

Role of the Northern Ireland Assembly

How is the Northern Ireland Assembly elected?

- The Northern Ireland Assembly, was established by the Good Friday agreement in 1998 and consists of 90 MLAs (Members of the Legislative Assembly), representing 18 constituencies.
- Elections are by secret ballot using a system of Proportional Representation (PR) known as Single Transferable Vote (STV).
- PR and STV give smaller parties a better chance of being represented in the Assembly, in contrast to British Elections which are “first past the post” and favour the big parties.

What is the role Northern Ireland Assembly in decision making?

- The Assembly is the legislature, or law-making body, made up of MLAs elected to represent the views of the people of Northern Ireland, be they Nationalist, Unionist or neither.
- It meets in the Assembly Chamber of Parliament Buildings, in the grounds of the Stormont Estate in Belfast.
- The Assembly appoints the Ministers to the Executive.
- The Assembly’s job is to hold the Ministers on the Executive to account, looking over Ministers’ proposals for new Laws and decisions.
- Every Government Department, has an Assembly Statutory Committee which follows the work of that Department and Minister, asking questions and making sure they are doing their job properly.

What were the results of the last NI Assembly Elections?



Leaving Certificate Politics & Society

Stand 1: Power and Decision Making

Topic 2: Power and Decision Making at National and European Level.

Learning Outcome 2.2: Describe the way in which the Northern Ireland Executive is selected, and the ministers’ roles .