

S1 Research Task



Some of you will have found out what an MP does to represent us, what type of electoral system is used to elect them and maybe even carried out your mock election in class. If that is you, then here is a research task which you can carry out.

Send your completed work, either as a Word Document OR by taking photographs of your written work to your Social teacher.

Visit

<https://members.parliament.uk/members/commons>



1. Choose 5 MPs, one from each of the following political parties: Labour, Conservative, Liberal Democrats, SNP and one other political party which has an MP in the House of Commons.

Hint! Going to school at Leith Academy, means that you are likely to be represented by either Tommy Sheppard or Dierdre Brock.

For each one of your 5 MPs visit their homepage at the House of Commons, as well as the MP's own website (there will be a link on their HoC homepage) and complete a Factfile on each one of them. It should include information like the example below but you can include any other information you think is relevant.

Name	<i>Ben Bradshaw MP</i> 
Political Party	<i>Labour</i>
Constituency	<i>Exeter</i>
Background	<i>He was a journalist with local newspapers and the BBC before becoming an MP. He was first elected in 1997. He was a Government Minister: Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport in 2009.</i>
Example of voting	<i>He voted against the EU Withdrawal Bill.</i>
Example of questioning	<i>Ben asked the Foreign Secretary how some people from his constituency will be able to get home from holiday in the current Covid-19 lockdown.</i>

2. Which one of the MPs would you be most likely to vote for? Give reasons to explain your answer. Is it because of the party they represent? The things they have voted for? The type of person they are? Try to give as many reasons as you can.

Making laws

Visit <https://www.parliament.uk/about/how/laws/>

Watch the short video clip and answer the questions below:

- a) What is a 'bill'?
- b) Who is able to introduce a bill?
- c) Who can make changes to a bill? What must happen before it becomes a law?
- d) Does the House of Lords always have to pass a bill? What are the exceptions?



Use the links on the website to answer the following questions. Remember to write your answers in sentences.

- e) What is an Act of Parliament?

You are now going to research the impact which Parliament has had on Women and the Vote.

Visit <https://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/transformingsociety/electionsvoting/womenvote/>



Use the links on the page above to write detailed answers to the following.

1. Describe the difference between suffragettes and suffragists.
2. What types of methods did these campaigners use?
3. Who was Millicent Fawcett, what did she do?
4. What was the 'Cat and Mouse Act'?
5. What did Emily Wilding Davison do to allow her to write 'House of Commons' as her address?
6. What role did men play in the campaign for votes for women?
7. Can you imagine a Britain where women were not allowed to vote? Some women could. Find out about the 'National League for Opposing Woman Suffrage'.
8. What role did WWI play in helping women to get the vote?
9. When did women eventually get the vote? What was the name of the law / act? Did it apply to every woman? Did it benefit any other groups?
10. Which law was eventually passed in 1928 and why was they different to the law in 1918?
11. Although she was not the first woman elected to Parliament, the first woman to take her seat was Nancy Astor. Produce a poster about Viscountess Astor. If you do this in a Word document you can add photographs and pictures to your information.

