

Good day, Welcome to my presentation on features of the UK Constitution.

In this presentation you will learn about the features of the British Constitution and you will be able to describe the key features of the British Constitution. At the end of my presentation you will be able to identify the key features of UK Constitution and describe the features of the UK Constitution.

The key features of the UK Constitution are

UK Constitution is partly written partly unwritten.

It is evolutionary.

Parliamentary sovereignty

Difference between theory and practice

UK has a flexible constitution.

A unitary constitution.

It has a parliamentary form of government.

It has a rule of law,

A blend of monarchy, aristocracy and democracy.

The British Constitution is partly written and partly unwritten. The British Constitution to a large extent is of an unwritten nature. There is no such thing as written precise and a compact document which may be called as a British constitution. Well, that does not mean none of the features of British constitutions were written down. There are several written parts to the British Constitution. The written parts are the Magna Carter. The reforms act. The Bill of Rights. The Parliamentary Act of 1911 and many other acts of the British Parliament. However, unwritten, means that written part is lesser than the unwritten and the written part which is available was not written at one time.

British constitution is evolutionary. The British Constitution is an example, and a specimen of evolutionary development. It is a product of gradual growth and development. It has unbroken continuity of development over a period of more than 1000 years. This constitution has evolved itself through various charters, statutes, precedents, usages and traditions.

Parliamentary sovereignty, which means the central government in UK is supreme. That is, the Parliament is supreme. What it means is that the Parliament can make any law unmake any law or repeal any kind of law. And no court can question the validity of this law passed by the British Parliament on the ground that it violates the Constitution. UK has no judicial review and no authority can declare that laws made by the Parliament as ultra-virus or null and void on the ground that they violate the British Constitution .

There is a vast gap between theory and practice. In theory the government in UK is absolute monarchy in practice the powers of Monarch are restricted so it's a limited constitutional monarchy and in reality it's a Democratic Republic. Although you have the head of the State as the monarch, the government in UK in theory is an absolute monarchy, in reality a limited constitutional monarchy and a Democratic Republic

It is a flexible constitution. The British Constitution is a classic example of flexible constitution. A constitution is flexible when it can be amended easily. The British Constitution can be passed, amended,

and repealed by a simple majority in the Parliament that is 50% of members that are present and voting of the Parliament. The reason is since there is no distinction made between a constitutional law and an ordinary law, the power to make or amend constitutional law is vested in Parliament and no special procedure is required to amend the Constitution. And this flexibility is a great advantage to the Constitution as it permits it to be adapted more readily to the new circumstances or new condition. That is not possible in any federal country, what it means, it is difficult to change the Constitution in a federal country.

It has a unitary government. The entire government of the Britain is vested in the central government at London. That's why you say the British Parliament is supreme. All the powers of the British government are vested in the British Parliament, which is a sovereign body which can make any law or can unmake any law. The local areas as we call them as States in India or the administrative units as they exist in Britain, they derive all their powers from the Acts of Parliament and these powers may be enlarged or they may be restricted at the will of the Parliament, which means that the local areas or the States have only those powers which are delegated to them by the British Parliament. Parliament is constitutionally supreme and local governments in Britain are only agents of the central government.

Britain has a parliamentary form of government. Which is very distinct from presidential type of government, which is followed in USA . Under parliamentary form of government you have a nominal head and the real head . The King is the nominal head of the state and the real functionaries are the ministers who are headed by the Prime Minister and they all belong to the majority party in the Parliament ,that is in the House of Commons. And the ministers are both executive heads and Members of Parliament. As ministers they are part of the executive and also members of Parliament. So you see, in a parliamentary form of government there is a fusion of executive powers and legislative powers.

Rule of law- rule of law is based on common law of the land. And this is the product of centuries of the struggle of the British people for the recognition of the inherent rights and privileges in simple terms, Rule of law means all are equal in the eyes of law. It has three implications.

One, all persons are equal before law, irrespective of the position or rank.

2nd, Law is supreme and not any individual, no one can be detained or imprisoned in UK without a fair trial by a competent court.

UK has a blend of monarchy, aristocracy and democracy. British Constitution has a unique mixture of monarchy, aristocracy and democracy . The British king represents the monarchy. Monarchy rests on the principle of hereditary. That is, there are no elections. The House of Lords represents the nobles while the House of Commons is a democracy representing the people of UK. That is, people vote for the members of the House of Commons.

For further reading and to understand better, you can refer to this books.

Thank you.