

08 House of Commons

09 Composition

10 Number of Members - 635 (516 for
11 England, 36 for Wales, 71 for
Scotland and 12 for Northern Ireland)

12 Rules about Eligibility - All British
citizens above age of 21 years

13 Right to Vote - Every British Citizen
14 ~~above~~ attained the age of 18 years

15 Period - 5 years.

16 Organisation

17 1- Speaker

18 2- Deputy Speaker

19 3- Legislative Committees

20 Powers and functions of the House

21 1- Law Making - Parliament is a sovereign
law-making body, with no legal restrictions
on its powers. In theory law-making
is the business of Parliament as a
whole, the King, Lords and Commons.

08 The House of Commons can initiate any
measures. The most important bills generally
09 originate there and the verdict of the
Commons determines their fate.

10 (2) Financial functions - The House of
11 Commons is supreme in financial
12 matters. All money bills originate in
the Commons.

13 (3) Controlling the Executive - The House
14 of Commons controls the executive.
The Ministry emerges from the
House of Commons. The Prime Minister
15 is a member of the Commons. The
16 ministers are individually and
collectively responsible to the House of
17 Commons. They hold their office only
so long as they command the
confidence of the Commons.

18 (4) Ventilation of Grievances - It is the
19 function of the House to call attention
of the executive to administrative and
20 other abuses and to demand the
redress of public grievances. This is
done through the practice of asking
questions and through general
debates.

(5) Selective function - The House of

08 Commons is a training ground for
 09 politicians. There they have the
 10 opportunity for showing their
 11 qualities. It gives encouragement to
 ambitious members to work hard
 and to reach the top rung of
 political ladder.

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