



EURÓPSKA ÚNIA

Európsky sociálny fond
Európsky fond
regionálneho rozvoja



OPERAČNÝ PROGRAM
ĽUDSKÉ ZDROJE



MINISTERSTVO
ŠKOLSTVA, VEDY,
VÝSKUMU A ŠPORTU
SLOVENSKEJ REPUBLIKY

LET'S SPEAK ENGLISH

Mgr. Anna Jágerská

Tento projekt sa realizuje vďaka podpore z Európskeho sociálneho fondu a Európskeho fondu regionálneho rozvoja v rámci Operačného programu Ľudské zdroje.“

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Political system of Great Britain

In the UK, the Prime Minister leads the government with the support of the Cabinet and ministers.

The UK is constitutional monarchy. This means that the official head of state is the monarch, but his or her powers are limited by the constitution. The British constitution is not written in any single document. Only some of these rules are written down in the form of ordinary laws passed by Parliament at various times.

Parliament is the supreme law-making body in the country. It consists of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. British parliamentary system is one of the oldest in the world, it developed slowly during the 13th century after King John's signature of Magna Charta in 1215.

The Commons has 650, elected and paid Members of Parliament. The Lords is made up of hereditary and life peers, two archbishops and 24 bishops of the Church of England.

THE PRIME MINISTER

- The [Prime Minister](#) is the leader of Her Majesty's Government and is ultimately responsible for all policy and decisions.
- The Prime Minister also:
- oversees the operation of the Civil Service and government agencies
- appoints members of the government
- is the principal government figure in the House of Commons



THE CABINET

The Cabinet is made up of the senior members of government. Every week during Parliament, members of the Cabinet (Secretaries of State from all departments and some other ministers) meet to discuss the most important issues for the government.



