

Parliament in Commonwealth Countries Module

Final Project Assignment

Dear Participants,

As you know, each participant is responsible for completing a final project as part of this moderated learning program. Options for selecting a project are listed below. Whichever you choose, you may work independently or in groups on a topic closely related to the content of the Parliament and the Budget Module.

Final Project Options (choose one):

1. Characteristics of a Democratic Parliament

List up to five characteristics which you see as essential to a parliament in a democratic country, discuss the importance you attach to each of them and suggest measures or indicators for assessing the extent to which they may apply.

2. Oversight and Scrutiny

Compare the set up and operations of oversight committees in any two Commonwealth parliaments.

3. Rewards for Work in Parliament

Discuss the following statement: 'Parliamentarians and Staff in Commonwealth Parliaments are insufficiently compensated for the work they do and the risks inherent in their positions'. Your presentation should demonstrate that you have researched the position in at least three to five Commonwealth parliaments.

4. Training of Parliamentary Staff

Draw up a training scheme to be delivered over a period of two to three years for a full range of parliamentary staff **or** for selected groups of staff members. You should discuss why the topics have been selected, what would be covered under each and the methodology of training that you would use.

5. Your own Project

You can frame your own project, but the title and what you intend to cover (as in the three projects listed above) will need to be approved by the Moderator to ensure it meets the requirements of the Module. You can email the Moderator through

parliamentarystrengthening@gmail.com and you should do so by **Friday 10 April**. You will have a response by **Wednesday 15 April**.

NOTE: in the above the term 'parliament' may be used by you to refer to a national parliament, any one house or both in a bicameral legislature, or to a sub-national legislative assembly, as long as the context of your usage is clear.

Project Requirements:

1. Individual assignments should be between **2500-3000 words** (excluding bibliography, tables and graphs). Group assignments should be between **3500-4000 words** (excluding bibliography, tables and graphs).
2. The project must be typed, paginated and double-spaced. While you are at liberty (and indeed encouraged) to use published material, your submission must include a bibliography of the sources used and be properly referenced. Projects will be assessed on the basis of your own critical engagement with, and evaluation of, the material you are presenting or discussing.
3. Projects should be emailed to parliamentarystrengthening@gmail.com by **Friday 8 May 2009**.

Group Projects:

You are free to work in groups from your country or with others who share a common interest. If you would like to work with a course participant from another country for whom you do not have the contact information, please email parliamentarystrengthening@gmail.com with your project and partner suggestions and we will try to arrange it for you. However, there can be no guarantee that your fellow participants would be interested in collaborating.

Course Completion:

Participants will be deemed to have completed the course if they have met the following requirements:

1. Participated every week in the online discussion forum, and
2. Completed the final project (a pass mark of at least 50% is required)

You will be notified whether you have successfully completed the Module by **Monday 5 June 2009**.

Please email any questions to Brooke at parliamentarystrengthening@gmail.com
