The courts today

Parliament (elected by the people)

Parliament makes the laws.
The government appoints the judges.

The courts

The judge:
• is unbiased
• makes sure that the trial is run properly
• gives advice to the jury

The defendant:
• is innocent until proven guilty
• has the right to be represented by a lawyer

The jury:
• is a mixture of ordinary people
• is chosen at random from the electoral rolls
• decides whether a person has been proven to be guilty or not

The police:
• catch people who they think have broken the law
• take them to the court for the court to decide
• have no say in the decisions of the court

Note: Not all courts include a jury – some courts only have a magistrate (eg district courts).