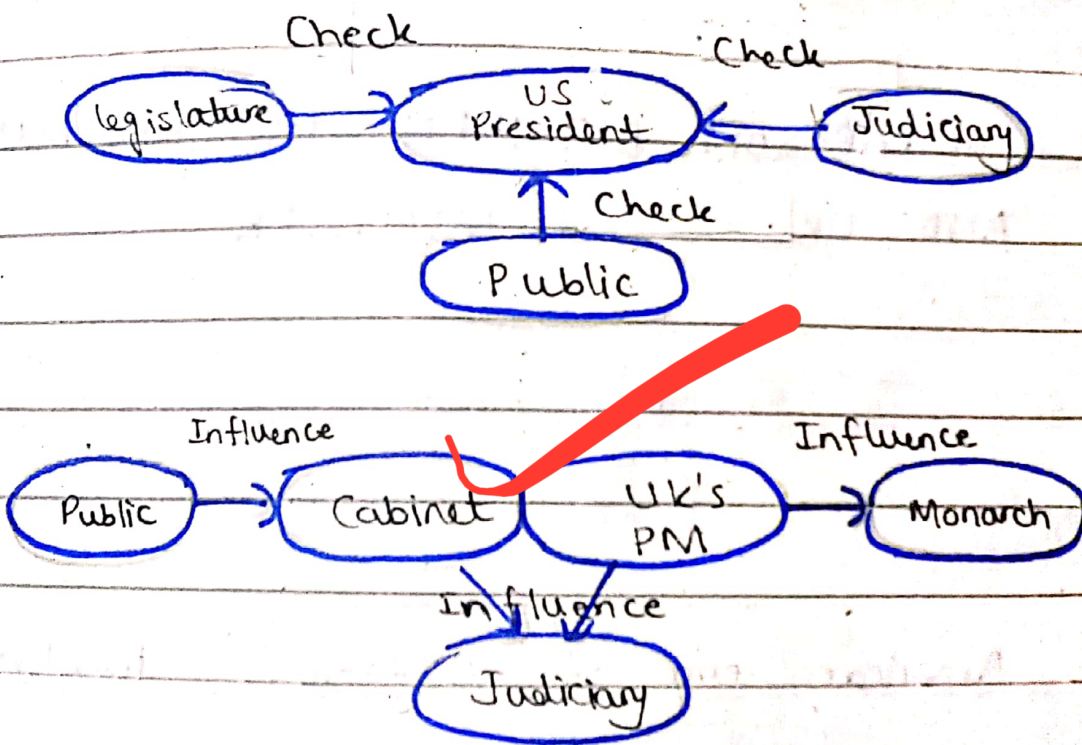


Q5. To what extent is it true that the President of the United States is more powerful than the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (UK)? Justify your answer with comparative analysis. (CSS-2017)

Ans. I-INTRODUCTION: THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE US PRESIDENT IS MORE POWERFUL THAN THE UK'S PRIME MINISTER



US presidential system has a powerful President and UK's parliamentary system has a powerful Prime Minister. The US President enjoys extensive executive,

legislative, financial, and judicial powers, but the system of checks and balances limits the President's autocratic tendencies ~~over~~ ^{of} his powers. Similarly, the UK's Prime Minister (executive) being fused with legislative organ in the "Cabinet Dictatorship" of the UK also enjoys extensive powers. However, unlike the US President, the UK's Prime Minister has no strict checks and balances over him/her.

II - COMPARISON BETWEEN US PRESIDENT AND UK'S PRIME MINISTER

The following points show ~~that~~ the strength of US President over UK's Prime Minister:

American President	British Prime Minister
Term of Office	
1. The term of office of US President is constitutionally secure. He cannot be removed before the expiry of a period of 4 years.	The term of office of PM is dependent upon the lower House. He continues in office as long as he enjoys

unless impeached earlier by the Congress. the support of the majority in the House.

Example: It is due to secure term of office that no US President has been impeached yet. Example: In the recent times, no UK's PM has been impeached due to his support of the Cabinet.

Election

- a. President is elected through electoral college. Thus, he enjoys direct support of public. The PM is elected by a vote of successful members of the general election. He is appointed by the President.

