

Spot on facts

ANALYSIS **1** Compare the UK and US political systems. Look, for example, ... →△1

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG

US

UK

a) political system

- federal republic based on the rule of law
- each of the 50 states endowed with executive (the governors) and legislative (state assemblies) power

a) political system

- constitutional monarchy with parliamentary democracy based on the rule of law
- centralised government (Westminster, London)
- regional assemblies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

b) role of the President

- Head of State
- also Head of Government
- Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces
- appoints Supreme Court Justices but needs Congressional approval (C & B)
- appoints Cabinet (with Congressional approval) (C & B)
- proposes laws but needs ratification by Congress (C & B)

b) role of the Monarch

- Head of State but not Head of Government
- Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces
- appoints Supreme Court Judges
- appoints the Prime Minister
- appoints all Lords in the House of Lords
- gives Royal Assent to bills so that they can become Acts of Parliament (check)

- is largely responsible for relationships with other nations and for national security
- is the elected leader (not directly by popular vote but indirectly via the Electoral College)
- may serve for a maximum of two terms only (eight years)
- secular leader because of separation of church and state

- has only a representational function on visits to foreign countries and as host to foreign leaders etc.
- inherits the office
- is in office for life
- is the Supreme Governor of the Church of England (the established church)

c) balance of power (C & B)

- three branches of government considered equal
- these branches are able to prevent any one branch from abusing power thanks to the system of checks and balances

c) balance of power (check)

- three branches of government, but the real power is largely concentrated in the hands of the Prime Minister, his Cabinet and his party's or coalition's MPs and there are fewer checks on his/her power

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG	US	UK
	<p>1. the legislative branch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> two chambers of Congress consisting of the Senate (two elected members for each state) and the House of Representatives (435 elected members, the number for each state corresponds to its population) <p>the rights and duties of Congress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> can pass, veto and ratify laws and treaties (C&B) can override the President's veto, but only with a two-thirds majority (C&B) can approve or refuse to approve the appointment of Supreme Court Justices and Cabinet members nominated by the President (C&B) 	<p>1. the legislative branch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> two Houses of Parliament, the House of Commons (650 elected MPs, one for each constituency) and the House of Lords (760 members appointed by the sovereign) <p>the rights and duties of Parliament:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The House of Commons debates and drafts bills, but these bills have to be approved by the House of Lords and also require Royal Assent before becoming Acts of Parliament. (check) The House of Lords can suggest but not enforce changes in bills from the House of Commons. If opposed to a bill, the House of Lords can delay it, but only for up to one year. (check)
	<p>2. the executive branch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the President signs or vetoes bills proposed by Congress (C&B) proposes his own laws, which then need Congressional approval (C&B) can be confronted with difficulties if there is an opposition majority in one or both chambers of Congress makes treaties with foreign countries nominates Supreme Court Justices, whose appointments have to be approved by Congress (C&B) 	<p>2. the executive branch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Prime Minister is Head of Government the Prime Minister is the leader of the winning party or the leader of a coalition with a smaller party never has to face having bills rejected by opposition parties is appointed by the Monarch and has to report regularly to the latter (check) appoints his/her Cabinet (20 senior ministers)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> nominates Cabinet: these 15 heads of executive departments need Congressional approval (C&B) the Cabinet also has one elected member (the Vice President) in cases of extreme malpractice or misconduct the President can be impeached by Congress and removed from office (C&B) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MPs and Lords from the Opposition form the Shadow Cabinet, which checks and questions the Cabinet's work (check), but, being in the minority, the Opposition has little or no influence on government decisions.
	<p>3. the judicial branch (the Supreme Court)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> nine Justices, not elected but appointed in office for life highest court of appeal safeguards the Constitution by ensuring that new Congressional or Presidential laws are constitutional (C&B) can declare executive actions unconstitutional (C&B) 	<p>3. the judicial branch (the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a wholly independent court of appeal, separated from the executive and legislative branches of the State highest court of appeal in the UK Judges appointed by the Monarch on the advice of the Prime Minister makes sure that legislation is lawfully enforced (check)
	<p>d) constitution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a written constitution ratified by Congress in 1790; since then several amendments, therefore not static 	<p>d) constitution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a largely unwritten constitution partly based on customs, traditions and precedents; not static

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG	US	UK
	<p>e) parties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • only two large parties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Democratic Party (more liberal) - the Republican Party (more conservative) • no coalitions because there are only two parties 	<p>e) parties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two large parties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Labour Party (left-of-centre) - the Conservative Party (right-of-centre) • two smaller parties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Liberal Democrats (middle-of-the-road) - the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP: right-wing, anti-European, populist) • coalitions more common in recent years
	<p>f) elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eligible to vote: citizens over 18 • first-past-the-post system • presidential elections every four years: president indirectly elected via the Electoral College, which, however, reflects the popular vote • Senate elections: one-third of the Senate elected directly every two years, so each senator has a six-year term • House of Representative election: all members directly elected every two years 	<p>f) elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eligible to vote: citizens over 18 • first-past-the-post system • House of Lords: no elections because members appointed by the monarch • House of Commons election: one candidate per constituency directly elected in general elections every five years