

POLS0034: British Parliamentary Studies (Academic Year 2018/19)

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268 items

How to use this reading list (1 items)

The list below includes some general indications of appropriate books and web resources, and then a detailed list for each week. You are not expected to read everything on the list. But you should aim to spend around five hours reading for the class each week, which should be enough to read at least three chapters and articles, and come prepared to discuss what you have read with others in the class. On top of this is the reading you will need to do for your essays.

- Each week there are one or more **essential** readings listed. To prepare for the class you should generally start here, and read the items listed.
- The **recommended** reading list will direct you towards further articles and book chapters of particular interest.
- The **additional** reading will allow you to explore a topic further. It will therefore be useful if you are preparing a presentation or essay. However, for this you may also want to seek out further reading beyond that included on the list.

General Reading (26 items)

Books (6 items)

There are three good quality books on the British parliament which are relatively up-to-date and comprehensive. Students are advised to buy the first of these, and maybe also the second (these frequently appear in 'essential' or 'recommended' reading, week by week).

Parliament in British politics - Philip Norton, 2013

Book | This is a good quality book, aimed at a student audience, whose author is a well-known academic expert on parliament, and also a member of the House of Lords. As a single-authored work, it offers a coherent overview of key topics.

Exploring Parliament - Cristina Leston-Bandeira, Louise Thompson, 2018

Book | This is a more recent high-quality text prepared specifically for students on parliament's 'parliamentary studies' modules. As an edited book with many contributors it has a lot to offer, but gives a less coherent overall narrative.

How parliament works - Robert Rogers, R. H. Walters, 2015

Book | 7th edition of this accessible book on parliament, written by insiders (parliamentary clerks) for a general audience. Very strong on factual accuracy and procedural detail. Less theoretical/political than the books above.

Griffith and Ryle on Parliament: functions, practice and procedures - J. A. G. Griffith, Michael Ryle, M. A. J. Wheeler-Booth, Robert Blackburn, Andrew Kennon, 2003

Book | This book is expensive to buy, and getting a little out of date, but remains a useful reference work on procedures in the British parliament

The contemporary House of Lords: Westminster bicameralism revived - Meg Russell, 2013

Book | By the course tutor, this book is the most up-to-date general treatment of the House of Lords. It provides balance to the frequently Commons-centric literature. Available online via Oxford Scholarship Online, and in print.

Legislation at Westminster: parliamentary actors and influence in the making of British law - Meg Russell, Daniel Gover, 2017

Book | Another book by the tutor, clearly mostly relevant to the discussion of legislation, but also provides insights to the differing contributions of different groups in parliament. Available via Oxford Scholarship Online, and print copy also available in library

Online resources (20 items)

There are numerous high-quality resources available on parliament, particularly via its own website. The following is a selection of some key places to look.

UK Parliament - UK Parliament

Website | Official parliamentary website

UK Parliament - Frequently Asked Questions - - UK Parliament

Webpage | Key FAQs

UK Parliament - How Parliament works - UK Parliament

Webpage | 'How parliament Works' page, with links to various useful briefings (some very basic, others more advanced).

UK Parliament Glossary

Webpage | Comprehensive glossary of parliamentary jargon.

Research Briefings - UK Parliament

Website | House of Commons and House of Lords library briefings, including lots of useful material on parliament itself

Hansard - UK Parliament

Webpage | Official transcript of debates going back to 1988.

UK Parliament - You Tube

Audio-visual document | Parliament's official YouTube channel featuring a range of content

UK Parliament - Open Lectures -

Audio-visual document | Free to view lectures, mostly delivered by parliamentarians. Has not been updated for some time.

Parliament Live TV - Video archive to the House of Commons and the House of Lords

Audio-visual document | Searchable video archive, including committees.

BBC iPlayer - BBC Parliament

[Audio-visual document](#) | BBC Parliament iPlayer page.

BBC News - Mark D'Arcy:Parliamentary Correspondent

[Webpage](#) | Blog run by BBC parliamentary correspondent Mark D'Arcy. Frequently posts on relevant matters

The Political Studies Association (PSA) - specialist group on Parliaments

[Webpage](#) | Political Studies Association specialist group on Parliaments and Legislatures, with useful links including to their blog.

Parliament - UCL Constitution Unit

[Webpage](#) | Constitution Unit research on parliament

The Constitution Unit Blog

[Website](#) | Constitution Unit blog with regular posts on parliamentary topics

Hansard Society

[Website](#) | Hansard Society - including links to research and events on parliament.

Lords of the Blog - Life and work in the House of Lords

[Website](#) | 'Lords of the blog', a blog by peers run by the Hansard Society.

Inter-Parliamentary Union

[Webpage](#) | Inter-Parliamentary Union: lots of useful resources about parliaments internationally, including their invaluable 'Parline' database.

Introduction to the UK Parliament - Free online course

[Webpage](#) | Online course about the UK parliament
A free course provided by the parliamentary authorities

Parliamentary Monitor 2018

[Document](#) | This report from the Institute for Government is jam-packed with facts and data, often nicely presented, summarising parliament's work in the last year.

ARC Resources for Exploring Parliament

[Webpage](#) | This page accompanies the textbook Exploring Parliament (see books section above), and provides various useful links.

Week 1 Context: the structure of parliament and Westminster in comparative perspective (14 items)

Essential reading (2 items)**Parliament in Perspective**

[Chapter](#) | From Philip Norton's Parliament in British Politics (2013)

The Development of Parliament

[Chapter](#) | From Philip Norton's Parliament in British Politics (2013)

Recommended reading (4 items)

Legislatures - Amie Kreppel, 2014

Chapter | Digitised reading. From Caramani (ed.), Comparative Politics.

