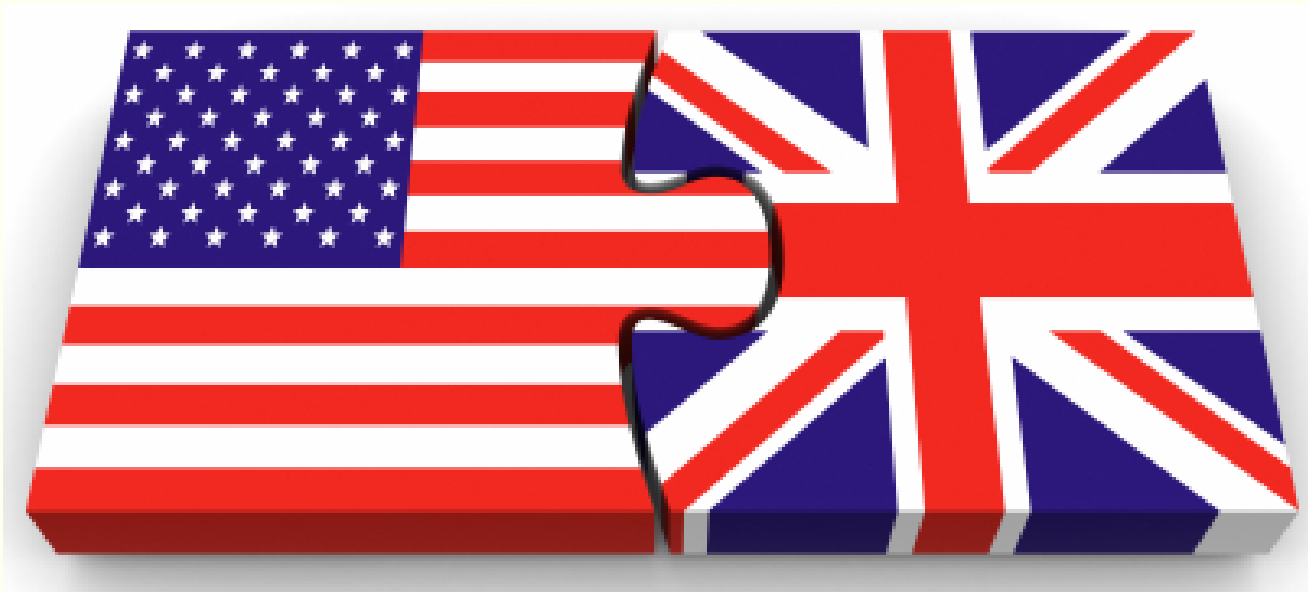


In regards to power and authority, the President of the United States is far more limited in his position than the Prime Minister of the UK.

Do you agree or disagree with the above statement? Why?



Political Systems



20 mark Essays



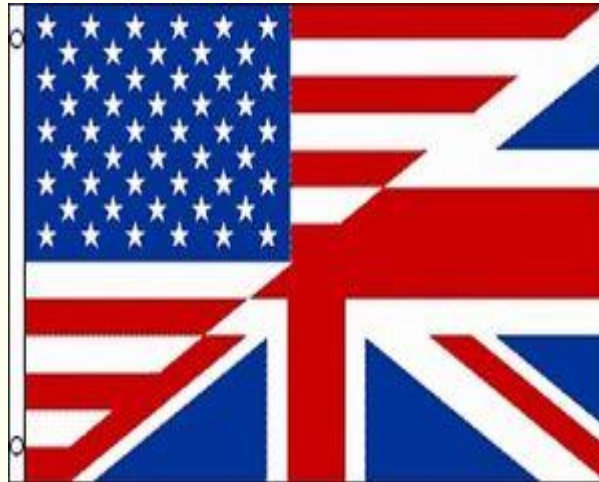
What you will learn...

- **Identify** the appropriate structure of a 20 mark Higher Politics essay



Success Criteria - I can...

- **Structure** a 20 mark essay successfully



20 mark Responses

Discuss... or To what extent...

Component	Marks
Knowledge: <i>description, explanation, example</i>	8
Analysis <i>It can be argued that...</i> <i>It is clear that...</i> <i>However...</i>	6
Conclusion <i>Therefore...</i> <i>Overall...</i>	4
Structure	2

	1 mark	2 marks	3 marks	4 marks	5 marks	6 marks
Knowledge and understanding scope Award up to 5 marks	One aspect with some description	Two aspects, each with some description OR One aspect with detailed description	Three aspects, each with some description OR Two aspects with detailed description	Four relevant aspects covered, each with some description OR Three aspects with detailed descriptions	Four aspects with detailed descriptions	
Knowledge and understanding development Award up to 5 marks A total of 8 marks overall awarded for knowledge and understanding	One aspect is developed with some explanations and/or exemplification	Two aspects are developed, each with some explanation and/or exemplification OR One aspect is developed with detailed explanation and/or exemplification	Three aspects are developed, with some explanation and/or exemplification OR Two aspects developed, one with detailed explanation and/or exemplification	Three or more aspects are developed, with extended explanation and relevant exemplification	Three or more aspects are developed, with extended and accurate explanations and development of points (showing where relevant a high level of theoretical/ conceptual understanding) with relevant exemplification	
Analysis* Award up to 6 marks	<p>1 mark will be awarded for each analytical statement which analyses the aspects in terms of the question.</p> <p>Award up to a maximum of 2 marks for an analytical statement with supporting justification or evidence.</p> <p>A maximum of 4 marks can be awarded for comments which address different aspects of an individual aspect.</p>					

