Ways in which the Parliament can control the executive

BACKBENCH REVOLT

WHAT IS A BACKBENCH REVOLT?
This is when a group of backbenchers defy their party line (and whip) and either abstain or vote against the policy of their party. The most important backbench revolts are obviously when MP's on the governing party side go against their party wishes - disobeying the government

MP's have been criticised for being party drones and for simply toeing the line
However, there are regular occasions when MP's do revolt and go against their party wishes

EXAMPLE
- Cameron losing Syria vote

PARLIAMENT IS SOVEREIGN

Any government can be removed through vote of no confidence

One key part of the British constitution is that parliament is sovereign (all powerful)
This means that MP's can in essence reject any bill or proposal put before it that it doesn't feel is right.

Parliament can overturn any law made .. Including membership of the EU

HOUSE OF LORDS

THE LORDS is widely respected
It has many peers who are world leaders in their field and therefore they can provide expert scrutiny

Their power of delay may be limited but it is still powerful . A government will not want to have one of its key bills delayed. Parliamentary time is very precious so all legislation. Is important .

A government will compromise with the lords .. And use ping pong rather than have to use the parliament act . Parliament act is only used rarely.

PATRONAGE Limitations

The prime minister may be able to hire and fire who they like. However they have to be very careful about this
Getting rid of High profile ministers can create the danger of opposition
Claire short for example eventually resigned fro tiny Blairs cabinet but would become a pain in his side for the backbenchers. More starkly thatchers dismissal of ministers made them very dangerous backbench opponents who eventually brought her down.

Opposition
An organised opposition with guaranteed opposition days, debating time , PMQ slots can bring pressure to bear on any government over their conduct.

SELECT COMMITTEES

They have the power to call for persons and papers. This has led to robust questioning including of the chancellor and prime minister over their policies

Proceedings are televised and widely publicised

It's chairs are now chosen by secret ballot
This was very importantly defended by MP's after the Blair government attempted to control these positions

Select committee members are chosen by secret ballot as well within their own parties

These have been used increasingly effectively to scrutinise effectively and hold the government departments to account