Introduction: The institution of parliaments - Philip Norton, 1998

Chapter | Digitised reading from Parliaments and governments in Western Europe (ed. Norton)

A Brief History of the House of Lords - Meg Russell

Chapter | Chapters 2 ('A Brief History of the House of Lords'), 3 ('Bicameralism in Theory and Comparative Perspective'), and 4 ('A Brief Introduction to the Contemporary House of Lords').

Parliament: a new assertiveness? - Philip Norton, 2015

Chapter | Digitised reading. From The Changing Constitution (eds Jeffrey L. Jowell, Dawn Oliver, Colm O'Cinneide).

Additional reading (5 items)

Typologies and Classifications - A. Kreppel

Chapter | Available online in - S.Martin, T. Saalfeld and K.Strom (Editors), 'The Oxford Handbook of Legislative Studies'. Oxford University Press. 2014

Chapter 3: Running Parliament - R. Rogers, R. H. Walters

Chapter | How parliament works (7th edition, 2015).

The House of Commons - Paul Seaward and Paul Silk

Chapter | Chapter: by Seaward,P. and P. Silk 'The House of Commons' and Chapter by Walters, R 'The House of Lords'.

A short history of parliament: England, Great Britain, the United Kingdom, Ireland & Scotland - Clyve Jones, 2009

Book

Relationship between the Two Houses - Lucinda Maer, Philip Norton, 2018

Chapter | In Parliament and the Law, edited by Alexander Horne and Gavin Drewry. Slightly advanced for week 1, but nicely demonstrates that the two chambers of parliament are more connected than you might think.

Online resources (3 items)

Parliament's introductory teaching videos

Audio-visual document | Various 2-minute introductory videos from parliament's YouTube channel

Inter-Parliamentary Union

Webpage | The Inter-Parliamentary Union is an organisation linking all parliaments around the world. It has various resources, including research reports and a database of

information on different parliaments, useful for your own research

Global Parliamentary Report - G. Power, 2012

Document | Annex to the IPU's Global Parliamentary Report, contains some interesting facts and figures about the world's parliaments.

Week 2: People in parliament (34 items)

Essential reading (2 items)

Chapter 5: The personnel of parliament - Michael Rush, 2005

Chapter | Digitised from Parliament Today (Rush)

Should Blacks Represent Blacks and Women Represent Women? A Contingent "Yes" - Jane Mansbridge, 1999

Article | The Journal of Politics
Vol. 61, No. 3 (Aug., 1999), pp. 628-657

Recommended reading (7 items)

The rise of the professional politician - Peter Allen, Philip Cowley, 2018

Chapter | Digitised reading : From Exploring Parliament by Cristina Leston-Bandeira, Louise Thompson

Exploring Parliament - Cristina Leston-Bandeira, Louise Thompson, 2018

Book | Other relevant chapters in the book include chapter 22 on "Women in the House of Commons" by Campbell et al.

Chapter 2: Who is in Parliament? - R. Rogers, R. H. Walters, 2015

Chapter | How Parliament works

Why not ask the audience? Understanding the public's representational priorities - Philip Cowley, 2013

Article | British Politics (2013) 8, 138-163

What Voters Want: Reactions to Candidate Characteristics in a Survey Experiment - Rosie Campbell, Philip Cowley, 2014

Article | Political Studies 62 (4): 745-65

Career patterns and professionalisation - Michael Rush, 2005

Chapter | Digitised from The future of Parliament: issues for a new century (P. Giddings, ed.)

Party People: how do, and should, British political parties select their candidates? - R. Williams, A. Paun, 2011

Article | Institute for Government report

Additional Reading: general (6 items)

The concept of representation - Hanna Fenichel Pitkin, 1972

[Book](#)

Analysis of existing data on the breadth of expertise and experience in the House of Lords

- Meg Russell, Meghan Benton, 2010

[Document](#) | Report to the House of Lords Appointments Commission

The role of the member of Parliament since 1868: from gentlemen to players - Michael

Rush, 2001

[Book](#)

Candidate selection-Primaries - Oonagh Gay, S. Jones, 2009

[Webpage](#) | House of Commons Library briefing

How to be a parliamentary researcher - Robert Dale, 2015

[Book](#)

The Governance of Parliament - Ben Yong, 2018

[Chapter](#) | In *Parliament and the Law*, edited by Alexander Horne and Gavin Drewry.

Gives some indications of key roles among, for example parliamentary staff, whips and Leaders.

Additional reading: gender and diversity (12 items)

Gender Sensitive Parliament report - UK Parliament - December 2018

[Webpage](#) | The first report of its kind, reviewing progress and making recommendations.

Women in Parliaments: Descriptive and Substantive Representation - Lena Wängnerud, 2009

[Article](#) | Annual Review Political Science 2009. pp.51-69

All Change in the House? The Profile of Candidates and MPs in the 2015 British General Election

- Chrysa Lamprinakou, Marco Morucci, Rosie Campbell, Jennifer van Heerde-Hudson, 2016

[Article](#) | Parliamentary Affairs 70 (2): 207-232

The Good Parliament Report - Sarah Childs, 2016

[Document](#) | Professor Sarah Childs spent time 'embedded' in parliament, and this report contains her suggestions about how the House of Commons could be made more inclusive and diverse

A Feminised Style of Politics? Women MPs in the House of Commons - Sarah Childs, 2004

[Article](#) | The British Journal of Politics and International Relations
Volume 6, Issue 1, pp. 3-19

In the Absence of Electoral Sex Quotas: Regulating Political Parties for Women's Representation - Sarah Childs, 2013

[Article](#) | Representation, 49:4, pp. 401-423

All-Women Shortlists: Myths and Realities - Mary K. Nugent, Mona Lena Krook, 2016

[Article](#) | Parliamentary Affairs Volume 69, Issue 1, Pp. 115-135

Electoral Gender Quotas: A Conceptual Analysis - M. L. Krook, 2014

[Article](#) | Comparative Political Studies August 2014 vol. 47 no. 9, pp. 1268-1293

