

Members have raised various questions about electoral systems in the UK

General elections to the UK Parliament are conducted under the first-past-the-post electoral system. Under first-past-the-post,

of which elects one representative. Each voter may vote for one candidate in their constituency. The candidate in each constituency who receives the most votes wins (hence -past-the-, and is elected as an MP. There are 650 constituencies in the UK

Supporters of first-past-the-post argue that it often gives one party a majority of seats in the House of Commons. This means that the UK is able to have strong single-party majority governments, which can implement the manifesto on which they were elected. As these governments have a majority in the Commons, they tend to be stable and see out their time in office.

Supporters of first-past-the-post also emphasise its accountability. If voters in a hey can vote that MPout. First-past-thepost is also said to foster a strong link between the MP and their constituents.

In contrast, opponents of first-past-the-post argue that the results it produces do not reflect how the country as a whole voted. They point out that because a winning candidate only requires more votes than any other candidate, it is possible to be elected with less than 50% of the vote. Opponents of first-past-the-post also argue that this system tends to disadvantage smaller parties, which might have support across the country, but win few seats because they cannot come first in many constituencies.

Opponents of first-past-the-post, who generally tend to favour more proportional systems, also emphasise that their preferred systems tend to produce coalition governments rather than single-party majorities. They argue that this forces parties to work together and compromise in order to get things done.

Yes. Elections to the Scottish Parliament, the Welsh Parliament and the Northern Irish Assembly all use forms of proportional representation. These are designed so that a party wins seats roughly in proportion to its share of the votes cast. Rather than using first-pastthe-post, elections for mayors in England and Wales, as well as for Police and Orime Commissioners, see voters rank their two preferred candidates. You can read more about how each of these systems