Constitutional Status

3. The US President is both the Head of the State and Head of the Government. The British PM is only Head of the Government.

Example: In the US, all executive actions are taken in the name of Joe Biden and he also steers the wheel of Example: Prime Minister Rishi Sunak ^{only} steers the wheel of the government in UK.

government.

Relation and Responsibility to legislature

4. The American President is neither part of nor answerable to legislature. The UK's PM is both part of and answerable to legislature. Thus, he is independent.

Relation with Cabinet (except VP)

5. The Cabinet members are appointed by the President (with Senate's approval), but he can unilaterally remove those members too. The majority of Cabinet members are part of House of Commons (elected by public). Thus PM serves as the Head

Example: Majority of the US Secretaries are experts of the Cabinet and not its boss. However, he appointed by the President can advise ^{the} President to dissolve the Cabinet.

Example: The UK's ministers are not (mostly) experts in their fields because they are elected by people.

The following points indicate the strength of UK's Prime Minister over US President:

American President

British Prime Minister

Role in Legislation

1. The US President does not guide the course of legislation.

Example: The US Senate and House of Representatives are part of legislature

The British PM steers the course of legislation.

Example: The PM is part of the Cabinet dictator in UK

Dissolution of the House

2. US President cannot dissolve Congress.

British PM can dissolve the House of Commons and call for fresh elections.

Example: In 1992, 1997, and 2005, the UK Parliament was dissolved following prorogation.

Appointment Making Power

1. US President's appointment In UK, President/Monarch

making power is shared by the Senate.

make appointments on the advice of the PM.

4 III - CRITICAL ANALYSIS

"American President rules but does not reign."

(Sir Henry Maine)

5

The U.S. President and UK's Prime Minister possess great powers which are granted by the governmental systems there. The US president, despite having significant powers is subject to the checks of the legislature and judiciary. Further, he is also responsible to the public who elected him. In contrast, the UK's Prime Minister also possesses many executive and legislative powers, but he is not subjected to such checks as in the US. The uncodified constitution in UK also weakens the checks of judiciary on the government. ^{ALSO} Thus, the UK's parliamentary system is more efficient and responsive.

than that of the US presidential system because the checks and balances create severe deadlocks, inefficiencies and government shutdowns. US. Thus, the leader of the most powerful country i.e., US, is not actually much powerful.

Work on structure of such questions.

IV- CONCLUSION

To summarize, the US presidential system and the UK's Parliamentary system have granted much powers to their respective Presidents and Prime Ministers. A comparison between their powers show that in some contexts the American President is powerful, while in the other contexts, the UK's Prime Minister is powerful.

Qs. Compare and Contest the powers of Indian President with the American President. (CSS - 2018)

Ans. **I- INTRODUCTION: COMPARISON AND CONTESTION OF THE POWERS OF INDIAN PRESIDENT AND AMERICAN PRESIDENT**

Indian Parliamentary System has Powerful PM

American Presidential System has Powerful President

Generally, the parliamentary systems have powerful prime ministers and the presidential systems have powerful presidents. India also has strong prime minister and America also has strong president. The presidents in the parliamentary states are mostly titular, whereas the presidential states have no office of the prime minister. The comparison of powers of US President and Indian Prime Minister shows that in US the President possesses severe executive, legislative, financial and judicial powers, whereas in India the Prime

President being titular does not possess much powers. However, they both have secure office terms, are heads of states, commanders of armed forces and have the power to extend pardons.

II- THE INDIAN AND AMERICAN PRESIDENTS AND THEIR COMPARISON AND CONTRASTION

a) The Presidents

The India is a parliamentary state having ^{current} President Droupadi Murmu, while the US is a presidential state having current President Joe Biden.

b) The Comparison and Contrastion

Contrastion
Indian President

Comparison

Contrastion

American President

1. The Indian President is elected by the electoral college comprising of

Both the

Indian and

US Presidents elected by the have a secure electoral college

In US, the

President is

have a secure electoral college

union assemblies term of office via direct and parliament. — i.e., 4 years. election. indirectly elected.

