

Candidate 7

	Section 2	
3(a)	The UK and US have very different constitutions and systems of government.	
	Firstly, the US has a codified constitution. This document written document details all US citizens' rights in society and details the Presidential System. Since established establishment in 1788, only 27 amendments have been made. The codified constitution allows for easy understanding of rights. This is very different in the UK. The UK's constitution is uncodified, with the	

fundamental rules and principles underlying UK society ~~but~~ being scattered among a variety of sources. Statute law is legislation that must be passed through Parliament to become law. Common law arises from legal judgements - such as precedents - which have been passed down through centuries by the judiciary. Therefore it is clear that there is a clear difference between UK and US constitutions.

Additionally, the US constitution is based on 3 main principles: Separation of Powers, Checks and Balances and federalism. Separation of Powers is a theory of government whereby power is ~~shared~~ ^{divided} into three branches of government - Legislature, Executive and Judiciary - acting both independently and interdependently.

Checks and Balances is the ways in which each government branch can hold one another to account. For example, the President has the power to veto legislation passed by Congress. ~~that is~~ However, in the UK, Parliamentary Supremacy is the main principle.

Parliament is the supreme ~~branch~~ branch of government and has the power to introduce, change or repeal Acts of Parliament and laws. ~~However~~ Generally, courts cannot overrule this legislation, but future governments have the power to change or repeal previous laws due to the uncodified constitution.

Moreover, the flexibility of the US and UK constitutions ~~is~~ is very different. Due to ~~the~~ the UK constitution being uncodified,

it can - in theory - be easily changed.

Some view this as a disadvantage because rights are not completely safeguarded and hard-won civil rights can be

abolished overnight by a political party who temporarily wins power. Others

view the capacity to change as a ~~good~~ benefit because the UK constitution can adapt to changing circumstances

and so is less likely to have outdated rules and obligations. This is a stark contrast in America. ~~But~~ The

constitution in USA is very hard to adapt and is very inflexible. Lengthy,

rigid procedures must be followed before any constitutional changes can be made.

On one hand, this is an advantage

because rights are more protected, but

this may result in parts of the US

constitution becoming outdated. For example, the US constitution mentions slavery, which is now not ~~relevant~~ relevant in modern US society. This proves that there are clear differences ~~is~~ between the constitutions of the US and UK.

Furthermore, rights are different in the UK and US constitutions. Rights ~~are~~ ^{were} not fully guaranteed in the UK constitution, but the ~~introduction~~ Human Rights Act 1998 was introduced by the Labour government of the ~~p~~ time to try to safeguard citizens' rights. However, because the constitution is uncodified, rights are not guaranteed and a future government can repeal this Act - like the current Conservative government would

like to do. However, in America rights	
are fully guaranteed as detailed in	
the Bill of Rights - the collective name	
for the first ten amendments. This	
enables Americans to be educated on	
their rights and they are very hard	
to change. This is more effective than	
the UK's constitution because US rights	
are more protected.	
Finally, supremacy is very different in	
the UK and US. In the UK, Parliament	
is supreme over all other branches of	
government. Parliament supremacy puts	
causes all legislation to be put through	
Parliament before gaining approval to	
become law. For example, the European	
Union Act 2011 reinforced the fact that	
power and alignment was very much in	

the UK Parliament's hands. However, the Constitution is supreme in America. This is stated in Article Six, Clause 2 of the constitution and details that all state judges must abide by federal law when a conflict arises between federal law and either a state law or constitution. This therefore shows that there are differences in the status of the US and UK's constitutions.

Overall, it is clear that the UK and US have key differences in their constitutions, with the status and nature of the two differing greatly.