Parliamentary Questions as Instruments of Substantive Representation: Visible Minorities in the UK House of Commons, 2005-10 - Thomas Saalfeld, 2011

[Article](#) | Journal of Legislative Studies 17(3): 271-289

Does the Numerical Underrepresentation of the Working Class in Congress Matter? - Nicholas Carnes, 2012

[Article](#) | Legislative Studies Quarterly, Volume 37, Issue 1, pp. 5-34

When and Why Minority Legislators Matter - John D. Griffin, 2014

[Article](#) | Annual Review of Political Science, Vol. 17: 327-336

Ethnic minorities in public life - L. Audickas, 2016

[Webpage](#) | House of Commons Library briefing

Online resources (7 items)

What does the House of Commons 'Clerk' actually do? - BBC News

[Webpage](#) | Short BBC video

Speaker's Conference on Parliamentary Representation - UK Parliament - 2010

[Document](#)

Britain's new political class: all change in the House? - Jennifer vanHeerde-Hudson, 2015

[Article](#) | PCUK blogpost

UK elects most diverse parliament, but it's still not representative - Jennifer Hudson, Rosie Campbell, 2015

[Article](#) | PCUK blogpost

The age of the new Parliament | The Constitution Unit Blog - Chrysa Lamprinakou

[Article](#) | PCUK blogpost

House of Lords Appointments Commission

[Website](#)

The Truth about Lords Appointments - M. Russell, 2015

[Article](#) | Constitution Unit blogpost

Week 3: The legislative process (26 items)

Essential reading (2 items)

The Making of Public Policy

Chapter | From Philip Norton's Parliament in British Politics (2013)

Legislation

Chapter | From Philip Norton's Parliament in British Politics (2013)

Recommended reading (8 items)

Exploring Parliament - Cristina Leston-Bandeira, Louise Thompson, 2018

Book | Chapter 8 by Meg Russell and Daniel Gover: "Parliamentary Scrutiny and Influence on Government Bills", chapter 9 by Louise Thompson and Tony McNulty: "Committee Scrutiny of Legislation". Students may also want to look at chapter 12 by Robert Hazell and Fergus Reid: "Private Members' Bills"

Chapter 6: Making the Law - R. Rogers, R. H. Walters

Chapter | How parliament works (7th edition, 2015)

The Contemporary House of Lords: Westminster Bicameralism Revived - Meg Russell, 2013

Book | Chapters 6 ('The Lords as a barrier to government: legislative defeats') and 7 ('Negotiated outcomes and the wider legislative impact of the Lords'). Available via Oxford Scholarship Online

Legislation at Westminster: parliamentary actors and influence in the making of British law - Meg Russell, Daniel Gover, 2017

Book | Available via Oxford Scholarship Online. Chapter 1 presents and questions some stereotypes about Westminster's limited role in lawmaking. Chapter 2 includes an overview of the legislative process, and students may be interested in chapter 3 which describes government preparation and piloting of legislation, while the rest of the book (other chapters are indicated further down the list) investigates the contribution of different 'actors' (e.g. party groups). The concluding chapter is listed for week 10.

Does the Executive Dominate the Westminster Legislative Process?: Six Reasons for Doubt - M. Russell, D. Gover, K. Wollter, 2015

Article | This article draws on the same research as the book above, but with a narrower focus on amendments.

Pre-Legislative Scrutiny in Parliament - Jessica Mulley, Helen Kinghorn

Chapter | In "Parliament: Legislation and Accountability" (2016), edited by Alexander Horne and Andrew Le Sueur (available online).

Standing up for Scrutiny: How and Why Parliament Should Make Better Law - M. Korris, 2011

Article | Parliamentary Affairs 64(3): 564-574.

More of the Same or a Period of Change? The Impact of Bill Committees in the Twenty-First Century House of Commons - L. Thompson, 2013-07-01

Article | Parliamentary Affairs 66(3): 459-479

Additional reading (11 items)

Enhancing the Backbench MP's Role As a Legislator: The Case for Urgent Reform of Private

Members Bills - A. Brazier, R. Fox, 2010

[Article](#) | Parliamentary Affairs 63(1): 201-211

Rubber Stamp or Cockpit? The Impact of Parliament on Government Legislation - S.

Kalitowski, 2008

[Article](#) | Parliamentary Affairs 61 (4): 694-708.

Making a Difference? The Effectiveness of Pre-Legislative Scrutiny - J. Smookler, 2006

[Article](#) | Parliamentary Affairs 59(3): 522-535.

Research Briefings - Post-Legislative Scrutiny - R. Kelly, M. Everett, 2013

[Document](#) | House of Commons Library briefing

The Civil Servant as Legislator: Law Making in British Administration - Edward C. Page, 2003-12

[Article](#) | Public Administration 81(4): 651-679.

Pressures are growing for Commons bill committee reform | The Constitution Unit Blog -

Meg Russell, 2014

[Webpage](#) | Short blog post, which links through to earlier work – including a Constitution Unit report – on the options for public bill committee reform.

Integrating the view of the public into the formal legislative process: public reading stage in the UK House of Commons - Cristina Leston-Bandeira, Louise Thompson, 2017

[Article](#)

Public Bill Committees: An Assessment Scrutiny Sought; Scrutiny Gained - J. Levy, 2010

[Article](#) | Parliamentary Affairs 63(3): 534-544. Trivia note: this was written by one of my former MSc students, based on her dissertation!

Making British law: committees in action - Louise Thompson, 2015

[Book](#)

Delegated Legislation: Frequently Asked Questions - Joel Blackwell, 2015

[Webpage](#) | Hansard Society blogpost

What is the Salisbury convention, and have the Lords broken it over Brexit? | The Constitution Unit Blog - David Beamish, 2018

[Webpage](#)

Online resources (5 items)

UK Parliament: Bills before Parliament

[Webpage](#) | Bills before parliament in the current session (also includes links to previous sessions).