2. The Indian President & The Indian The US President
can be re-elected and American can seek re-
for any number Presidents election only
of times. are Head once.

Example: Presidents of their Example: President
Rajendra held states. Bush served for
office for two Example: In two complete/full
terms in India. India, Draupadi terms as President.

3. The President has Marmu is that The President is
to act on the advice Head of the the boss of the
of the Cabinet/PM. State while Cabinet. He appoints
in US, it is the Cabinet with
Joe Biden. the consent of
the Senate.

4. The President is only 3. The Indian The US President
the Head of the and US Presidents is both Head of
State — all actions are both the the State and Head
are taken in his head Supreme of the Government.
name. Commanders Example: President
Example: PM Narendra of their Joe Biden is

Modi is the Head of the Indian Government.

respective Armed Forces.

the Head of the American State and Government.

5. The Indian President can dissolve the Lok Sabha on the advice of the PM/Cabinet.

4. The US and Indian Presidents cannot dissolve the Congress, to extend pardons and

The US President cannot dissolve the Congress.

6. Example: In 2019, the President dissolved the Lok Sabha on the advice of PM Modi.

Clemencies for federal crimes. Example: In India, President Patil granted around 35 pardons

6. The President can proclaim a state of emergency in a state and can himself assume its administration.

during her tenure. Similarly, in US, President Trump proclaimed in the State. Susan B. Anthony - a suffragist.

The US President cannot interfere with the government.

Example: In 1975, President Ali Ahmed imposed

emergency in India

III - CRITICAL ANALYSIS

In India and the United States, the Prime Minister and the President are the most powerful persons constitutionally.

In a presidential state, it is natural that the president must possess extensive powers

as there exists no prime minister. In the United States, the president's unlimited

power is curbed via system of checks and balances as it is by judiciary and

Senate. India, being a parliamentary state

has a titular President. However, in contrast to other federal states, India grants

~~parliamentary~~ grants much powers to the

President - he can be re-elected for any number of terms, can dissolve assembly cabinet

and can declare state emergency. Thus,

India is a federation with unitary tilt.

It should be noted that whatever the system in these two countries, both of them are

the global economies — means that their governments are functioning well

IV- CONCLUSION

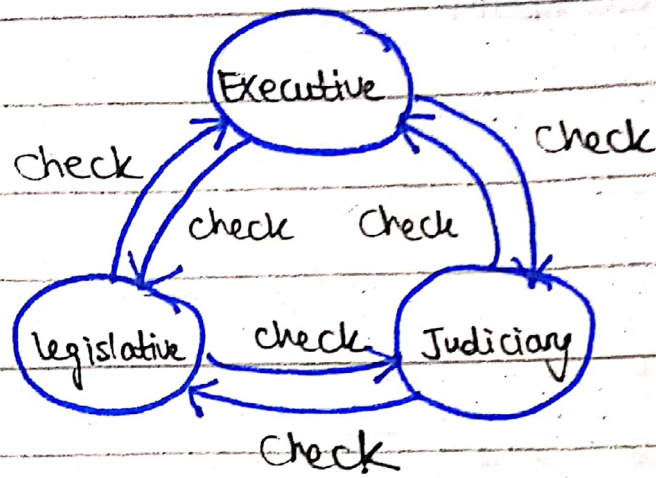
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To summarize, the American President Joe Biden and the Indian President Droupadi Murmu are the Heads of states in their respective countries. They ~~have~~ ^{derive} powers from the Constitutions of their states. Their comparison of powers shows that the Indian President is more than ~~just~~ ^{some} a titular Head of India and ~~possesses~~ ^{some} powers like that of the American President (who is also the Head of the Government).

