WHAT IS A MANDATE? This is the right of a governing party to put its manifesto commitments (its policies) into action following an election win. They will claim to have the mandate of the people and therefore the legitimacy to carry it out THE LORDS have often proved the only real opposition to government when that government maintains a huge majority. Yet the lords is limited in its powers It only really has the power to delay bills and not prevent them. The PM can overturn an HOL vote **HOUSE OF** against the government by using the parliament act .. Delaying it for a year but pushing it through LORDS

After an election win with a parliamentary electoral majority in favour of one clear party.. Parliament will have to accept that the new executive has the legitimate mandate to govern as they have been voted in.. Parliament lacks the legitimacy to prevent this.. It has been argued.

MANDATE

of dominating with a strong majority after 1983 election. She pushed through a number of key policies such as privatisation. She was also able to dominate her cabinet... For a while

Thatcher is another example

A government with a strong majority can easily dominate

of over 160. This enabled him to push through lots of legislation which would otherwise have proved difficult .. Human rights act, House of Lords reform. constitutional reform act. devolution. As well as policies such as invading Iraq. There was little opposition to his control apart from a few unruly backbenchers, the House of Lords and the judiciary.

Tony Blair had an electoral majority

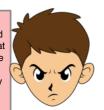
PMQs was reduced to one day a week for 30 minutes instead of 2 15 minute meetinas Blairs attendance of parliament was not as regular He forged out his own foreign policy role

Blair used this power to become almost presidential

- he had his own policy unit devising policy independent of the civil service.
- he had sofa government small meetings with key people. This reduced the importance of the British cabinet which had become almost a rubber stamp

ALL THIS SEEMED AT THE **EXPENSE** OF PARLIAMENT

British political parties tend to be very heavily controlled The WHIP is the party manager and they make sure that backbenchers obey their voting instructions. A three line whip has to be obeyed or they will face consequences such as having the whip withdrawn ... Removal of party support



It is argued that this party control makes MP's little more than party drones or lobby fodder .. Simply turning up to vote

This is one of the Prime Ministers key Ways in which **PATRONAGE** the Executive

PARTY

CONTROL

powers. It is the power to appoint This is very important to the PM as it ensures party loyalty.. MP's will be eager to move up the ladder and get promotion therefore they will want to prove their loyalty

be forced by collective responsibility to stop

The PM can also use this to silence critics. They will criticising the government and to tow the party line Example Claire short and Tony Blair

AREAS OF GOVERNMENT CONTROL

dominates

Parliament:

Prime ministers questions is very much a. Controlled piece of parliamentary theatre rather than serious scrutiny. The government. Even has questions planted by its own loyal backbenchers

PMQ's

PRIVATE MEMBERS BILLS

These can only really succeed with government support. The government controls the all important time available .. For PMBs this time is limited. The government can use loyal MP's to filibuster (talk endlessly to talk it out of time)

COMMITTEES PUBLIC BILL **COMMITTEES** especially are still party controlled. Members are appointed by the party and are essentially whipped to ensure a bill goes through the way the government wants

A GUILLOTINE is used sometimes to cut a bills time in committee down