**The Features of the UK Constitution**

1. Define sovereignty

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1. Define parliamentary sovereignty

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1. What are the two pillars of the UK constitution?

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1. Define the rule of law

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1. Explain how the UK has a fusion of powers

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1. What is the difference between a federal and unitary constitution

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1. Why does the UK have a ‘quasi federal’ constitution?

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1. What are the four principles of the UK’s Constitution? Define each one

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1. Why is the UK constitution non justiciable?

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1. Define ‘elective dictatorship’

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1. Why does an ‘elective dictatorship’ occur in the UK?

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1. What is meant by executive sovereignty

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1. Give 3 reasons for codifying the UK Constitution. ( Three reasons it is not fit for purpose)

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1. Give three reasons for not codifying the Constitution

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1. Give one examples of the advantage and disadvantage of flexibility in the UK Constitution

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1. Write down the five sources of the UK constitution

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1. Explain why having a Constitutional Supreme Court as in the US can be considered undemocratic. Clue ( Accountability)

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1. Give 4 examples of how rights are protected in the UK

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1. What is meant by a separation of powers

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1. What is one advantage and one disadvantage of a separation of powers

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| 1. Why could you argue that neither a codified or uncodified constitution protects rights. Think (Good Chap Theory)  |  | | --- | |  | |  | |  | |  | |

1. Where does sovereignty lie in the UK (theoretically) and where does it lie in the USA

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| 1. Give an example of lack of clarity in the US Constitution |

**House of Lords**

1. How did the House of Lords Reform Act change how Lords were appointed. Refer to hereditary peers and the new appointment process

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1. Define cronyism with examples in relation to the appointment of life peers

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1. What is a crossbencher?

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1. Why is the main function of the HL

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1. Why does the Lords lack legitimacy

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1. What limits are there on the powers of the House of Lords

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1. What would be the key advantages of an elected House of Lords in terms of representation and its ability to challenge the executive

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1. What problems may arise if the Lords was elected. Consider its relationship with the Commons, its powers, electoral systems and electoral terms

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1. Explain why the executive is less able to control the Lords. Think patronage powers, majorities in the Lords, crossbenchers

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1. Other than electing the Lords how might you address its bloated size?

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1. Why does an ‘elective dictatorship’ occur in the UK?

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1. Peers do not have constituencies so have a limited representative function. However, the Lords can address representational deficits. What does this mean?

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1. Give 3 reasons for codifying the UK Constitution. ( Three reasons it is not fit for purpose)

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1. Why do the Lords have more time to scrutinise government policy

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1. Why might the Lords be more willing to challenge coalition governments and those with slim majority

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**HRA and Constitutional Reform Act**

1. What did the HRA 1998 incorporate into British Law

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1. What is the difference between negative and positive rights

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1. What is judicial review?

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1. What power does the Supreme Court have over a/ the executive and b/parliament

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1. Why do some Conservatives believe the HRA has been a failure

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1. Why do Liberty regard the HRA as a failure

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1. Outline the following cases. Belmarsh, Abu Qatada, A v Zimbawe, Shamima Begum, Miller 1 and Miller 2, Unison, Rwanda case. What did the Court decide?

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1. Why might you argue the current arrangements with the HRA are ‘about right’. That the Uk should neither adopt a British Bill of Rights ( Conservative) or an entrenched Bill of Rights

( Liberty)

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**Constitutional Reform Act 2005**

1. What three key issued did the Constitutional Reform Act address

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1. Why might you argue that the independence of the Court was improved

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1. What evidence is there that the Reed Court has become more timid. Why might this be the case

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**Devolution**

1. Give three reasons why devolution was granted to Scotland in 1997.

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1. Why was Wales granted devolution?

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1. Why was NI given devolution?

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1. Why is the main function of the HL

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1. Explain how devolution addressed the legitimacy deficit in Scotland and Wales

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1. Explain why it addressed the legitimacy deficit in NI

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1. What is meant by asymmetric devolution

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1. What is the West Lothian question?

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1. What was EVEL and why did Johnson abandon it?

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1. Give two examples of devolution in England.

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1. What additional powers were given to Scotland in 2016?

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1. Why were they given these powers?

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1. Give 2 reasons why have the devolved nations better levels of representation than England?

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1. Why have electoral systems used in each of the devolved nations improved democratic representation? Give examples in Scotland and NI of parties that have benefitted under the new electoral systems. The answer is NOT the SNP in Scotland

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1. Give an example of regional sensitive decisions made in Scotland and Wales

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1. What have been the turnout levels in Scottish and Wels elections. Give examples since 2011

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1. What conclusions can be drawn about the legitimacy of those governments?

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1. Give a counter argument to your answer to 16

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1. How did Brexit complicate devolution in Scotland?

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1. How did Brexit complicate devolution in NI?

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1. Why was the current NI assembly remain suspended

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1. What is the most compelling reason for devolution being a success

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1. Give two reasons why it may be considered a failure?

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1. How has the recent general election in changed the narrative on the success of devolution in Scotland

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1. Why is the Barnett Formula controversial?

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**Referendums**

1. Define referendum

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1. Why was the referendum in Scotland held in 1997

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1. What have been the benefits of Scottish devolution?

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1. What is the ‘West Lothian’ question and EVEL

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1. Why might you argue the referendum on Scottish devolution has not been successful?

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1. Why was there a referendum on Scottish independence in 2014

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1. What problems did the vote reveal about referendums?

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1. Why can both the AV referendum and the referendum on Welsh devolution be regarded as giving weak legitimacy to the government decisions that followed. Be specific about result and turnout

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1. Why can referendums lead to misinformation. Use Brexit 2016 as an example?

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1. What were the advantages of having a vote on EU membership in 2016

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1. Why did Cameron hold the vote on EU membership in 2016 and why does this reveal a weakness in holding referendums?

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1. Why was a referendum ‘necessary’ on the Good Friday Agreement 1998

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1. How can the referendum on the Good Friday Agreement be considered a success

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1. Give three reasons for not codifying the Constitution

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1. Why has the referendum on Brexit in 2016 led to difficulties in Scotland

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1. Why has the referendum on Brexit in 2016 led to difficulties in Northern Ireland

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1. Why has there not been a referendum on English devolution

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1. Overall what are the strengths of referendums

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1. Overall what are the weaknesses of referendums

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