A Level History

A transition guide for Year 11 students

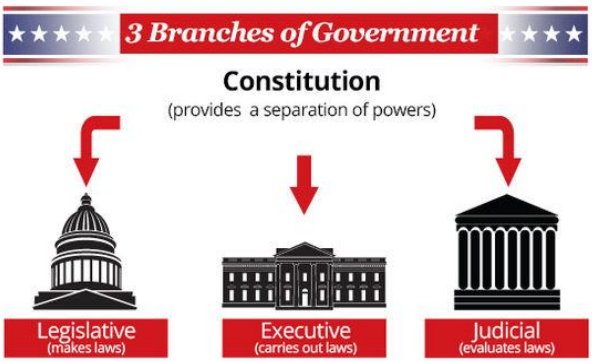
AQA

A-level Preparation task: Year 12 History at QMGS

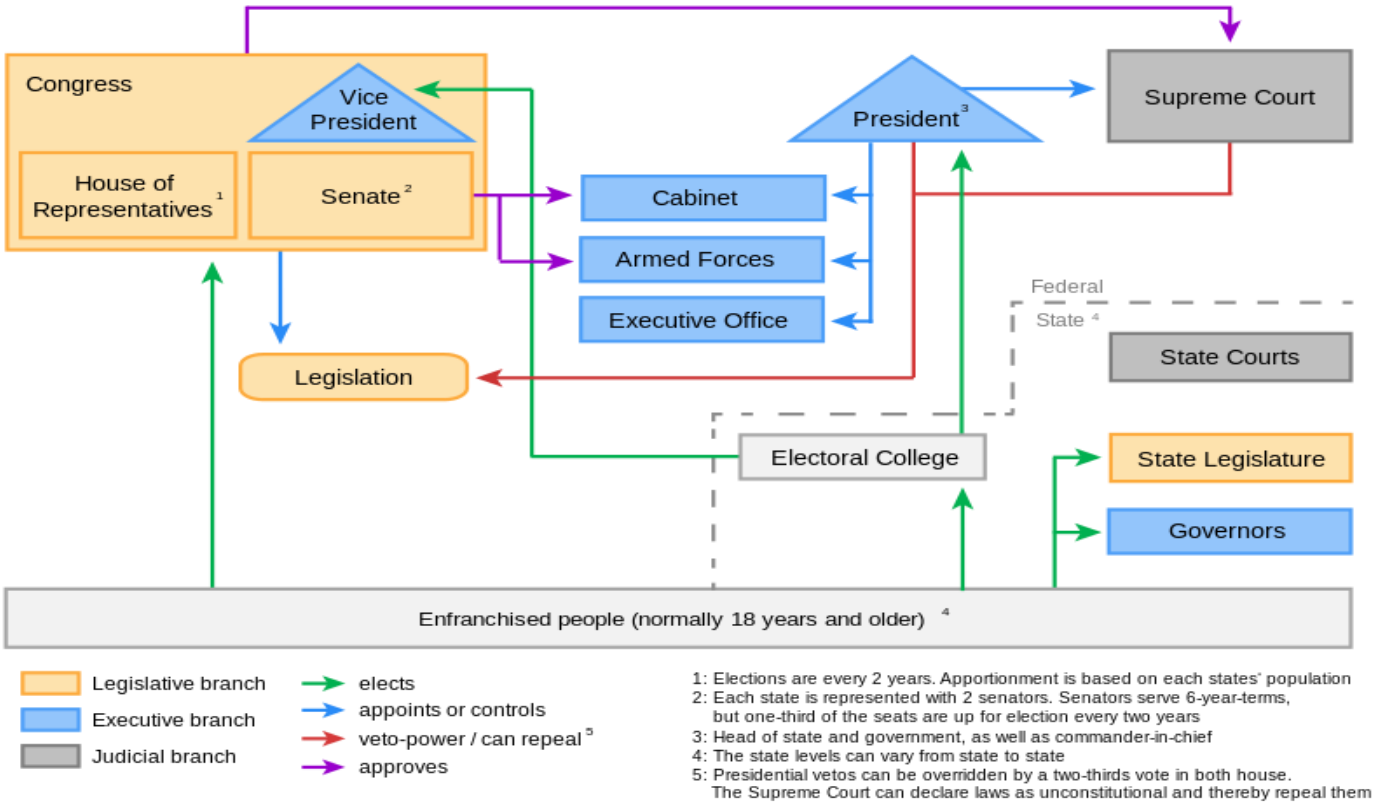
Purpose

The purpose of this task to get you thinking about your new A-Level history course straight away so that you can begin learning before you reach your first lesson. A-Level history is made of three components: (i) NEA or coursework (ii) American history (1865-1975) and (iii) modern British history. Below are diagrams showing you both the US and UK political systems- how the two countries are governed. Study these two systems, carry out your own additional research and complete the tasks below.