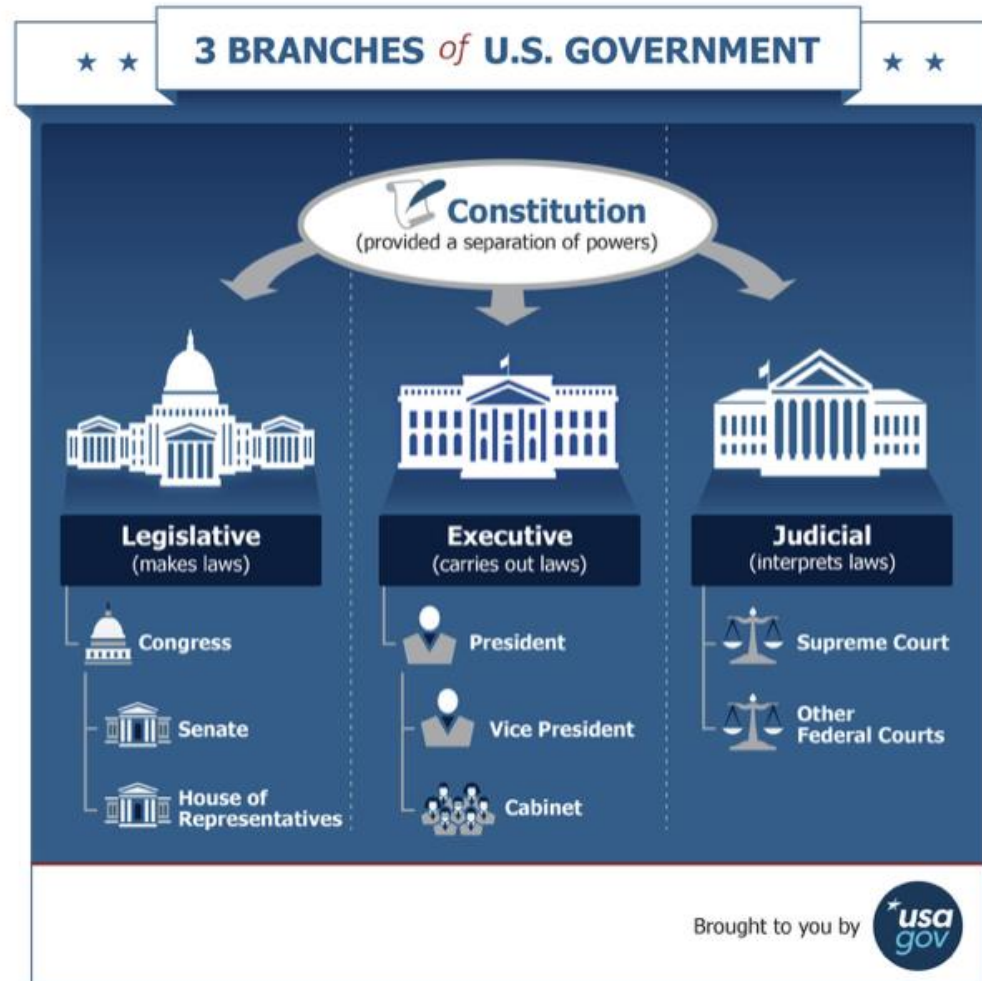
An introduction to Parliament



How the UK's Parliament Works



Political system in the US



- **The United States of America** are a sovereign, united and democratic state. Their Federal Government is divided into three branches – the legislative, represented by the Congress, the executive, represented mainly by the President and the Executive office, and the judicial, represented by courts at various levels.

How the U.S. Government Is Organized

The [Constitution of the United States](#) divides the federal government into three branches to make sure no individual or group will have too much power:

- Legislative—Makes laws (Congress, comprised of the House of Representatives and Senate)
- Executive—Carries out laws (president, vice president, Cabinet, most federal agencies)
- Judicial—Evaluates laws (Supreme Court and other courts)

Each branch of government can change acts of the other branches:

- The president can veto legislation created by Congress and nominates heads of federal agencies.
- Congress confirms or rejects the president's nominees and can remove the president from office in exceptional circumstances.
- The Justices of the Supreme Court, who can overturn unconstitutional laws, are nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate.

Legislative Branch of the U.S. Government

- The legislative branch [drafts proposed laws](#), confirms or rejects presidential nominations for heads of federal agencies, federal judges, and the Supreme Court, and has the authority to declare war. This branch includes Congress (the Senate and House of Representatives) and special agencies and offices that provide support services to Congress. American citizens have the right to vote for Senators and Representatives through free, confidential ballots.

Executive Branch of the U.S. Government

The [executive branch](#) carries out and enforces laws. It includes the president, vice president, the Cabinet, executive departments, independent agencies, and other boards, commissions, and committees.

American citizens have the right to vote for the president and vice president through free, confidential ballots.

Key roles of the executive branch include:

- [President](#)—The president leads the country. He or she is the head of state, leader of the federal government, and Commander in Chief of the United States armed forces. The president serves a four-year term and can be elected no more than two times.
- [Vice president](#)—The vice president supports the president. If the president is unable to serve, the vice president becomes president. The vice president can be elected and serve an unlimited number of four-year terms as vice president, even under a different president.
- [The Cabinet](#)—Cabinet members serve as advisors to the president. They include the vice president, heads of executive departments, and other high-ranking government officials. Cabinet members are nominated by the president and must be approved by a simple majority of the Senate—51 votes if all 100 Senators vote.

Judicial Branch of the U.S. Government

- The [judicial branch](#) interprets the meaning of laws, applies laws to individual cases, and decides if laws violate the Constitution. It is comprised of the Supreme Court and other federal courts.

Important politicians



John F. Kennedy



George Washington



Winston Churchill



Questions for discussion – work in groups, answer these questions about UK politics

- What are the main political parties in the UK?
- What are the two Houses of Parliament?
- Who is the current Prime Minister of the UK?
- Who are the leaders of the opposition?
- What does MP stand for?
- How many MPs are there in the UK?
- How often are there elections for parliament?
- What is the Palace of Westminster?
- When did women get the vote?
- Where does the Prime Minister live?
- What's the name of the clock tower in Westminster Palace?
- Can you name one of the more radical parties in the UK?
- Can you name a famous Prime Minister from the past?

Questions for discussion – work in groups, answer these questions about US politics

- What are the main political parties in the USA?
- What are the two Houses of Congress?
- Who is the current President of the USA?
- How many Representatives/Senators are there?
- How often are there elections for President/Representatives/Senators?
- Where is the American government located?
- Where does the president live?
- When did women get the vote?
- How many former US presidents can you name?

Role plays

Manifestos

In groups, prepare a short policy statement for your political party – e.g. If you vote for us, we will.....

Debate

Here is a motion for a debate: There is nothing wrong with stealing from the rich to give to the poor.

Work in two groups: those for the motion and those against.

1. Group A, present your arguments for the motion
Group B, present your arguments against the motion.
2. Group A, support your arguments and criticise Group's arguments.
Group B, support your arguments and criticise Group's arguments.
3. Group A, sum up.
Group B, sum up.

Martin Luther King



I have a dream



I have a dream – text

- <http://www.let.rug.nl/usa/documents/1951-/martin-luther-kings-i-have-a-dream-speech-august-28-1963.php>



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