

Question Time / written questions

Parliament can ask questions of government ministers which they are obliged to answer.

Bicameralism

Two houses of parliament allows for dual scrutiny of bills. The upper house reviews bills initiated by government ministers.

Scrutiny committees

Smaller groups of parliamentary members investigate bills and/or community issues in detail.

Matters of Public Importance

A discussion in parliament about the government's actions or policies, must be responded to by relevant minister.

Bill debates

The passage of legislation includes bills being scrutinised by all sides through debate, and includes the opportunity to make amendments.

Elections

Governments are held accountable to the people through regular elections.

Responsible government

System where the executive (cabinet) is drawn from and accountable to the legislative branch.

Free media

Plays a role in bringing scrutiny to public attention, or can conduct its own independent investigations.

Scrutiny of government

Any activity that involves examining and challenging the policies, expenditure and administration of government