• European Parliament elections – The UK elect 73 MEPs every 5 years
• Elections to the devolved assemblies – every four years to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
• Local elections – where local councillors are elected for four year terms
• By-elections – if a constituency seat in the HOC, devolved assembly or English local authority because vacant because of Death or resignation, a by election is held to choose a new representative.

The hereditary monarch, second chamber of the legislature and the judiciary are not elected

Electoral Systems
Electoral systems translate votes cast by citizens into seats.

A majoritarian system (AV) is one in which the winning candidate must secure an absolute majority of the vote (50% + 1 vote). Candidates are usually elected in single member constituencies.

A plurality system is a system in which the winner needs only a plurality of votes (i.e. one more than their closest rival), not an absolute majority. A plurality system is alike to a majoritarian as MPs are elected in single member constituency and both aren’t proportional. Large parties tend to get a higher proportion of seats than their votes merit and smaller parties who’s support is thinly spread are under-represented.

A proportional system uses multi-member constituencies in which an electoral formula is used to match the percentage of seats won by each party to the percentage of votes they won. (PR)

Mixed System or a hybrid system is an electoral system where representatives are elected under a majoritarian/plurality system in single-member constituencies, and the others are elected as additional members using a proportional system in multimember constituencies (AMS)
Voting Behaviour
Two main approaches have been prevalent in studies of psephology:

- Sociological approaches that focus on social characteristics of voters, particularly social class, and their party loyalties
- Rational choice approaches that focus on decisions made by individual voters on political issues

Class Voting and partisanship
Between 1945 and 1970 there was a strong link between social class and voting. Most people voted for their natural class party: the party that represented the interests of their social group. A majority of the working class voted for the Labour Party, while most of the middle class backed the Conservatives. There were however exceptions; at the time when the working class was the largest social group, the Conservatives would not have won power without the support of a sizeable minority of working class voters. Most voters also had stable, long term feelings of positive attachment to one of the main parties.

Both class voting and partisanship declines since 1970:
Class Dealignment: The relationship between social class and voting has weekend with fewer people voting for their class party. This is because the distinctions between social classes have been eroded by greater affluences, improved access to higher education and changes to the labour market.

Partisan Dealignment: The number of voters who strongly identify themselves with either Labour or Conservatives has declined. In 1964, 43% of voters were ‘very strong’ supporters of one of the main parties, but by 2005 only 13% were.
The Conservatives gained support from the working class in 1997. New Labour was a catch all party with a cross class appeal.

Other Social factors that impact voting behaviour are:
- Gender
- Age
- Ethnicity – A majority of ethnic minority electors vote for Labour. It is important to note that the EM are not a homogenous group – 22% of EM with Indian origins voted for Conservatives in 2010 and only 6% of black people did