**General Election**

A general election is an opportunity for people in every part of the UK to choose their MP. This person will represent a local area (constituency) in the House of Commons for up to five years. There is a choice of several candidates in each constituency. Some will be the local candidates for national political parties. The candidate that receives most votes becomes their MP.

The Prime Minister is appointed by the monarch. The monarch's appointment of the Prime Minister is guided by constitutional conventions.The political party that wins the most seats in the House of Commons at a general election usually forms the new government. Its leader becomes Prime Minister. The Prime Minister appoints ministers who work in government departments. The most senior of these attend Cabinet meetings.

**The First Past the Post**

a first-past-the-post (FPTP or FPP; sometimes formally called single-member plurality voting or SMP) electoral system, voters cast their vote for a candidate of their choice, and the candidate who receives the most votes wins

How does First Past the Post voting work?

On election day, voters receive a ballot paper with a list of candidates. As only one MP will represent the area, each party has only one candidate to choose from. Voters put a cross next to their favourite candidate. But if they think their favourite has a low chance of winning, they may put a cross next to one they like with a better chance of winning.