Q7. How does the system of Checks and Balances work in the US political system? Explain with examples. (CSS-2021)

Q. The most prominent feature of American Political system is its mechanism of "Checks and Balances". Discuss its functioning. (CSS-2002)

Ans. I - INTRODUCTION: WORKING OF THE SYSTEM OF CHECKS AND BALANCES IN THE US POLITICAL SYSTEM

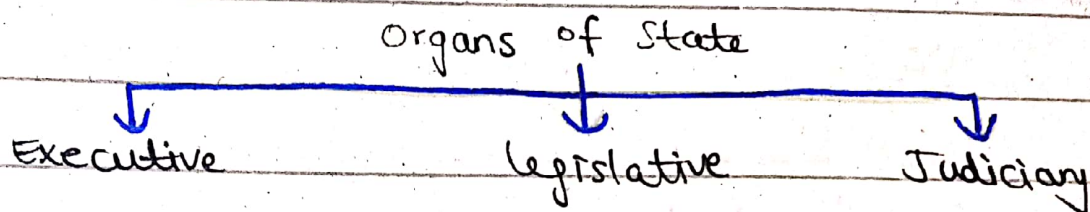


The System of Checks and Balances in the US works on the principle of Separation of powers among the executive, legislative and judicial branches/organs. This system was introduced because if any organ of the government is left to itself completely, might degenerate and misuse its power and become tyrannical. Thus, in US, the Senate has a check on executive and judiciary in their appointments, salaries, treaties, etc., the executive also checks the legislature and judiciary in their approvals of bills and making appointments. Similarly, the judiciary also

have a check on other organs in the form of judicial review.

II - SEPARATION OF POWERS AND CHECKS AND BALANCES

a) Separation of Powers



Separation of powers, also known as Trias Politica, is the idea that the government must be based on three separate branches i.e., the legislative, executive and judiciary. Its intent is to prevent the concentration of power and provide for checks and balances.

b) Checks and Balances

The system of checks and balances implies that each branch of government exercises certain powers that can be checked by the powers given to the other.

two branches. It keeps the abuse of power and check.

Example: In USA, the legislature's bills can be vetoed by the president and they can also be declared as null-and-void by the judiciary.

III - SYSTEM OF CHECKS AND BALANCES IN THE US

a) Senate's Check

i) Appointment and Salaries

All the high offices appointments made by the executive are subject to the ratification by the Senate. Also, the salaries of these officials are determined by the Congress subject to certain Constitutional restrictions.

ii) Treaties

It is the Senate that ratifies all international treaties made by the President.

Example: The disapproval of the Woodrow Wilson's League of Nations by Senate.

iii) Impeachment Court

The Senate is the Court of impeachment against the president and other high officials of the US, including the Supreme Court judges.

Example: Since its independence, three US Presidents have been impeached (not convicted): i.e., Andrew Johnson, Bill Clinton and Donald Trump.

b) Executive's Checks

i) Approval of Bills

All Bills passed by the Congress must be submitted to the president for his approval. In order to repass the vetoed bills, they require $2/3^{\text{rd}}$ majority support from each house.

ii) Pocket-Veto

The President can exercise his pocket-veto during the last ten days of the session of the Congress and automatically kill the bills.

Example: President Lincoln used it against

Wade Davis Bill in 1864.

iii) Special Session

The president can exercise his influence on the Congress by threat of convening its special session if his point of view is ignored.

iv) Executive Orders

The executive orders have the same force of ~~the~~ as the law. The power of issuing executive orders rests with the president.

Example: According to estimates, in the US around 14,000 executive orders have been issued yet.

v) Judicial Appointments

All the judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the president with the advice and consent of the Senate.

c) Judiciary's Check

1) Judicial Review

The judiciary can nullify the laws passed by the Congress and the orders issued by the executive if they are found to be at variance with the spirit of the constitution — judicial review.

Example: Marbury v. Madison was a landmark US Supreme Court case that established the principal of judicial review in the US.

Try to add examples against each of the checks.

The system of checks and balances based on the concept of separation of powers states that each branch of government acts as a check on the other branches. This system is beneficial because it limits the authoritarian tendencies of the president, protects the fundamental rights of the citizens and ensures high accountability in the US. However, it also creates severe deadlocks, inefficiencies and government

shutdowns due to the lack of consensus among the stakeholders. This point is also argued by the Francis Fukuyama in his book "Political Order and Political Decay" that the UK's parliamentary democratic model is more efficient and responsive than that of the US Presidential model. However, this unique system also enables the 18th century pastoral economy of US to rise to the level of global superpower.