Legislative process: taking a Bill through Parliament - 2013

[Document](#) | Official Cabinet Office description of legislative process, including pre-parliamentary and post-parliamentary stages.

UK Parliament - The Passage of Legislation

Webpage | Open lecture by the (now) Clerk of the House of Commons, David Natzler, on the legislative process.

Research Briefings - House of Commons Background Paper: Public Bills - M. Sandford, 2012
Document | Library briefing on public bills.

Research Briefings - Public Reading Stage of Bills - R. Kelly, 2014
Document | Library briefing on the new public reading stage of bills.

Week 4: Political party organisation in parliament (27 items)

Essential reading (2 items)

It's a bit more complicated than that - Philip Cowley, 2005
Chapter | Digitised reading from *The rebels: how Blair mislaid his majority* (Cowley)

Modes of UK Executive-Legislative Relations Revisited - Meg Russell, Philip Cowley, 2018
Article | *Political Quarterly*, 89 (1): 18-28

Recommended reading (5 items)

Exploring Parliament - Cristina Leston-Bandeira, Louise Thompson, 2018
Book | Chapter 2 by Philip Norton: "The Political Organisation of Parliament". Students may also want to look at chapter 13 by Margaret Arnott and Richard Kelly: "Small Parties and Lawmaking", and chapter 24 by Mark Stuart: "Whips and Rebels"

Political Actors in the Lords - Meg Russell
Chapter | Available via Oxford Scholarship Online. Chapter 5 ('Political Actors in the Lords').

The Whip's Office (SN/PC/02829) - J. Walpole, R. Kelly, 2008
Document | House of Commons Library paper

Approaches to the study of parliamentary party groups - Knut Heidar, R. A. Koole, 2000
Chapter | Digitised reading from *Parliamentary party groups in European democracies: political parties behind closed doors* (Heidar and Koole)

Fiercest of rivals, best of friends: cross-party pals in parliament | Politics | The Guardian - 15 October 2017

Webpage | This is a light-hearted non-academic piece which illustrates nicely with personal stories how not everything at Westminster is divided along party lines

Additional reading (15 items)

Modes of Executive-Legislative Relations: Great Britain, France, and West Germany - Anthony King, 1976
Article | *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 1(1): 11-36.

Legislation at Westminster: parliamentary actors and influence in the making of British law

- Meg Russell, Daniel Gover, 2017

Book | Available via Oxford Scholarship Online. Chapter 4 discusses the role of the opposition, chapter 5 the role of government backbenchers, chapter 6 the role of nonparty parliamentarians and chapter 9 the role of cross-party working in the making of legislation

Making Sense of Opposition - Philip Norton, 2008

Article | The Journal of Legislative Studies 14(1-2): 236-250

Independent Parliamentarians En Masse: The Changing Nature and Role of the 'Crossbenchers' in the House of Lords - M. Russell, M. Sciara, 2008

Article | Parliamentary Affairs 62(1): 32-52.

Understanding third parties at Westminster: The SNP in the 2015 parliament - Louise Thompson, 2018

Article | Politics, 38(4), 443-457

The rebels: how Blair mislaid his majority - Philip Cowley, 2005

Book

'Cohesion without Discipline: Party Voting in the House of Lords' - Philip Norton, 2003

Article | Journal of Legislative Studies 9(4): 57-72.

Parliamentary party cohesion: Some explanations from psychology - M. Russell, 2014

Article | Party Politics 20(5): 712-723.

How much trouble will the Tory rebels cause David Cameron? - P. Cowley, 2015

Webpage

'In the Brown Stuff?: Labour Backbench Dissent Under Gordon Brown, 2007-2010' - Philip Cowley, Mark Stuart, 2014

Article | Contemporary British History 28(1): 1-23

Explaining Party Cohesion and Discipline in Democratic Legislatures - John E. Owens, 2003

Article | Journal of Legislative Studies 9(4): 12 - 40

The coalition in Parliament - Ben Yong, 2012

Chapter | Digitised reading (from The politics of coalition: how the Conservative-Liberal Democrat government works).

Conscience and parliament - Philip Cowley, 1998

Book

Explaining voting behaviour on free votes: Solely a matter of preference? - Christopher D. Raymond, Robert M. Worth, 2017

Article | British Politics, 12 (4): 555-564

Research Briefings - Short Money (SN/PC/1663). - R. Kelly, 2015

Document | House of Commons Library briefing

Online resources (5 items)

Charlotte Leslie MP on Daily Politics, BBC Two "Changing nature of the job of being an MP" - YouTube - 2014

[Audio-visual document](#) | Nice video on the changing role of the backbench MP

Revolts | Philip Cowley and Mark Stuart's research on Parliament

[Website](#) | Philip Cowley and Mark Stuart's blog, including lots of analysis of rebellions (increasingly rarely updated).

UK Parliament - Current State of the Parties

[Webpage](#) | Commons state of the parties.

UK Parliament - Lords by party, type of peerage and gender

[Webpage](#) | Current composition of the House of Lords.

House of Lords: Party and Group Strengths and Voting - Charley Coleman, 2017

[Document](#) | Lords Library briefing on party strengths and voting behaviour in the House of Lords.

Week 5: The work of select committees (27 items)

Essential reading (2 items)

Select Committees - Alexandria Kelso, 2018

[Chapter](#) | Digitised reading : From Exploring Parliament by Cristina Leston-Bandeira, Louise Thompson

Assessing the Impact of Parliamentary Oversight Committees: The Select Committees in the British House of Commons - M. Benton, M. Russell, 2013

[Article](#) | Parliamentary Affairs 66(4): 772-797

Recommended reading (6 items)

Chapter 6: The Administration of Government - P. Norton

[Chapter](#) | Norton, P. Parliament in British politics (2013). This chapter explores accountability generally, and is also on the list for next week.

