

## The Parliament of the United Kingdom-

The Parliament of the UK alone possesses legislative supremacy and thereby ultimate power over all other political bodies in the UK and overseas territories. Parliament is bicameral but has three parts —

→ Sovereign (Crown-in-Parliament)

→ The House of Lords

→ The House of Commons (the primary chamber)

The two houses (Lords and Commons) meet in the place of Westminster in the city of Westminster.

### The Structure of the Parliament —

Total seats — 1,434

(Members of Parliament — 650)

(Lords Spiritual and Temporal — 784)

The House of Lords — Also known as the House of Peers or domestically simply as Lords

→ Upper house of the Parliament of the UK

→ Membership either by appointment or by official function or by heredity.

→ Total seats — 784

→ Consists of Lords Spiritual and Lords Temporal.

Lords Spiritual — Consists of 26 bishops in the established Church of England.

Lords Temporal — dominated by life peers appointed by the Monarch on the advice of the Prime Minister or on the advice of the House of Lords Appointments Commission.

- Whole the House of Commons has a defined number of seats membership, the number of members in the House of Lords is not fixed.
- The House of Lords is the only upper house in any bicameral parliament in the world to be larger than its lower house.

### Functions of the House of Lords —

- Legislation, with the exception of Money Bills may be introduced in either house.
- Debates legislation, and powers to amend or reject bills.
- Can not delay a money bill for more than one month.
- Does not oppose legislation promised in the Government's election manifesto.
- Can not originate a bill concerning taxation.
- Does not control the term of the Prime Minister or of the Government.
- More cabinet ministers from the House of Commons rather than the House of Lords.
- Remains a source for junior ministers and members of government.
- Historically, held several judicial functions. Since October 1, 2009 this role is now held by the Supreme Court of the UK.
- A distinct judicial function - whole house participates in impeachment. Although, impeachment brought by the House of Commons.