1.Текст прочитать.

2. Слова выписать в тетрадь и выучить

3. Письменно ответить, а вопросы к тексту

**Тext. POLITICAL SYSTEM OF GREAT BRITAIN**

The United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy. This means that it has a monarch (a king or a queen) as its Head of State. The present British monarch is Queen Elizabeth II, who succeeded to the throne in 1952. The monarch has very little power and can only reign with the support of Parliament, which consists of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Parliament and the monarch have different roles in the government of the country. In reality, the House of Commons is the only one that has true power, it introduce new bills. They then go to the House of Lords for approval, and finally the monarch signs them. Only then they can become laws.

The House of Commons is made up of 650 elected members, known as Members of Parliament (or MPs), each of whom represents an area of the UK. The political parties choose candidate in elections. The party which wins the majority of seats in the House of Commons forms the Government and its leader usually becomes Prime Minister. The largest minority party becomes the Opposition (or the “Shadow Cabinet”). The Prime Minister chooses about twenty MPs from his or her party and forms his or her Cabinet Ministers. Each minister is responsible for a particular area of government. For example, the Minister of Defense is responsible for defense policy and the armed forces, the Home Secretary for law and order and immigration.

The House of Lords consists of more than 1,000 hereditary lords and peers. It has very little power.

The two main political parties in Great Britain are the Conservative and the Labor party. Now the Conservative party is in power. The Conservatives have been in power since the 1970s and its main opponent, the Labor party has formed the Shadow Cabinet. At present John Major, the leader of the Conservative party, is Britain`s Prime Minister.

Among other political parties there is the Liberal party and Social-Democratic party.

The United Kingdom of Britain is a monarchy. The Queen is the head of the state. In law she is supreme authority. In law she I supreme authority, an integral part of Parliament, head of the system of justice and of the armed forces, and sole representative of the nation in international affairs. In practice the United Kingdom is governed by Her Majesty`s Government in the name of the Queen.

The Supreme legislative authority in the United Kingdom is the Queen in Parliament, that is to say, the Queen and the two Houses of Parliament – the House of Lords and the House of Commons. The Queen formally summons and dissolves Parliament.

The House of Lords, presided over by the Lord Chancellor, is made up of both hereditary peers, and representative peers of Scotland and Ireland.

The house of Commons consists of 650 members elected by universal adult suffrage, each representing a constituency with about 57, 000 people.

A general election is to be held every five years, although it may be, and often is held at more frequent intervals. The main function of Parliament are to legislate, and to control the actions of the Government. No tax may be imposed or public money spent except with Parliament`s connect. Most public Bills are introduced by the Government.

**Vocabulary notes:**

* head- глава
* authority- власть
* justice- правосудие
* force- сила
* representative- представитель
* affairs- дела
* legislative- законодательный
* dissolve- распускать
* summon- созывать
* Scotland- Шотландия
* adult- взрослый
* constituency- конституция
* is to be held- состояться
* tax- налог
* supreme- верховный
* Ireland- Ирландия
* suffrage- избирательное право
* Bill- закон, законопроект

**Exercise6.Answer the questions.**

1. Who is the head of the UK?
2. How is the monarch`s power limited?
3. What Houses does the British Parliament consist of?
4. Where do Members of Parliament come from?
5. Who forms the Government?
6. How can a new bill become a law?
7. What is the “Shadow Cabinet”?
8. What main political parties are there in Britain today?
9. Who is Britain`s Prime Minister at present?
10. How long has Queen Elizabeth II reigned?

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