The Treasury Select Committee: Its Reach and Its Role in the Financial Crisis - John McFall, 2009

[Article](#) | Economic Affairs 29(3): 53-56

Chapter 10: Calling to Account: Select Committees - R. Rogers, R. H. Walters

[Chapter](#) | How Parliament works (7th edition, 2015)

Chapter 8: Non-Legislative Policy Work - M. Russell, 2013

[Chapter](#) | The contemporary House of Lords: Westminster bicameralism revived. Available via Oxford Scholarship Online.

Select committees under scrutiny: The impact of parliamentary committee inquiries on government - H. White, 2015

Document | Institute for Government report

Select Committees in the House of Commons and the Media - M. Kubala, 2011

Article | Parliamentary Affairs 64(2): 694-713. Trivia note: the second item on this list written by one of my former MSc students based on their dissertation!

Additional reading (12 items)

Select Committees: Powers and Functions - Christopher Johnson, 2018

Chapter | In Parliament and the Law, edited by Alexander Horne and Gavin Drewry

Committee Hearings of the UK Parliament: Who gives Evidence and does this Matter? - Marc Geddes, 2018

Article | Parliamentary Affairs, 71 (2): 283-304

In contempt? Witnesses before select committees | The Institute for Government - H. White, 2016

Article | Institute for Government blogpost briefly exploring whether select committees need greater legal powers to summon witnesses

Pre-Appointment Scrutiny Hearings in the British House of Commons: All Bark, or Some Bite? - Robert Hazell, Mark Chalmers, Meg Russell, 2012

Article | Journal of Legislative Studies 18(2): 222-241

Assessing the Influence of Select Committees in the UK: The Education and Skills Committee, 1997-2005 - Andrew Hindmoor, Phil Larkin, Andrew Kennon, 2009

Article | Journal of Legislative Studies 15(1): 71-89.

Select committee effectiveness, resources and powers (Second Report of Session 2012-13) - Liaison Committee, 2012

Document

Legislation at Westminster: parliamentary actors and influence in the making of British law - Meg Russell, Daniel Gover, 2017

Book | Available via Oxford Scholarship Online. Chapter 8 discusses the (perhaps surprising degree of) influence on legislation by select committees

Government by Explanation: Some ideas from the select committee corridor - A. Tyrie, 2011

Document

Fuelling the Debate: Committee Successes and Future Challenges - House of Commons Energy and Climate Change Committee, 2015

Article | Interesting example of a committee auditing the success of its own past work.

1979 and all that: an alternative view of select committee reform - PSA Parliaments Group - 2018

Webpage | Blog post by Philip Aylett. Argues that the select committees were more important before 1979 than is often recognised.

How the Treasury Committee has developed since 1997 : Democratic Audit blog - 2018

[Webpage](#) | Blog post by Saskia Rombach

Smile or smirk? Why non-verbal behaviour matters in parliamentary select committees :
Democratic Audit blog - 2017

[Webpage](#) | A nice blogpost on the importance of non-verbal communication in select committee hearings, which shows that the parliamentary record does not tell the whole story

Online resources (7 items)

UK Parliament - Select Committees

[Webpage](#) | Parliament webpage on select committees.

Review of investigative and scrutiny committees inquiry - House of Lords Liaison Committee, 2018

[Webpage](#) | The House of Lords Liaison Committee began a review of the select committee structure in the chamber in 2018

UK Parliament - Select Committees in the House of Commons: Asking the Questions You Want Answered

[Webpage](#) | Short official film on select ctees.

Parliament live.tv - Committees

[Webpage](#) | Link to watch any select committee sessions.

Research Briefings - Effectiveness of select committees - R. Kelly, 2013

[Document](#) | Library briefing on effectiveness of select committees.

Select Committees in the House of Lords - Michael Torrance, 2017

[Article](#) | Library briefing on select committees in the House of Lords.

Research Briefings - Pre-appointment hearings - Lucinda Maer, 2017

[Document](#) | Library briefing on pre-appointment scrutiny by select committees.

Week 6: Parliament and scrutiny (23 items)

Essential reading (2 items)

Chapter 6: The Administration of Government - P. Norton

[Chapter](#) | Parliament in British politics (Norton). This chapter explores accountability generally, and was also on the list for last week.

Calling to account: questions - Robert Rogers, Rhodri Walters, 2015

[Chapter](#) | Digitised reading. Ch. 9 of How Parliament works, 7th ed.

Recommended reading (7 items)

Exploring Parliament - Cristina Leston-Bandeira, Louise Thompson, 2018

Book | Chapter 14 by Mark Bennister and Phil Larkin: "Accountability in Parliament". Students may also want to look at chapter 17 by Stephen Bates, Peter Kerr and Ruxandra Serban: "Questioning the Government".

Parliament - John Hutton, Leigh Lewis, 2014

Chapter | Interesting chapter from their book "How to be a Minister", looking at the pressures created by parliament from ministers' perspective. Available online.

Questions to the Prime Minister: A Comparative Study of PMQs from Thatcher to Cameron - S. R. Bates, P. Kerr, C. Byrne, L. Stanley, 2014

Article | Parliamentary Affairs 67(2): 253-280

Going 'Where Angels Fear to Tread': How Effective was the Backbench Business Committee in the 2010-2012 Parliamentary Session? - D. H. Foster, 2015

Article | Parliamentary Affairs 68(1): 116-134

Chapter 8: Non-Legislative Policy Work - M. Russell, 2013

Chapter | The contemporary House of Lords: Westminster bicameralism revived. Available via Oxford Scholarship Online.

The Liaison Committee: taking evidence from the Prime Minister - Richard Kelly, 2018

Document | House of Commons Library briefing paper.

The war powers of the British parliament: What has been established and what remains unclear? - James Strong, 2018

Article | The British Journal of Politics and International Relations, 20(1), 19-34.