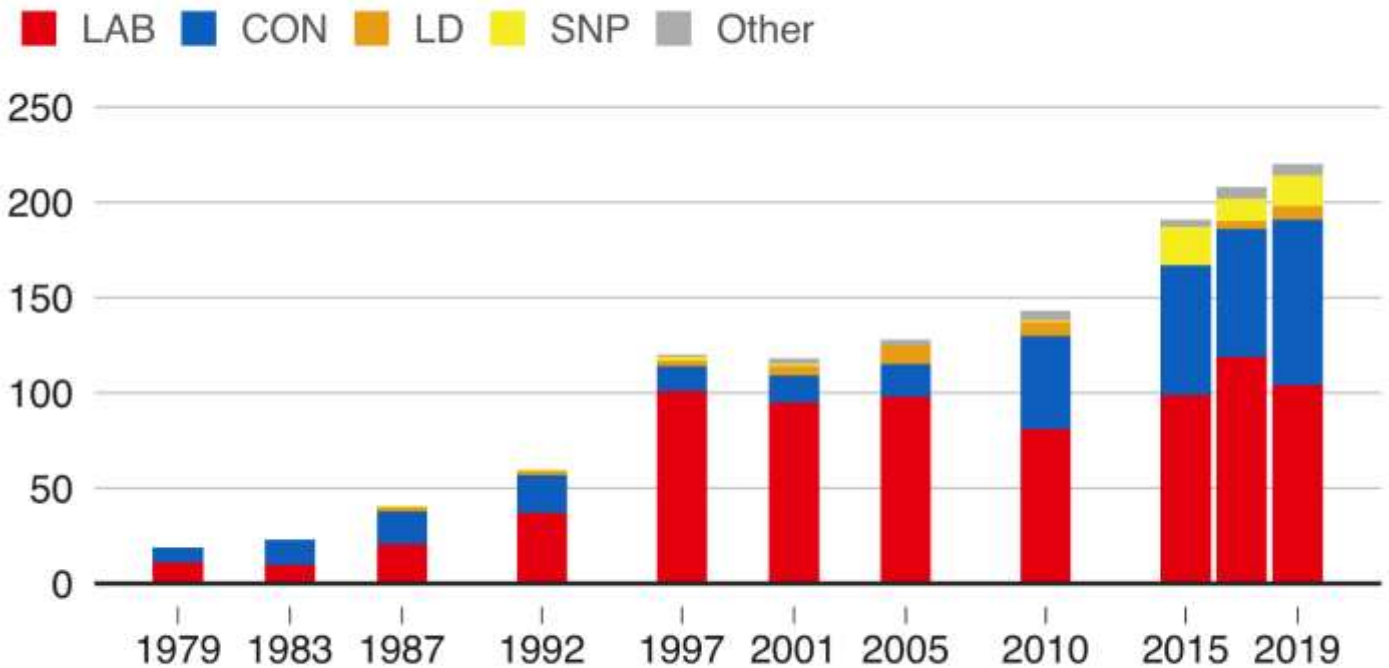


Women in the House of Commons Today

Since those early days when there were few women in the House of Commons, the number of female MPs

Number of women MPs continues to rise

Seats won by women at general elections, 1979-2019



After 650 of 650 seats declared

Source: House of Commons Library

BBC

After the 2019 General Election, there are _____ women in the House of Commons than ever before. The political party which has the greatest number of female MPs is _____ and the party with the least female MPs is _____.

However, women are still not _____ represented in the House of Commons. Proportionally, there ought to be around 50% of the Commons who are female, in reality women account for about _____ of the 650 MPs.

Labour

fairly

unfairly

more

Less

Conservative

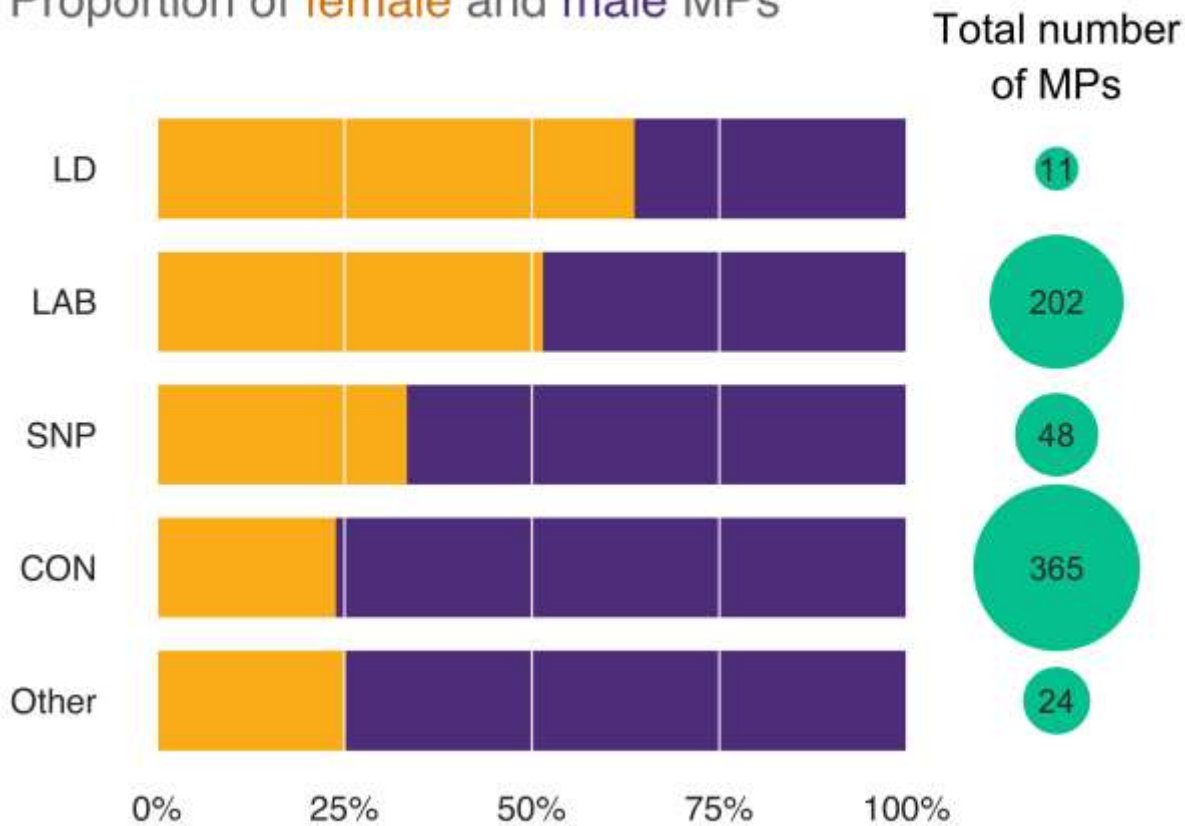
SNP

Liberal Democrats

2019 is a significant year

Majority of Labour and Lib Dem MPs are female, for first time in history

Proportion of **female** and **male** MPs



BBC

1. Do you find this surprising?
2. Can you suggest any reasons why there have been fewer female MPs in the past?

Hint! Talk to your Mum, or another adult female relative/friend, about whether they would have liked to be an MP working in London.

3. What qualities do you think a man or a woman need in order to get elected to Parliament?
4. Is this a job you might consider in the future? Give detailed reasons to explain your answer.