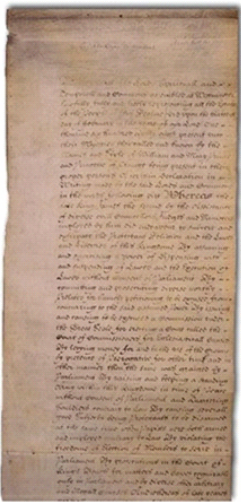


# Bill of Rights - The re-write



The most powerful and influential people of Britain line the walls of the Great Chamber. Politics, Church, monarch and state are all represented here. Between them, they carved their way towards the 1688 Bill of Rights. (Honestly - totally not boring!)

So what is the Bill of Rights and why does it matter?

Without this important document, we wouldn't have parliamentary democracy, freedom of political speech or regular elections. Some points in this act of parliament have now been over-ridden, but most still stand today. It's a very long scroll, hand-written and kept in the Parliamentary archives.

## Task Card 1

Print Page 3:

Look at the ten key democratic rights. Think about what's important to you personally and what's important to us as a society.

Top Two: Pick the two you consider to be most vital

Write three bullet points of reasons for each of your chosen two.

Why is this vital to democracy?

Cut it out! Pick two you think were not a good idea.

If you were an MP in 1688, which one might you have argued against. Why?

Add it in! What do you think is missing?

What additional 'Right' would you include? Why?

## • Task Card 2

Print Page 4:

Political discussion became fashionable in London's coffee houses around the time of the 1688 Bill of Rights.

- Take your chosen 'missing' Right, and create a banner or placard to demand its inclusion.
- Or write a political pamphlet to circulate in the Coffee Houses of London.  
Be as bold, creative, clever and concise as you can. Use words or images.  
Think about who your audience is going to be and create something for them which is powerful and persuasive.

## Further ideas

After the 1688 Bill of Rights, thousands of political pamphlets were written and circulated in the coffee houses and restrictions on the press were lifted. The first political parties were formed – originally the Whigs (progressives) and Tories (establishment).

- Research any political party of your choice. Who formed it, how and when? What does it stand for?
- Or create your own political party! See if you can write a Manifesto of 10 key points which your party stands for.

## Top Two

Right number .....

- .....
- .....
- .....

Right number .....

- .....
- .....
- .....

## Cut it out!

Right number .....

- .....
- .....
- .....

Right number .....

- .....
- .....
- .....

## Add it in!

+ What's missing?

+ Why is it important?

## Bill of Rights

1. *Parliamentary representation of the people. MPs are there for the people, not themselves.*

2. *Free elections of MPs (by some people only) must be held regularly.*

3. *Only Parliament can make laws, not monarchs*

4. *Separation of Monarch and Parliamentary government: free rule for Parliament with no interference from the monarch.*

5. *Ban on private armies or militia groups. Only parliament can raise troops*

6. *Freedom of speech in parliament: MPs allowed to criticise.*

7. *Monarchs and all officials MUST be Church of England Christians. No Catholics allowed. No other faiths.*

8. *Only Parliament can raise taxes, not monarchs*

9. *Any individual can bear arms for legitimate reasons*

10. *Fair trials in courts. The Jury who hear the trial must all be property-owners.*

*We demand the right.....*