Additional reading (8 items)

Punch & Judy politics: an insiders' guide to Prime Minister's questions - Ayesha Hazarika, Tom Hamilton, 2018

Book | This is an insiders' account of the PMQ process, with lots of interesting gossip and examples. Note it tends to focus on the clash between the PM and Leader of the Opposition, and ideally should have given more attention to backbenchers.

Policy Representation by Party Leaders and Followers: What Drives UK Prime Minister's Questions? - Shaun Bevan, Peter John, 2015

Article | Government and Opposition, 51(1), 59-83

Parliamentary Questioning in 17 European Parliaments: Some Steps towards Comparison - Federico Russo, Matti Wiberg, 2010

Article | Journal of Legislative Studies 16(2): 215-232.

Fiscal-Maze - Parliament, Government and Public Money - A. Brazier, V. Ram, 2006

Document | Hansard Society report

PMQs: Tuned in or Turned off? Public Attitudes to Prime Minister's Questions - Hansard Society, 2014

Webpage | Hansard Society report

Prime Minister's questions as political ritual - Joni Lovenduski, 2012

[Article](#) | British Politics 7(4): 314-340

The British Parliament and Foreign Policy in the 20th Century: Towards Increasing Parliamentarisation? - Pasi Ihalainen, Satu Matikainen, 2016

[Article](#) | Note that this is part of a special issue on the topic, which also includes specific articles on the Falklands and Iraq

'To ask the Secretary of State': parliamentary questions in 2015-16 - L. Owen

[Webpage](#) | Institute for Government blogspot

Online resources (6 items)

UQ if you want to: John Bercow's impact on Urgent Questions - PSA Parliaments Group - Ben Goldsborough

[Webpage](#)

Research Briefings - Parliamentary Questions: recent issues (SN/PC/04148) - M. Sandford, 2015

[Document](#) | House of Commons Library paper

Research Briefings - Prime Minister's Questions - R. Kelly, 2015

[Document](#) | Library briefing on Prime Minister's Questions.

UK Parliament - Urgent Questions

[Webpage](#) | Parliament's page on Urgent Questions

UK Parliament - Written questions and answers

[Webpage](#) | Parliament's page on written questions

Research Briefings - The Backbench Business Committee - R. Kelly, R. Martin, 2015

[Document](#) | Library briefing on the Backbench Business Committee.

Week 7: Local representation and MPs' constituency links (25 items)

Essential reading (2 items)

Chapter 11: The Voice of Constituents - P. Norton

[Chapter](#) | From Philip Norton's Parliament in British Politics (2013)

MPs campaigning for their constituencies - Oonagh Gay, 2018

[Chapter](#) | Digitised reading: From Exploring Parliament by Cristina Leston-Bandeira, Louise Thompson

Recommended reading (10 items)

Exploring Parliament - Cristina Leston-Bandeira, Louise Thompson, 2018

[Book](#) | Other relevant chapters in the book include chapter 25 by David Judge: "MPs and Their Constituencies". Students may also want to look at chapter 18 by Mark Shephard and

Jack Simson Caird: "The Role of a Backbench MP".

The Puzzle of Constituency Service - Pippa Norris, 1997

[Article](#) | The Journal of Legislative Studies, Volume 3, Issue 2, 1997

MPs Go Back to Their Constituencies - Oonagh Gay, 2005

[Article](#) | The Political Quarterly 76(1): 57-66.

Global Parliamentary Report: the Changing Nature of Parliamentary Representation - G. Power, 2012

[Document](#) | Global Partners report

Chapter 4: Influences on Parliament - R. Rogers, R. H. Walters

[Chapter](#) | How Parliament works (7th edition, 2015)

Backbench and Leadership Roles in the House of Commons - D. D. Searing, 1995

[Article](#) | Parliamentary Affairs 48 (3)

The Effect of Digital Media on MPs' Communication with Constituents - A. Williamson, 2009

[Article](#) | Parliamentary Affairs 62(3): 514-527.

Introduction: Linking Parliaments and Citizens - Philip Norton, 2002

[Chapter](#) | Digitised reading from Parliaments and Citizens in Western Europe (Norton)

What Should MPs Do? Public and Parliamentarians' Views Compared - Rosie Campbell, Joni Lovenduski, 2015

[Article](#) | Parliamentary Affairs, Vol. 68(4), pp.690-708

What are MPs for? - Tony Wright, 2010

[Article](#) | The Political Quarterly 81(3): 298-308

Additional reading (9 items)

The Growth of the Constituency Role of the MP - Philip Norton, 1994

[Article](#) | Parliamentary Affairs 47(4): 705-720.

Party Legacies and Institutional Gravity: The Dynamic between Members of Parliament and Assembly Members in Wales - Øivind Bratberg, 2011

[Article](#) | The Journal of Legislative Studies 17(4): 458-478

Public Preferences for Parliamentary Representation in the UK: An Overlooked Link? - Christopher Jan Carman, 2006

[Article](#) | Political Studies, 54: 103-122

MPs and their e-Newsletters: Winning Votes by Promoting Constituency Service - Nigel Jackson, 2008

[Article](#) | The Journal of Legislative Studies 14(4): 488-499

Perception or Reality: How MPs Believe the Internet Helps Them Win Votes - Nigel Jackson, 2011

[Article](#) | Journal of Political Marketing 10(3): 230-250

Casework as a Technique of US Congressional Oversight of the Executive - John R.

