

2015 Election Under PR

- Conservative – 240 Seats (-91)
- Labour – 198 seats (-34)
- UKIP – 82 seats (+81)
- Liberal Democrats – 51 seats (+43)
- SNP – 31 seats (-25)
- Green Party – 25 seats (+24)
- Democratic Unionist Party – 4 seats (-4)

- Plaid Cymru – 4 Seats (+1)
- Sinn Fein – 4 Seats (0)
- Ulster Unionist Party – 3 Seats (+1)
- Social Democratic and Labour Party – 2 Seats (-1)
- Alliance Party – 2 Seat (+2)
- TUSC – 1 Seat (+1)
- National Heath Action – 1 Seat (+1)
- Traditional Unionist Voice – 1 Seat (+1)
- Respect Party – 1 Seat (+1)

Advantages of STV

- STV gives voters more choice than any other system. This in turn puts more power in the hands of the voters, rather than the party heads, who under other systems can more easily determine who is elected.
- Under STV MPs responsibilities lie more with the electorate than those above them in their party.
- Fewer voters are 'wasted' (i.e. cast for losing candidates or unnecessarily cast for the winner) under STV.
- This means that most voters can identify a representative that they personally helped to election – such as link in turn increases a representative's accountability.
- With STV and multi-member constituencies, parties have a powerful electoral incentive to present a balanced team of candidates in order to maximise the number of higher preferences that would go to their sponsored candidates.
- This helps the advancement of women and ethnic-minority candidates, who are often overlooked in favour of a 'safer' looking candidate.
- Parliament is more likely to be both reflective of a nation's views and more responsive to them.

Advantages of AV

- All MPs would have the support of a majority of their voters. Following the 2010 General Election 273 of the MPs elected lacked majority support, the highest figure in British political history
- It retains the same constituencies, meaning no need to redraw boundaries, and no overt erosion of the constituency-MP link.
- It penalises extremist parties, who are unlikely to gain many 2nd preference votes.
- Encourages candidates to chase second and third-preferences – lessens the need for negative campaigning (one which does not alienate supporters of another candidate whose second preference one wants) and reward broad-church policies.
- It reduces the need for tactical voting. Electors can vote for their first-choice candidate without fear of wasting their vote.
- Reduce the number of 'safe seats' where the election result is a forgone conclusion.

Jenkins Inquiry

- Different views about the criteria necessary for a good electoral system
- Former Labour Home Secretary – Jack Straw set out four useful criteria's for the Jenkins inquiry – set up by the Blair government to examine the most appropriate way of electing our MPs.
- Inquiry reported in 1998, its brief was to
- Observe the requirement for broad proportionality
- The need for stable government
- The extension of voter choice
- The maintenance of a link between honourable members and geographical constituencies.