

PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

Parliament is the lawmaking body of the United Kingdom. It is composed of the **House of Lords** and the **House of Commons**. The monarch is considered a part of Parliament too.

In the past, a seat in the House of Lords was passed down through aristocratic families. Today, Lords are elected by the House or are appointed to office by the monarch. The House of Lords has little power. Instead, it can make suggestions of ways to improve a bill that is on its way to becoming a law.

The citizens of the United Kingdom elect the members of the House of Commons in a general election. There are 646 members: 529 from England, 40 from Wales, 59 from Scotland, and 18 from Northern Ireland. The power in the House of Commons comes from its control of the budget.

After the election, the leader of the political party with the most members in the House of Commons is asked by the queen to become prime minister. The prime minister is the head of the government, or chief executive, and runs the government on a day-to-day basis. The prime minister has the most political power.

The monarch is the official head of the state. The monarch is a symbol of the country. The monarch is sometimes referred to as "the crown." The monarch's duties are mostly ceremonial. The monarch's role is restricted by the constitution of the United Kingdom.

Citizens in the United Kingdom have personal freedoms like those in the United States. All citizens are treated equally and have the right to worship as they choose. British citizens have freedom of speech, the right to a fair trial, the right to own property, and the right to security.

Monday, March 27th, 2017:

1. Which representative body of the Parliament has the most power?

a. Monarch

c. House of Lords

b. Prime Minister

d. House of Commons

2. The queen (monarch) is head of _____, and the prime minister is head of _____.

FEDERAL SYSTEM OF GERMANY

The German parliament is made up of two houses: the **Bundestag** and the **Bundesrat**. The most powerful of the two is the lower house, called the Bundestag. The citizens of each German state elect its members. The Bundestag also selects the chancellor. The chancellor is the chief executive of the German government and head of the military. The president is the head of state. The president's role is mostly ceremonial and symbolic.

The Bundesrat, the lower house of parliament, represents the interests of the state governments. Each state government selects representatives for the Bundesrat. The sixteen states each have differing numbers of representatives, depending on their population. The Bundesrat is mainly concerned with law that affects the states, such as education and local government issues.

The constitution of Germany is called the Basic Law. Germany is a representative democracy and operates under the federal system. Power is divided between member states and the central government. Citizens have freedom of religion and expression. All are viewed as equal before the law. Germans have the same basic freedoms as citizens of the United Kingdom. They have equality, freedom of the press, and protection of the family. The Basic Law also states that Germany is a welfare state. This means that the government guarantees people certain benefits when they are unemployed, poor, disabled, old, or sick.

Tuesday, March 28th, 2017:

3. The **United Kingdom** is to **House of Commons** as **Germany** is to _____?

- a. Basic law
- b. Bundestrat
- c. Bundestag
- d. Parliament

4. In the German welfare state, who receives guaranteed benefits?

- a. college students
- b. unemployed citizens
- c. government workers
- d. Bundestag representatives

FEDERATION SYSTEM OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The Russian Federation is governed under a constitution. The head of state is the president, who is elected by the people. The president elects the prime minister. The president can also disband the legislature, or Federal Assembly. The Federal Assembly is divided into two parts: the **Federation Council** and the **State Duma**.

The Federation Council has two representatives from each of the states. The states appoint the council's members; they are not elected directly by the people. So, the Council represents the government of the states. One of the Council's important duties is to approve the president's choices of people to fill different government jobs.

The State Duma is larger than the Council. It has 450 members, who are elected by the people. This group controls the budget and makes the laws. They approve the presidents' choice for prime minister. The day-to-day running of the government is split between the prime minister and the president of Russia.

Russia's constitution guarantees human and civil rights for its citizens. All people are equal in the eyes of the law. Russians have the right to life and dignity, freedom of speech, and the right to privacy.

Wednesday, March 29th, 2017

5. In the Russian Federation, which office do the people elect?

- a. Federation Council
- b. President
- c. Prime Minister
- d. Public Chamber

6. How is the Russian prime minister selected?

- a. by vote of the citizens
- b. by a vote of the State Duma
- c. by appointment of the Federal Assembly
- d. by appointment of the president with approval of the Duma

Thursday, March 30th, 2017:

- The lawmaking bodies are divided into two houses.
- All have some part of their lawmaking body elected by the people.
- Each divides the jobs of head of state and head of government (chief executive).

7. Which statement BEST explains what these sentences are about?

- a. They describe the governments of ALL European countries.
- b. They tell how the countries of Europe choose their leaders.
- c. They explain how the EU countries must set up their parliaments.
- d. They are ways that governments of Germany, Russia, and United Kingdom are alike.

8. Which BEST describes the rights of the citizens in Germany, Russia and the United Kingdom?

- a. They are very similar.
- b. They are nothing alike.
- c. They only include religious freedoms.
- d. They make no mention of human rights.

Friday, March 31st, 2017:

	<u>Government System:</u>	<u>Leadership:</u>	<u>Legislature:</u>	<u>Freedoms:</u>
<u>United Kingdom</u>				
<u>Germany</u>				
<u>Russia</u>				