Johannes, 1979

[Article](#) | Legislative Studies Quarterly 4 (3): 325 - 351**Representing People and Representing Places: Community, Continuity and the Current Redistribution of Parliamentary Constituencies in the UK** - D. Rossiter, R. Johnston, C. Pattie, 2013[Article](#) | Parliamentary Affairs 66(4): 856-886**The Constituency Work of Scottish and Welsh MPs: Adjusting to Devolution** - Meg Russell, Jonathan Bradbury, 2007[Article](#) | Regional and Federal Studies 17(1): 97-116**House or home? Constituent preferences over legislator effort allocation** - Nick Vivyan, Markus Wagner, 2016[Article](#) | European Journal of Political Research**Online resources** (4 items)**What is an MP for? | PoliticsHome.com**[Webpage](#) | Short, combative piece written by an MP arguing that constituency work is a distraction from MPs' policy focus**BBC News - Do MPs reply to people who tweet them? - 2015**[Webpage](#)**UK Parliament - Parliamentary constituencies**[Webpage](#) | Parliamentary landing page for constituencies, with lots of information on individual constituencies, as well as select committee and Commons reports on boundaries/boundary changes**Report to the House of Commons Administration Committee on the findings of the interview study with Members on leaving Parliament - 2016**[Document](#) | Interesting report which interviews MPs about their roles. Not entirely about constituency work, but that proved to be a major theme.**Week 8: External influences on parliament** (23 items)**Essential reading** (2 items)**Chapter 12: Speaking for different interests** - P. Norton[Chapter](#) | From Philip Norton's Parliament in British Politics (2013)**Campaigning to change law and policy** - Paul E.J. Thomas, Stacey Frier, 2018[Chapter](#) | Digitised reading : From Exploring Parliament by Cristina Leston-Bandeira, Louise Thompson

Recommended reading (7 items)

Exploring Parliament - Cristina Leston-Bandeira, Louise Thompson, 2018

Book | Other relevant chapters in the book include chapter 15 by Andrew Defty and Hannah White: "Evidence from Outside", chapter 20 by Mark D'Arcy: "Media Scrutiny of Parliament", chapter 29 by Cristina Leston-Bandeira and Aileen Walker: "Parliament and Public Engagement", and chapter 30 by Thomas Cayhill and Anne-Marie Griffiths: "Parliament and Petitions".

Pressure politics outside Whitehall: Parliament, the Courts and local government - Wyn Grant, 2000

Chapter | Digitised reading (from Grant's book Pressure Groups and British Politics).

Legislation at Westminster: parliamentary actors and influence in the making of British law - Meg Russell, Daniel Gover, 2017

Book | Chapter 7 on the role of pressure groups in the legislative process.

Friend or Foe? Lobbying in British Democracy - P. Parvin, 2007

Document | Hansard Society Report

The Regulation of Lobbyists - O. Gay, 2016

Chapter | In "Parliament: Legislation and Accountability", edited by A. Horne and A. Le Sueur (available online)

Petitions Committee, the most significant reform since 1979 - did you notice it? | The Political Studies Association (PSA) - 2015

Webpage | Blogpost by Cristina Leston-Bandeira

Here we go again, the parliamentary petitions site has re-opened - what roles can it play? | The Constitution Unit Blog - 2017

Webpage | Blogpost by Cristina Leston-Bandeira

Additional reading (7 items)

Legislatures, Lobbying, and Interest Groups - A.S. Binderkrantz, 2014

Chapter | Available online. In The Oxford Handbook of Legislative Studies. S. Martin, T. Saalfeld and K. Strom. Oxford, Oxford University Press.

United Kingdom: Parliament under pressure - Philip Norton, 1999

Chapter | Digitised reading (from Parliaments and pressure groups in Western Europe).

Lobbying Parliament - Michael Rush, 1990

Article | Parliamentary Affairs 43(2): 141-148

Parliament and pressure politics - Michael Rush, Study of Parliament Group, 1990

Book

Lifting the Lid on Lobbying: The Hidden Exercise of Power and Influence in the UK - Transparency International, 2015

Document

Chapter 4: The Challenge of Interest Representation. - David Judge, 1993[Chapter](#) | Digitised from The parliamentary state (Judge)**The policy machinery** - J.J. Richardson, A.G. Jordan, 1979[Chapter](#) | Digitised reading from Governing under pressure: the policy process in a post-parliamentary democracy (Richardson and Jordan).**Online resources** (7 items)**How to lobby your member of parliament**[Document](#) | Amnesty International document 'How to lobby your member of parliament'**UK Parliament tour - Central Lobby** - 2010[Audio-visual document](#) | Video on central lobby and where the term 'lobbying' came from (3 mins)**Research Briefings - e-Petitions** - R. Kelly, S. Priddy, 2015[Document](#) | House of Commons Library briefing on the e-petitions system**Petitions Committee - UK Parliament**[Webpage](#)**All-Party Parliamentary Groups** - Richard Kelly, S. Yousaf, 2014[Article](#) | House of Commons Library paper**All-Party Parliamentary Groups - UK Parliament**[Webpage](#) | Links to current lists of APPGs**Register of Members' Financial Interests - UK Parliament**[Webpage](#)**Week 9: The politics of parliamentary reform** (26 items)**Essential reading** (2 items)**Chapter 14: The Reform of Parliament** - P. Norton[Chapter](#) | From Philip Norton's Parliament in British Politics (2013)**Chapter 10: The Politics of Lords Reform** - Meg Russell, 2013[Chapter](#) | The contemporary House of Lords: Westminster bicameralism revived (Russell)**Recommended reading** (8 items)**Understanding Parliamentary reform** - Alexandra Kelso[Chapter](#) | Digitised from Parliamentary reform at Westminster (Kelso, 2009) – see below

for the link to the book.