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V - CONCLUSION

To summarize, the separation of powers has led to the system of checks and balances in the US, which prevents the concentration and misuse of power. This system implies a check of each organ of government on another in the form of Senate's consent, President's approval and judicial review.

Q8. Under the Unitary State System, how local government system works in UK? (CSS-2021)¹²⁰²⁰

Ans. I-INTRODUCTION: WORKING OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM UNDER UNITARY STATE SYSTEM IN UK

UK is an Asymmetrically
Decentralized Unitary State

Consisting 4 Countries
with Devolved Governments

Even though United Kingdom is a Unitary State, there is a broader political consensus in UK around the virtues of administrative decentralization. The local government powers are the result of statutory enactments. UK's local government operates in four countries, i.e., England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Each constituent unit has a different system of local government. It comprises of county, district, parish councils and unitary authorities. More than two million people comprising of school teachers, social services, police, firefighters, etc.,

serve their services in local authorities.

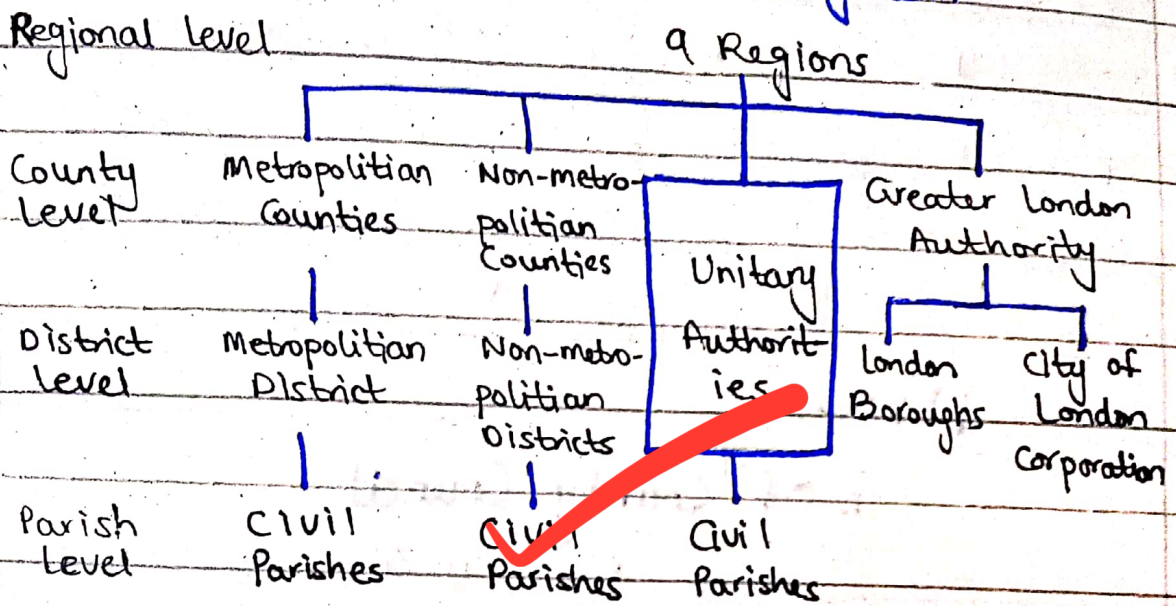
II - COUNTRIES OF UK AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT



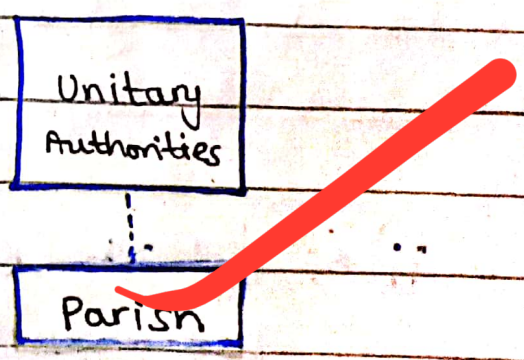
England is an asymmetrically decentralized unitary state consisting of four countries i.e. England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland with devolved governments. In UK, more than 2 million people are employed by local authorities.