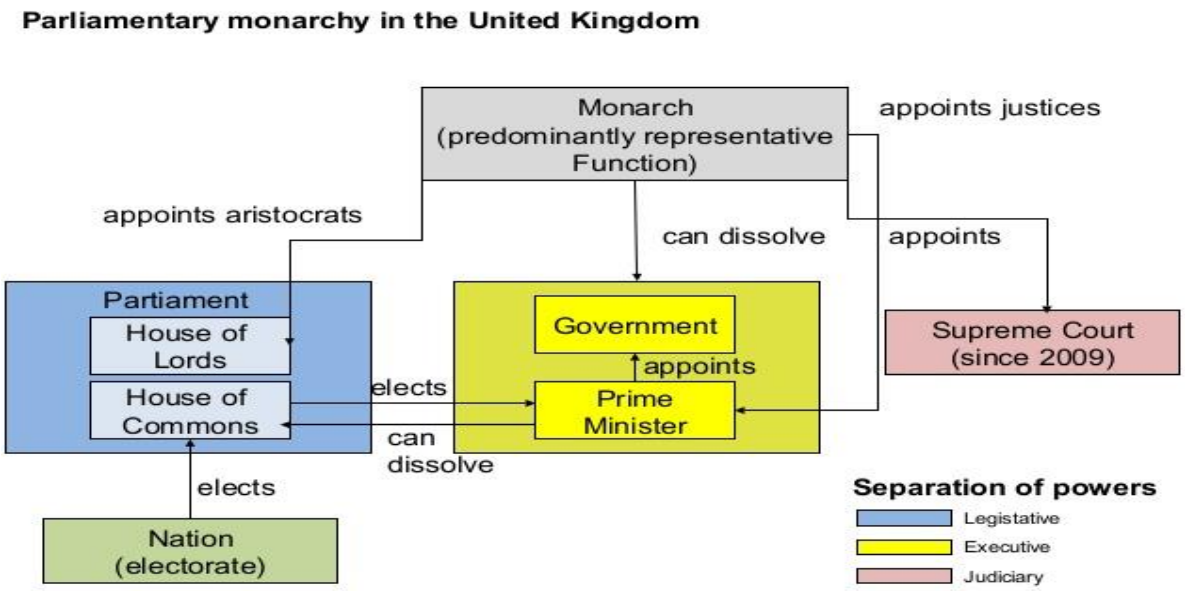
US Political system (simple version)



US Political system (more complex version)



UK Political system



Task 1: research & write a definition of these terms.

Relevant to both political systems	
Executive: Legislature: Judiciary: Separation of powers:	
For the USA 1. Congress: a. House of Representatives: b. The Senate: 2. The Supreme Court: 3. The President: a. Presidential Executive Order: 4. Mid-Term elections: 5. Federal government 6. State government:	***For the UK*** 1. Parliament: a. The House of Commons: b. The House of Lords: 2. Prime Minister: 3. The Cabinet: 4. The Leader of the Opposition: 5. The Shadow Cabinet: 6. White Paper: 7. Parliamentary bill: 8. First Past the Post:

Task 2: Answer this question by writing just one structured paragraph. Make sure you refer to both systems and support with precise argument and factual detail to support.

Which political system provides better governance: that of the USA or that of the UK?

Task 3: (optional) – below are some of the themes will be studying in both US and British history. Choose a theme and research it independently (in relation to the USA, the UK or both; just ensure you broadly stick to the time periods we are studying!). Create your own informative poster or presentation on the topic.

Note: this task is entirely optional but is a good opportunity to push yourself as an independent learner before your course begins. For those who choose to do it, there will be prizes for the best work at the start of the year.

Themes: **racial discrimination and the fight for racial equality; the rights and freedoms of women; poverty, welfare and social inequality; protest and the decline of deference; power on the world stage; the changing fortunes of political parties.**