

Resource 2

The Agreement of the People

- The right to vote for all men over the age of 21 (excepting servants, beggars and Royalists);
- No army officer, treasurer or lawyer could be an MP (to prevent decision making in their own interest);
- Annual elections to Parliament with MPs serving one term only;
- Equality of all persons before the law;
- Trials should be heard before 12 jurymen, freely chosen by their community.
- No-one could be punished for refusing to give evidence in court against themselves in criminal cases;
- The law should proceed in English (not Latin) and cases should not extend longer than six months;
- The death penalty to be applied only in cases of murder;
- Abolition of imprisonment for debt;
- Tithes – or church taxes - should be abolished and parishioners have the right to choose their ministers;
- Taxation in proportion to land or personal property;
- Abolition of compulsory military service (having to be a soldier or sailor).

Adapted from the original Agreement of the People using modern language.