



## **Module Specification**

### **Parliamentary Studies**

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## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Parliamentary Studies

**Module code:** UZQYN9-15-3

**Level:** Level 6

**For implementation from:** 2024-25

**UWE credit rating:** 15

**ECTS credit rating:** 7.5

**College:** College of Health, Science & Society

**School:** CHSS School of Social Sciences

**Partner institutions:** None

**Field:**

**Module type:** Module

**Pre-requisites:** None

**Excluded combinations:** None

**Co-requisites:** None

**Continuing professional development:** No

**Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements:** None

## Part 2: Description

**Overview:** This module will provide students with detailed knowledge of how the UK Parliament works (in theory and in practice) and with the capacity to situate this knowledge within an understanding of similar institutions (sub nationally and internationally) and a set of broader themes and issues.

**Features:** Not applicable

**Educational aims:** Aims to enable students to:

- Gain detailed knowledge of how Parliament works in both theory and practice, in terms of formal rules and procedures, and informal processes derived from culture, tradition and practice.
- Explore contemporary debates around tradition, reform, and challenge to democratic institutions, as well as the influence and impact beyond Westminster.

The primary focus will be House of Commons and House of Lords, but students will be encouraged to contrast these institutions in a comparative context (for example, the Welsh Assembly, Local Government, other parliaments).

**Outline syllabus:** The module is delivered collaboratively by the Houses of Parliament and UWE Bristol, with the University providing academic and theoretical content and Parliament providing practical and vocational teaching about the work, processes, and business of Parliament.

Specific topics covered may vary to some extent from year to year to take account of developments in the field and staff expertise. The list below provides a summary of indicative content for the module.

Introduction to the module and the structure of Parliament:

The legislative process  
Parliamentary scrutiny  
The power of Parliament  
Parliament and representation  
The role of MPs  
Parliament and the public  
Parliament and devolution  
Leadership and democracy below Westminster  
Westminster's influence beyond the UK  
Modernising Parliament

### Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

**Teaching and learning methods:** The module will mix lecture content and seminar activities to allow students to both learn and actively participate. Our pedagogy is interactive, discussion-based, and student facing. It will include guest speakers and field visits where appropriate and possible.

The learning environment is designed to promote practitioner and peer-to-peer support and exchange. Technology enhanced learning will be incorporated where appropriate, including the use of online resources and learning environments.

These activities will be directed towards providing students with an in-depth understanding of how parliaments work in theory and practice and enable them to tackle a range of relevant issues influencing the history and future of parliament.

**Module Learning outcomes:** On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

**MO1** Demonstrate knowledge and critical analysis of current political issues regarding parliament, its structures, processes and activity.

**MO2** Construct a well-evidenced and impartial written briefing to a designated audience.

**MO3** Communicate a persuasive argument supported by appropriate evidence to a selected audience in an audio or audio-visual format.

**Hours to be allocated:** 150

**Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 114 hours

Face-to-face learning = 36 hours

Total = 150

**Reading list:** The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/1179A151-E36B-4882-0379-9B9CF5F1EB28.html?lang=en&login=1) via the following link <https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/1179A151-E36B-4882-0379-9B9CF5F1EB28.html?lang=en&login=1>

## Part 4: Assessment

**Assessment strategy:** Students must complete two assessed tasks.

### 1) Written assignment (Research briefing)

This task requires students to write a 1,500-word briefing relevant for MPs and Peers.

Students will choose a topic from a list curated by the module team or cover an approved topic of their choice.

The briefing should clearly and concisely set out the key issues and current debates and developments on the chosen topic. Briefings will be assessed on the content and quality of the research, structure, accessibility, and impartiality.

In the weeks before the submission deadline, students will have an opportunity to present a draft of their briefing to their peers and the module team in a workshop. This session will allow students to gain formative feedback on their work and gain experience verbally presenting work in progress.

Students will develop their skills in analysing information and data and their abilities to present complex issues impartially in a brief and accessible format for a specific and new audience.

### 2) Set task (Podcast)

This task will include questions on the challenges and issues faced by Parliament that relate to the topics covered in the module. These questions will be set in collaboration with contacts and outside of Parliament where appropriate and possible.

Students must research and respond to these questions in a podcast format appropriate for a general audience. The podcast should be accompanied by a written, referenced transcript. Each student will present for 5 minutes within a larger group setting. Students will be marked individually.

The podcast should present a clear and persuasive argument in an accessible format appropriate to the specified audience. The referenced transcript should demonstrate thorough and well supported research. Pieces will be assessed on the content and quality of the research, the coherence and persuasiveness of the argument, structure, accessibility, and presentation skills.

Students should draw on the individual and general feedback given on the previous research briefing task. Students will also have the opportunity to present a draft plan to module leaders.

This task encourages students to work creatively and collaboratively, to further their skills in advancing a clear and persuasive argument and articulating and communication complex ideas appropriately for a specified audience. Students will be encouraged to enhance their research skills and deploy critical analysis to develop and support their argument.

**Assessment tasks:**

**Written Assignment (First Sit)**

Description: Research briefing

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

**Set Exercise (First Sit)**

Description: Podcast

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3

**Written Assignment (Resit)**

Description: Research briefing

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

**Set Exercise (Resit)**

Description: Podcast

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3

**Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Politics And International Relations [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23