

People of Parliament: Clerks at the Table

Cloze Passage

Read through the following passage and select the word or phrase from the table that best fits in each space. You can use each word or phrase only once.

government	14th	House of Commons	Assent	read and write	petitions
Standing Orders	left	Members of Parliament	elected	Speaker's	English
authenticity	safely	Table of the House	1860	parliament	knowledge

The Clerk of the Parliament makes sure that _____(1) runs smoothly and effectively. The Clerk is Head of the entire Parliamentary Service and provides advice to the Speaker and _____(2). This requires an excellent _____(3) of all parliamentary laws, procedures and _____(4), which are the rules of parliament. Unlike the Speaker, the Clerk is not an _____(5) Member of Parliament but a permanent public officer appointed to the role. There have only been 11 Clerks of the Parliament since _____(6).

The Clerk is responsible for the recording of all parliamentary proceedings, the distribution and tabling of Bills, notice papers, reports and _____(7), and for making sure all the Parliament's documents are stored _____(8). When a Bill gets passed, before it goes to the Governor for Royal _____(9), the Clerk must certify its accuracy and _____(10).

The office of Clerk of the House began with the early _____(11) Parliament. The earliest recorded appointment of a clerk to the _____(12) was in 1363. Just like today, clerks at that time were responsible for ensuring that all procedures of Parliament were properly recorded. This obviously required the ability to _____(13), which were not common skills in _____(14) century England.

The Clerk of the Parliament is supported by a team of clerks at the table. When Parliament sits, you will see two Clerks sitting at the _____(15), directly in front of the Speaker. The Clerk sits on the _____(16) right, on the _____(17) side of the Chamber. The Deputy Clerk sits on the Speaker's _____(18).