	1 mark	2 marks	3 marks	4 marks	5 marks	6 marks
Structure Award up to 2 marks	Clear structure that addresses the issue identified in the question	Structure that clarifies the issue, presents evidence and develops a clear and consistent line of argument				
Conclusions Award up to 4 marks	A straightforward conclusion that deals with the central issue in the question	A straightforward conclusion that deals with and evaluates the central issue in the question	A developed conclusion that directly addresses and provides an evaluation of the key issue in the question	A developed and well-argued conclusion with justifications that directly address and evaluate the key issue in the question		

(b)

The Executive has few limits on its powers.

Discuss with reference to two political systems you have studied.

20

2015 H Politics Paper

Essay Plan

- **Intro - highlight background and factors to be discussed**
- **Par 1**
- **Par 2**
- **Par 3**
- **Par 4**
- **Conclusion**

Paragraph Structure

- T

Topic Sentence

- K + E

Knowledge + Example
(Prime Minister)

- K + E

Knowledge + Example
(President)

- A

Analysis

The Executive has few limits on its power.

Discuss with reference to two political systems you have studied.
20 marks

Marking scheme suggests:

- Constitutional limits on power of Executive
- **Checks by the Legislature**
- **Position in relation to Cabinet**
- Limits on role as commander-in-chief/control of the armed services
- **Term limits**
- **Removal of Executive by Vote of No Confidence or Impeachment**

Intro - Structure marks available

Background & Factors you will discuss.

The roles of the Prime Minister of the UK and the President of the USA are often compared in regards to the power each position wields (*Background*). Both positions are limited in regards to the actions they can carry out although it is clear that in some areas, there is contrast between the limitations placed on the executive branch of government. For example...

(*Factors*).

Para 1 - Checks by the Legislature

In the UK, the Executive branch and the Legislative branches overlap whereas in the USA the two branches are entirely separate. This creates a distinct difference between the ability of the President and P.M to wield power and the limitations placed upon them. (topic sentence)

In the UK the Prime Minister leads the largest party and the whip system usually ensures that the Government can pass its legislative programme. For example, Tony Blair as Prime Minister had majorities in three different parliaments. Like all prime ministers, he used both the parliamentary whips and the loyalty of backbench MPs to have his key policies passed in parliament. In his first two terms Tony Blair suffered no parliamentary defeats, but in his third term he was defeated in parliament on a number of issues after rebellions by backbench Labour MPs. (K- description & example UK)

In the US however, Congress is elected separately from the President and is often controlled by a different political party than that of the President and in this circumstance the President may be unable to have his preferred legislation passed. Party loyalty is not as strong in the US than it is in the UK. For example, Congress blocked President Obama's request for immigration reform and he also found it very difficult to have his health care bill passed by Congress. (K - description & example USA)

As such, it is clear that UK prime ministers have fewer restrictions on their powers than American presidents and will usually be able to pass their legislative programmes as long as they have a majority in parliament. This can also be attributed to the fact that in the USA far more checks and balances are built directly into the political system due to the total separation of the branches and therefore Presidents can not always rely on party support or unity in order to push forward their legislative agenda. President Obama frequently failed to pursue his legislative agenda due to the partisan and often hostile nature of the Republican dominated Congress during his final term in office. (2 x Analysis - direct link to the actual question; clearly explained and with further (SHORT) example to provide clarity.

Par 2 - Position in relation to the Cabinet

PM - first among equals but can be ousted by his own Cabinet members
Pres - Cabinet is hired and fired (with some restrictions) by the President. President has overall control.

Par 3 - Term Limits

PM - No official limits on PM's term. They can hold the position for as long as they are the leader of their party. Long tenure Thatcher, Blair etc whereas short tenure - Brown, May.
President - limited officially by the constitution. Cannot continue beyond this. Pros and Cons - don't usually outlive their welcome?

Par 4 - Removal from office

PM - Vote of No Confidence; can be called easily although doesn't happen very often etc
Pres - Impeachment process v. difficult to initiate, hardly every happens etc

Conclusion - 4 marks available/

Structure marks

Address the overall issue of the essay, providing an obvious judgement, based on the aspects you have discussed.

In conclusion, (which system has greater or more limitations? - be CLEAR in your judgement!)

In the UK, (sum up briefly points on Prime Minister).

On the other hand, the constitution of the USA is... (sum up briefly points US President).

Overall, it is clear that due to the differences in... that the ... is far more limited.