Les donateurs (inscrit sur la liste électorale au Royaume-Uni, par exemple) peuvent contribuer au financement de campagne pour les élections générales britanniques, et ce sans limites imposées.
2. Le dépouillement des votes doit toujours avoir lieu dans un bureau de vote dans la présence du président du bureau afin d'éviter tout problème.
3. La politique multipartite est un élément fondateur de la démocratie.
4. Le vote à bulletin secret a été introduit après la promulgation de la loi des Bulletin de 1872, de Edward Leatham.
5. Le suffrage universel existe depuis 1918 quand les femmes ont obtenu le droit de vote.
6. Historiquement, le Royaume-Uni n'a eu que trois referendums dans le pays.
7. Être inscrit sur la liste électorale peut se faire à partir de l'âge de 18 ans.
8. Le 8 juin 2017, après le referendum de 2016, les électeurs britanniques sont allés urnes à la demande de Theresa May, afin de lui permettre d'obtenir l'appui de la majorité.
9. La prorogation ou la convocation d'une session parlementaire, historiquement, étaient des prérogatives royales. Désormais, c'est le gouvernement qui décide.
10. Il n'y a pas de mécanisme légal permettant aux députés de s'opposer à une prorogation. Ils peuvent à la rigueur approuver une législation réduisant sa durée. (Q. 9-10, *Le Monde*, le 29 août 2019).

Further reading

The State Opening of Parliament is the formal start to parliamentary sessions of the UK Parliament. The Queen's Speech (alternatively the King's Speech, in times of a male monarch on the throne) is the speech that is given by the monarch in a symbolic address that takes place in the House of Lords, the Upper Chamber of the Parliament. The speech is always read by the monarch and is always written by the government that is in power or that has just come to power. It is a highly symbolic ceremony in which the three separate branches of government are present together: the Crown-in-Parliament (the Queen, the House of Lords and the House of Commons), or the Legislature; the Queen-in-Council, (Minister's and the Privy Council), representing the Executive; and the Queen-on-the-Bench (Judges), representative of

the Judiciary. The Queen leaves Buckingham Palace, but before she does, the cellars of Westminster are searched by the Yeoman of the Guard, in memory of the 1605 Gunpowder Plot against the Protestant King, James I by the Catholics led by Robert Catesby. A “hostage MP” is delivered up as a “prisoner” while the Queen goes to Parliament, to ensure her safe return. The ceremony today is a reminder that the safety of the monarch had to be ensured while entering a Parliament that could be hostile to them, stemming from the time of Charles I in 1649 and the English Civil War. The Queen goes to the House of Lords and takes her seat on the throne wearing the Imperial State Crown. Black Rod then proceeds to the House of Commons. No monarch since Charles I in 1642 has entered the House of Commons (he attempted to arrest 5 Members of Parliament). As Black Rod arrives at the doors of the Commons, the doors are slammed shut. He or she bangs the Black Rod mace on the door three times and they are opened, signifying the independence of the House of Commons from the control of the monarch. The MPs are then summoned to the House of Lords to attend the Queen’s Speech, or the “Speech from the Throne”. It is written on goatskin vellum and is read in a neutral fashion, without any inflection of disapproval or approval, with regular reference to “My Government will...” followed by the proposed bills that the government wishes to pass in the session being opened.

Suggested Answers

Translation

A. English to French

1. The second ‘Queen’s Speech’ ends a session of parliament.
Le deuxième « discours de la Reine » marque la fin d’une session parlementaire.
2. Initially, the proposed legislation was going to be featured in the Queen’s Speech on 9 May.
Au départ, la législation proposée devait être présentée dans le Discours de la Reine le 9 mai.
3. Boris Johnson is set to win a landslide Tory majority of 86 seats in the general election, according to an exit poll.
Selon un sondage à la sortie des bureaux des votes, Boris Johnson remportera une majorité écrasante pour le Parti conservateur de 86 sièges aux élections législatives.
4. The poll, conducted by Ipsos Mori for the BBC, ITV and Sky News, suggested the Conservatives would win 368 seats, with Labour on 191 and the SNP on 55.
Le sondage, mené par Ipsos Mori pour la BBC, ITV et Sky News, suggère que les conservateurs gagneraient 368 sièges, suivi du Parti travailliste avec 191 et le SNP avec 55.