Parliamentary reform at Westminster - Alexandra Kelso, 2009

Book

The Politics of Parliamentary Reform: Lessons from the House of Commons (2001-2005) - G. Power, 2007

Article | Parliamentary Affairs 60(3): 492-509

Chapter 12: The Future of Parliament - R. Rogers, R. H. Walters

Chapter | How Parliament works (7th edition, 2015)

Why are Second Chambers so Difficult to Reform? - Meg Russell, Mark Sandford, 2002

Article | The Journal of Legislative Studies 8 (3): 79 - 89

'Never Allow a Crisis Go To Waste': The Wright Committee Reforms to Strengthen the House of Commons - M. Russell, 2011

Article | Parliamentary Affairs 64(4): 612-633

Chapter 1 : Forty years on and a future agenda - Michael Ryle, 2005

Chapter | Digitised reading from The future of Parliament: issues for a new century (ed. Giddings)

Parliamentary Reform and the Accountability of Government to the House of Commons - R. Kelly, L. Maer, 2016

Chapter | In "Parliament: Legislation and Accountability", edited by A. Horne and A. Le Sueur (available online)

Additional reading (11 items)

House of Lords reform since 1911: must the Lords go? - Peter Dorey, Alexandra Kelso, 2011

Book

Reform of the House of Lords - Philip Norton, 2017

Book | Short book by Norton, who is a member of the House of Lords and has some strong views on reform.

Volcanic politics: Executive-Legislative relations in Britain, 1997-2005 - Matthew Flinders, 2006

Article | Australian Journal of Political Science 41(3): 385-406

Chapter 4: New Parliamentary Landscapes - A. Kelso, 2011

Chapter | Developments in British politics 9 (eds. Richard Heffernan, Philip Cowley, Colin Hay)

Revisiting Rebuilding the House: The Impact of the Wright Reforms - 2013

Document | Political and Constitutional Reform Committee (2013)
(Third Report of Session 2013-14, Volume I)

Reforming the House of Lords: lessons from overseas - Meg Russell, 2000

[Book](#)

Is the House of Lords Already Reformed? - Meg Russell, 2003

[Article](#) | The Political Quarterly 74(3): 311-318

The House Rules?: International Lessons for Enhancing the Autonomy of the House of Commons - M. Russell, A. Paun, 2007

[Document](#) | Constitution Unit report

Report of the Lord Speaker's Committee on the Size of the House (of Lords) - 2017

[Document](#)

Enough is enough - regulating prime ministerial appointments to the Lords - M. Russell, T. Semlyen, 2015

[Document](#) | Constitution Unit report

Prospects for Parliamentary Reform - T. Wright, 2004

[Article](#) | Parliamentary Affairs 57(4): 867-876

Online resources (5 items)

BBC News - Time to salute the post-2010 election Parliament - M. D'Arcy, 2011

[Webpage](#)

House of Commons Procedure Committee - UK Parliament

[Webpage](#) | Includes links to current and previous inquiries and reports

UK Parliament - Speaker's Commission on Digital Democracy -

[Webpage](#) | Website for the Speaker's Commission on digital democracy

No end to hereditary peer by-elections in the House of Lords? | The Constitution Unit Blog -

David Beamish, 2018

[Webpage](#)

How undemocratic is the House of Lords? : Democratic Audit - 2018

[Webpage](#) | Just as Norton's short book on Lords reform (see above) may display some bias towards the House of Lords, this analysis displays some bias against. But it is mostly fair, and helpfully up-to-date.

Week 10: Assessing the power of parliament (16 items)

Essential reading (2 items)

Mind the Gap: Political Analysis, Public Expectations and the Parliamentary Decline Thesis - Matthew Flinders, Alexandra Kelso, 2011

[Article](#) | The British Journal of Politics and International Relations 13 (2): 249 - 268

The Policy Power of the Westminster Parliament: The "Parliamentary State" and the Empirical Evidence - Meg Russell, Philip Cowley, 2016

[Article](#) | Governance 29 (1): 121-137

Recommended reading (7 items)

Chapter 13: Conclusion - Parliament, the Power and the Future - P. Norton

[Chapter](#) | Norton, P. Parliament in British politics (2013)

Conclusions: The House of Lords, British Politics and Legislative Bicameralism - M. Russell, 2013

[Chapter](#) | Russell, M. (2013) The Contemporary House of Lords; Available via Oxford Scholarship Online

Voting on Military Action in Syria: A Reply - Gavin Phillipson, 2015

[Webpage](#) | Blog post from Philipson (a professor of law), arguing that David Cameron's decision NOT to propose a vote on military action until he knew he could win such a vote was a sign of parliamentary strength, not weakness

How often do prime ministers bow to the will of parliament? Actually, all the time | The Constitution Unit Blog - Meg Russell, 2013

[Website](#) | Constitution Unit blogpost

Parliament: a Significant Constraint on Government - M. Russell, 2016

[Chapter](#) | In "Developments in British Politics 10", edited by Heffernan, Hay, Russell and Cowley

Conclusion: Parliamentary Power and the Legislative Process - 2017

[Chapter](#) | From Russell and Gover's Legislation at Westminster. Available via Oxford Scholarship Online.

Is the House of Commons becoming too powerful? | The Norton View - Philip Norton, December 2018

[Webpage](#)

Additional reading (5 items)

The Institutional Power of Western European Parliaments: A Multidimensional Analysis - Ulrich Sieberer, 2011

[Article](#) | West European Politics 34 (4): 731 - 754

What is parliament for? - Adam Tomkins, 2003

[Chapter](#) | Digitised reading. From Bamforth and Leyland (eds) 'Public law in a multi-layered constitution'

Making parliament matter? - Phillip Cowley, 2006

[Chapter](#) | Digitised reading. From Dunleavy (ed) 'Developments in British politics 8'

The parliamentary state - David Judge, 1993

[Book](#)

Governing under pressure: the policy process in a post-parliamentary democracy - J. J.

Richardson, A. G. Jordan, 1979

Book

Online resources (2 items)

VIDEO: UCL Lunch Hour Lecture on 'Does parliament matter?' - Meg Russell, 2014

Audio-visual document

Vague on both your houses: How well do civil servants understand parliament? | Civil Service World - Sarah Aston, 2015

Article