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Salient Features of British Constitution

1) Executive & Legislative Separation - Executive and legislative functions are separated. The executive is headed by the monarch, while the legislature consists of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. This separation ensures a check and balance between the two branches.

The monarch is the head of state, but their powers are mostly ceremonial. The real executive power is exercised by the Prime Minister and the Cabinet. The House of Commons is elected by the people, while the House of Lords is appointed. This system is known as 'responsible government'.

2) Parliamentary System - The executive is drawn from the legislature. The Prime Minister and the Cabinet are members of the House of Commons. This system ensures that the executive is accountable to the legislature. Key historical documents include the Magna Carta (1215), the Bill of Rights (1689), and the Parliament Act (1911 & 1949). The House of Commons has the power to pass laws, while the House of Lords can only delay them.

3) Common Law (Legal System) - The legal system is based on common law, which is developed through judicial decisions. The courts are independent of the executive and legislature. This system ensures that the law is applied consistently and fairly. The courts have the power to review the actions of the government and to protect the rights of citizens.





