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网络精品课程

# A General Survey of English-Speaking Countries

Politics & Economy of  
UK

主讲：李文静



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**Form of government** Constitutional monarchy

**Head of state** Monarch

**Head of government** Prime minister

**Legislature** Bicameral legislature:  
House of Commons, 646 members  
House of Lords, 713 members (595 life peers and 118 hereditary members)



<b>Voting qualifications</b>	Universal at age 18
<b>Constitution</b>	Unwritten; partly statutes, partly common law and practice
	House of Lords
<b>Highest court</b>	High Court of Justiciary (the supreme criminal court of Scotland)



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- The Constitutional Monarchy
- The politics of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland takes place in the framework of a constitutional monarchy, in which the Monarch is head of state and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom is the head of government.



- Queen
- 英国是实行君主立宪政体的国家，英国宪法规定君主是英国的国家元首，英国政府以女王的名义治理国家。按英国宪法，英王除作为国家元首外，还是司法首领、全国武装部队总司令，英国国教世俗领袖。但英王的权利只存在于名义上，英国人常用“临朝而不理政”，“统而不治”来描述英王的实际地位。



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- Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip at the official coronation (加冕礼, 2 Jun 1953)  
Elizabeth II became queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 1952 upon the death of her father, King George VI.







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# The Parliament



- The parliament is bicameral(两院制的), with an upper house, the House of Lords, and a lower house, the House of Commons. The Queen is the third component of the legislature. The House of Commons is far more influential than the House of Lords.



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- The Government

Neither the Prime Minister nor members of the Government are elected by the House of Commons. Instead, the Queen requests the person most likely to command the support of a majority in the House, normally the leader of the largest party in the House of Commons, to form a government.



- The Prime Minister

The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is the Head of Her Majesty's Government. He or she is the leader of the party that holds the most seats in the House of Commons. The Prime Minister and Cabinet (consisting of all the most senior government department heads) are collectively accountable for their policies and actions to the Sovereign, to Parliament, to their political party, and ultimately to the electorate.



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现任首相 戴维·卡梅伦





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- Number 10 Downing Street in London has been the official residence of the British prime minister since Sir Robert Walpole in 1732.



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- Economy of UK
- Some facts about the economy of UK
- The United Kingdom is a highly developed country and one of the seven major Western economic powers, whose economy is the fifth-largest in the world (2006), the second largest in Europe after Germany.



- Traditional Industry

1. After the industrial revolution, UK concentrated on ship-building, coal mining, steel production, and textiles

2. Heavy industry declined throughout the 20th century



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- Service Industry

1. The British service sector, however, has grown substantially, and now makes up about 73% of GDP and employed almost four-fifths of the workforce.



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2. The service industries include finance, retailing, wholesaling, tourism, business services, transport, insurance, investment, advertising, public relations, market research, education, administration, and government and professional service.



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- New Industries

1. New industries include microprocessors and computers, biotechnology(生物技术), new materials and other high-tech industries.



2. There are three areas in Britain which have seen some high-tech industrial growth: (1)the area between London and South Wales, (2)the Cambridge area of East Anglia and (3)the area between Glasgow and Edinburgh in Scotland







- 1.What is the form of government of UK?
- 2.Who is the head of the government of UK, and the state?
- 3.What is the constitution of the parliament of UK?
- 4.Where does the prime minister live in UK?



5. Which area is called the “silicon glen” in UK?
- A. the area between London and South Wales
  - B. the Cambridge area of East Anglia
  - C. the area between Glasgow and Edinburgh in Scotland

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