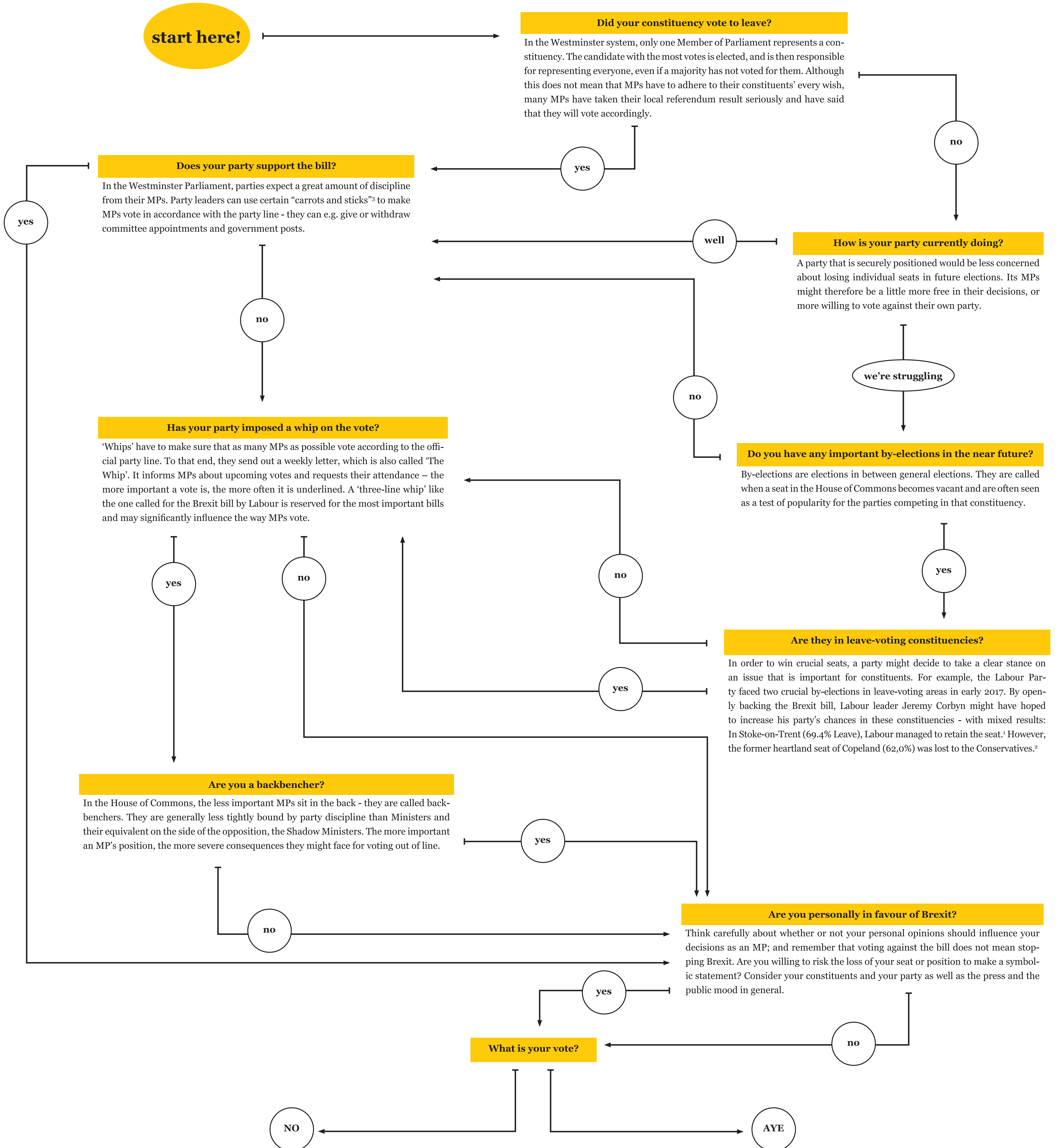
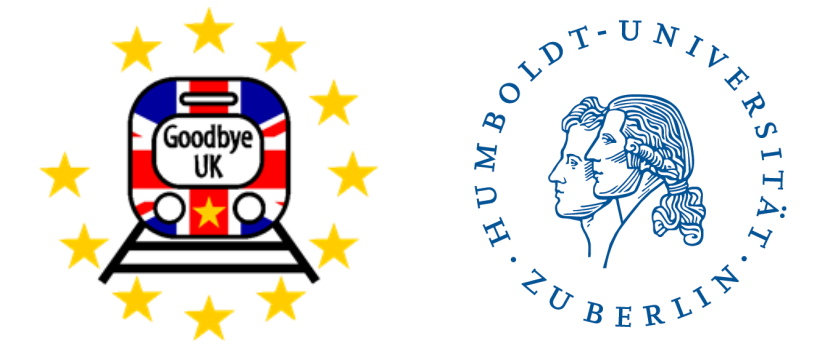


If you were an MP, how would you have voted on the Brexit bill?

Would it have been an easy choice, or a question of principle? Make your decision here - but remember that your personal opinion is not the only thing you need to consider. As you go along, find out about some of the other factors that can influence MPs' decisions.



Kenneth Clarke (Conservative) has the longest record of continuous service in the House of Commons ("Father of the House"). He has been Chancellor of the Exchequer and Home Secretary and has occupied several other ministerial positions in various cabinets.⁴ The outspoken Europhile was the only member of the Conservative Party to vote against the bill, citing a firm belief that it was "in the national interest" for the UK to remain in the EU and that it was his duty as an MP to fight back against a development he saw as damaging to the future of his country.⁵



Tulip Siddiq (Labour) was Shadow Minister for Early Years (education) under Jeremy Corbyn until she resigned from the opposition frontbench to vote against the Brexit bill. Siddiq explained that as her constituents had voted overwhelmingly to remain in the EU, as their representative she could not obey her party's three-line whip and back the bill.⁶ However, while Siddiq felt that she had to give up her position on the frontbench, her colleague Catherine West has remained as Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs despite defying her party's whip and voting against the bill.



Priti Patel (Conservatives) is an MP for Witham, member of the Privy Council, and the current Secretary of State for International Development. Patel has been a leading figure in the Leave campaign, citing that she "always believed that Britain would be better off out".⁷ She has supported the bill and has voted against amendments that would have given MPs powers to have a say on the final deal, saying on the BBC's Andrew Marr Show that Parliament should not be used to "subvert the democratic will of the British public".⁸



Chuka Umunna (Labour) is an MP for Streatham and a member of the Home Affairs Select Committee. He has been an ardent campaigner for Remain and his constituents voted to stay in the EU with the overwhelming result of 79.28% - one of the highest remain results UK-wide.⁹ Nevertheless, Umunna has voted to trigger Article 50, since he believes that "as democrats [...] we must abide by the national result". He also cites the need for Labour to present itself as a united opposition as one of his reasons for following the party's official line.¹⁰