III - UK'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM AND ITS WORKING

a) UK'S Local Government System



In England (↑)



In Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland

England consists of nine regions which have both old-style two-tier system i.e., county council and district council and the newer single-tier system i.e., unitary

authorities. In addition, it also consists of the Greater London Authority (32 London Borough Councils and City of London Corporation). The Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland operate on a single-tier local government system: unitary authorities.

b) Working

i) of County Council

County councils cover the whole of the country and provide majority of public services in their particular area such as education, highways, transport, social care, libraries, waste disposal, etc.

ii) of District Council

Each county is divided into several districts. District councils are responsible for housing, leisure and recreation, environmental health, waste collection, local taxation collection, etc.

iii) of Greater London Authority

The Greater London Authority works for strategic local government across the region and consists of the Mayor of London and the London Assembly.

iv) of Unitary Authorities

Unitary authorities combine District and County Council and are responsible for education, highways, transport planning, social care, environmental health, local tax collection, etc.

v) of Parish Councils

In some parts of England, Wales and Scotland, there is another layer of local government below the unitary, district and county councils which is known as Parish Councils. It is responsible for services such as management of town and village centers, litter, cemeteries, parks, ponds, allotments, war memorials, etc. It is to be noted that

Northern Ireland has no parish councils.

IV - CRITICAL ANALYSIS

United Kingdom (UK) is a Unitary state but it has a strong and extensive patchwork of empowered local governments. Local governments have emerged due to the expansion of state functions and duties. They are crucial because they strengthen the political process, are bedrocks of democracy, make a responsible government and are breeding grounds for political leaders. However, in UK the local government plans have been subject to much controversies. Such as, a referendum held in November 2004, on a proposed assembly for the North East resulted in a resounding 'no' vote. Similarly, the Localism Act passed in 2011 to strengthen the role of local government also failed, there also have been campaigns to abolish the posts of mayors. Thus, there is a dire need for the devise of strategies.

regarding local government in UK that can bring a consensus between all involved stakeholders.

V- CONCLUSION

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To conclude, the United Kingdom (UK) is a unitary state and also having a local government system in four countries i.e., England, Scotland, ~~what~~ Wales and Northern Ireland. Each of these constituent unit has a different system of local government which is responsible mainly for services like education, housing, taxation, waste collection, social care, transport, environmental health, etc.

Q9. The Cabinet is the "steering wheel of the ship of the state. It sets the direction of national policy in UK."
(CSS-2001)
Examine.

Ans. I-INTRODUCTION: EXAMINATION OF THE CABINET "IS THE STEERING WHEEL OF THE SHIP OF THE STATE. IT SETS THE DIRECTION OF NATIONAL POLICY IN UK"

The UK's Cabinet:
Prime Minister & Ministers

Ultimate Decision-Making
Body within Westminster System

The UK's Cabinet, consisting of the Prime Minister and other ministers, is a body which has legislative, executive and judicial functions. The Cabinet is formed by the party in power in Lower House. Its powers and functions are: policy determination, execution, legislation, financial, judicial and coordination functions. It is due to these immense powers and functions of the UK's Cabinet that it is often

termed as the "Cabinet Dictatorship".

II - THE UK'S CABINET

"British cabinet is the most curious formation in the political world of modern times."

(William Gladstone)

a) The Cabinet

Cabinet is the executive committee of His Majesty's Privy Council, a body which has legislative, executive and judicial functions. It is the ultimate decision-making body within the Westminster system.

