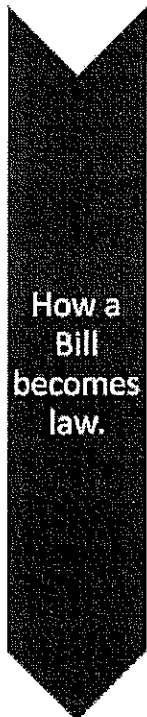


Worksheet 7 – How a bill becomes law

Your tutor will work with you on the poster 'How a Bill becomes law'. The poster shows the passage of a Bill and each stage of the process. Once you have studied the poster, with the help of your tutor work through the following exercise:



- 1. What is a Bill?
- 2. How many stages are involved in making a Bill?
- 3. Who can introduce a Bill?
- 4. Who decides on the General Principles of a Bill?
- 5. Who scrutinises a Bill?
- 6. Who can make amendments to a Bill?
- 7. What is an amendment?
- 8. Who makes the final decision regarding a Bill?
- 9. Who signs the Bill once it has been passed?
- 10. 'Act of the Scottish Parliament' what is the meaning of this?

The Scottish Parliament exists to make laws in relation to devolved matters and to scrutinise the policies of the Scottish Government.

Within the United Kingdom Government the Secretary of State for Scotland represents Scotland's interests on reserved matters. He/she is head of the Scotland Office Department in the United Kingdom Government Offices.

A key difference between the two – United Kingdom Parliament and the Scottish Parliament is structure. The United Kingdom Parliament is a law making body that has two chambers involved in decision making (the House of Commons and the House of Lords) whereas the Scottish Parliament has only one chamber. This means that the Scottish Parliament's committees have a very important role in scrutinising proposed laws.