



KS5: EU law-making

Introduction

In the European Union the law is made by three institutions, the Commission, the Parliament and the Council of Ministers. Each has its own degree of democratic accountability. The purpose of this exercise is to study the role of each of the institutions and their place within a democratic form of government.

The task

The task is to use the website www.citizensofeurope.org as an entry point for information about the three main institutions of the EU and how they are accountable to Europe's citizens.

Process

You have 20 minutes. Go to *Student Resources*, click on *What is the EU* then go to *Main institutions*. Work in pairs. Take the institution you have been assigned to study. Summarise the things the institution does and describe the people who run it.

Evaluation

At the end of the task explain how the institution is accountable to European voters. It may not be immediately apparent in the case of the Commission but persevere.

Conclusion

The EU form of law making is very different from that of individual member states. This is because it is a rather loose grouping of members, with each having its separate interests and priorities. As the EU becomes more integrated and political parties are represented in all member states, some convergence with more traditional systems may develop.