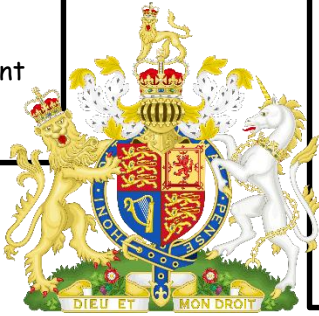


Skills being assessed in this unit:

- Knowledge
- Evaluation/argument

Literary skill focus:

Oracy/ Explanation



Key words:

- Monarchy
- Constitutional
- Absolute monarch
- Government
- Scandals
- Professionalism
- Evaluate
- Predict

Year 8 Autumn 2: Do we need a Queen?



Monarchy is the oldest form of government in the United Kingdom.

In a monarchy, a king or queen is Head of State. The British Monarchy is known as a constitutional monarchy. This means that, while The Monarch is Head of State, the ability to make and pass laws lies with Parliament.

As Head of State, The Monarch undertakes constitutional and representational duties which have developed over one thousand years of history. In addition to these State duties, The Monarch has a less formal role as 'Head of Nation'. They act as a focus for national identity, unity and pride; gives a sense of stability and continuity and officially recognises success and excellence. This means that they help to make people proud of their country, as well as recognising and rewarding good work, as well as encouraging tourism. The Queen also represents Britain to the rest of the world. For example, receiving foreign ambassadors and high commissioners, entertaining visiting Heads of State, and making State visits overseas to other countries, in support of diplomatic and economic relations. She is also Head of the Church of England.

The English monarchy is a hereditary one. That means that the monarch is not elected and chosen by the people like a Prime Minister, instead, the crown stays within one family and is passed down generation to generation. This used to be to the eldest male, however the law has recently changed and it is now passed to the eldest child, regardless of whether they are male or female. Before this change, an older sister would be overlooked in favour of a younger brother, even if he was a baby.

Further reading/watching

Queen Elizabeth II: <https://www.biography.com/royalty/queen-elizabeth-ii>

Royal scandals: <https://www.marieclaire.com/culture/g14516650/royal-family-pr-scandals/>

Saudi Arabia is an absolute monarchy, which means that the monarch actually rules the country. There is no Prime Minister or political parties, but there are some articles which list rules that the country has to stick to. These are based on Islamic Law. The royal family dominates the government, and most of the key positions in the country are occupied by members of the family.

Monaco. The Grimaldi family took leadership of Monaco in 1297 and has ruled the country ever since. The Grimaldi family exercised absolute control of Monaco and all its resources until 1911 when the country drafted its first constitution. The newly drafted constitution made Monaco into a constitutional monarchy and shifted political power from the ruling prince to the minister of state.

France had previously been a monarchy, however in 1789 there were food shortages and people began starving. This caused the French Revolution - people protested and abolished (got rid of) the monarchy. Following the French Revolution, France is now a republic. A republic is where the country is governed by the people and their elected representatives. There is an elected President rather than a monarch.

The President is elected using the two-round system - people vote for their favourite candidate, and then the two with the most votes go "through to the next round." The public then vote for their favourite between the remaining two. The winner becomes the President.

Queen of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth Realm

Full Name: Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor

Born: 21st April 1926, Mayfair

House: Windsor

Father: George VI

Mother: Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon

Spouse: Prince Phillip

Married: 1947

Children: Charles, Prince of Wales; Anne, Princess Royal; Andrew, Duke of York; Edward, Earl of Wessex

Reign: 6th February 1952-present

Coronation: 2nd June 1953

Predecessor: George VI

Heir: Charles, Prince of Wales

