

Citizenship

Are elections truly fair?

Miss Elmi



OAK
NATIONAL
ACADEMY

Glossary

- **Elections-** A formal group decision-making process by which a population chooses an individual to hold public office.
- **Legitimacy** - In politics it means the right and acceptance of an authority.
- **Representation-** The act of doing something on behalf of others.
- **Constituency-** An area whose voters elect a representative to a legislative body.
- **Constituent** - A constituent is a voting member of a community or organisation.
- **Candidate** - A political candidate is someone who stands for election to a political office.
- **Plurality-** The number of votes cast for a candidate who receives more than any other but does not receive an absolute majority.
- **'Safe seats'**- A parliamentary seat that is likely to be retained with a large majority in an election.
- **Proportional representation** - An electoral system in which parties gain seats in proportion to the number of votes cast for them.
- **First past the post-** An electoral system in which a candidate or party is selected by gaining the most votes.



I see, I think, I wonder

Results of 2019 UK general election by votes

Party	Votes	Seats	Vote share (%)
Conservative	13,941,086	364	43.6
Labour	10,292,354	203	32.2
Liberal Democrat	3,675,342	11	11.5
Scottish National Party	1,242,380	48	3.9
Green	864,743	1	2.7
Democratic Unionist Party	244,127	8	0.8
Sinn Fein	181,853	7	0.6
Plaid Cymru	153,265	4	0.5
Alliance Party	134,115	1	0.4
Social Democratic & Labour Party	118,737	2	0.4

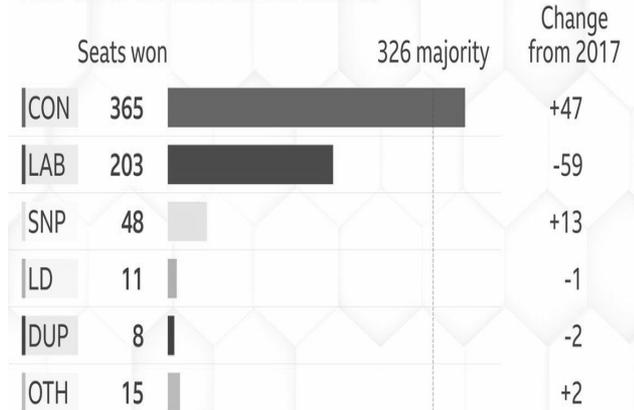
Source: BBC

BBC

United Kingdom

After 650 of 650 constituencies declared

BBC



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ELECTION 2019



Task: comprehension questions

Use the text in the previous slides to try and answer these questions in full sentences (try to use the wording of the question in your answer). A possible sentence starter for the first one is done for you.

1. What is the role of elections in a democracy? *The role of elections in a democracy is to...*
2. Explain the first past the post system.
3. Explain two criticisms that can be made of the first-past-the-post system.
4. Explain one way a proportional representational system could be seen as fairer than the first past the post system.



Take away task

Find out

1. One example of a country that uses PR and one that uses FPTP.
2. Examples of parliaments/assemblies in the UK which use PR.
3. The view on PR of the following UK political parties.
 - Conservatives
 - Labour
 - Green
 - Liberal Democrats
 - Scottish National Party