b) Composition

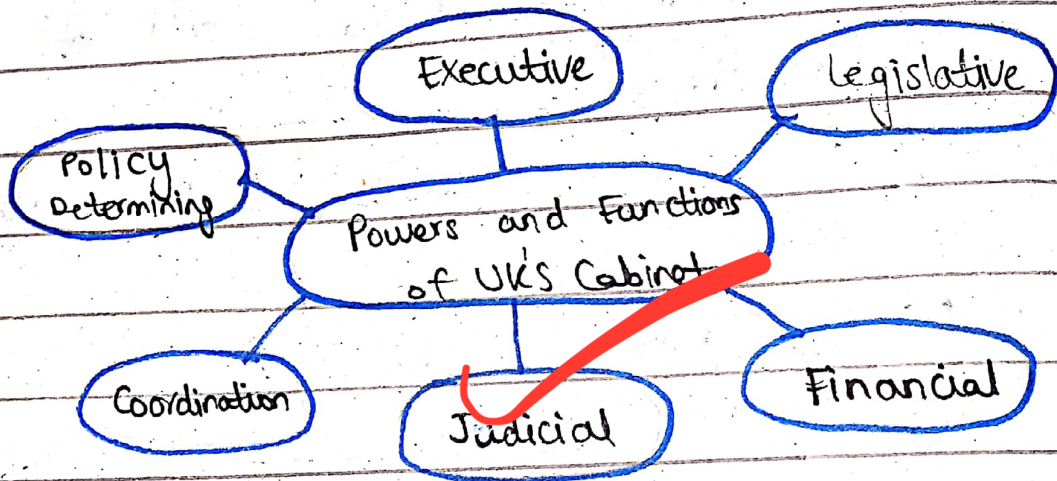
The Cabinet is composed of Prime Minister and other ministers. Cabinet is chosen by the Prime Minister in the name of the Crown, and is formed by the party in power in lower house.

Example: The current cabinet of UK is formed

by the Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and his Cabinet members.

Relate your headings to the statement of the question.

III - POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE UK'S CABINET



a) Powers and Functions

i) Policy - Determining function

The cabinet gives a single united policy on national and international issues to the parliament (all members must agree on the policy). A finalized policy is then forwarded to a government department by an administrative action.

Example: Sajid Javid resigned as Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Cabinet of Boris Johnson in 2020.

ii) Executive Functions

Cabinet is real executive as against the nominal executive represented by Monarch. Cabinet gives formulated policies to ministers who direct the respective departments to implement the policies. A minister makes appointments and conducts the department according to the cabinet's wishes.

Example: Secretary of state for Foreign and Commonwealth affairs negotiates treaties with foreign states on behalf of Cabinet.

iii) Legislative Functions

Cabinet derives the legislative course of Parliament;

1. Ministers initiate 85% Bills which are introduced in house.
2. New laws are submitted to Parliament if existing laws do not permit a specific policy.
3. Bills lacking Cabinet's support have zero chances to pass.

Monarch summons the Parliament

on Cabinet's advice. Cabinet members introduce, explain and defend the bills on the house floor when passed by Parliament.

ix) Financial Functions

Chancellor of Exchequer, a Cabinet member, prepares and introduces budget in the House of Commons.

x) Judicial Functions

Crown appoints judges of important courts on the advice of the Lord Chancellor, a member of cabinet. Crown exercises power of pardon, reprieve and respite on the advice of the Secretary of State for Home Affairs.

Example: Queen's granting of Pardon to Dr. Alan — a scientist and world war II code-breaker.

vi) The Cabinet as a Coordinator

"Cabinet is like a hyphen that joins the executive and legislative departments

ments together."

(Walter Bagehot)

Cabinet acts as a coordinator among all governmental departments.

Example: Each Cabinet minister is head of a department such as education, health, etc.

b) Cabinet Dictatorship

In UK, Cabinet is known as dictator because it possesses and exercises all authorities and power as mentioned above.

Example: Parliament and monarch follow the advice of the Cabinet.

IV- CRITICAL ANALYSIS

The Cabinet in UK consists of the Prime Minister and his ministers. It has executive, legislative, financial, judicial and other functions. It is due to these tremendous functions of Cabinet which makes it a "Cabinet Dictator."

However, it is not a dictator in true sense as there exists a strong opposition which acts as a check, a free media as a watchdog and a vigilant public who knows their rights and laws. Further, the Prime Minister and his cabinet derives their power due to parliamentary system. Thus, the cabinet cannot be termed as a dictator.

CONCLUSION
Discuss powers by giving subheadings.

To summarize, the cabinet is the steering wheel of the ship of the state. It sets the direction of national policy in UK. The Prime Minister and his cabinet have policy determining, executive, legislative, financial, judicial and coordinating powers and functions. It is due to these powers that UK is termed to have a cabinet dictatorship.