

Describe salient features of the British political system

Q1-
Answer- Introduction

"The United Kingdom has no constitution."

(- Tocqueville)

The United Kingdom (UK) has no written constitution. In fact, it is based on 'Convention' and yet it is followed. Despite the UK constitution has the most important features including, mostly unwritten constitution, flexible constitution, parliamentary executive, supremacy of parliament, and rule of law. Hence, the UK constitution is full of its features.

2- What is convention?

"Convention is followed in the UK, because people

want it must be followed."

(- Professor Dicey)

Convention is peoples will in the United Kingdom. In fact, it is the mostly unwritten part of the UK constitution. Hence, above all it is followed in the UK.

3- Salient features of the UK constitution

Following are the salient features of the UK constitution:

- a) Mostly unwritten and conventional
- The UK constitution is mostly unwritten and conventional. Moreover, it possess a historic charter 'Magns Carta', in 1215, by King John.
- "King is not supreme,

but equal as people."

(~ Magna Carta, 1215)

Thus, the UK constitution is mostly unwritten and conventional.

b) Flexible Constitution

"The constitutional laws in the UK are alike as common laws."

(- Tocqueville)

The UK constitution is flexible. In fact, it can easily be amended and replaced by the simple majority of "House of Commons". Therefore, the UK constitution is a flexible constitution.

c) Parliamentary Executive

"All powers in the parliament are exercised in the name of King."

The constitution of the UK is exercised in the parliament. Further, parliament of the UK is bicameral legislature. The lower house of the parliament is called the 'House of Commons' and the upper house of the parliament is called 'House of Lords'. Moreover, king has to act on the consent of parliament. Hence, all powers are vested in the parliament of the UK.

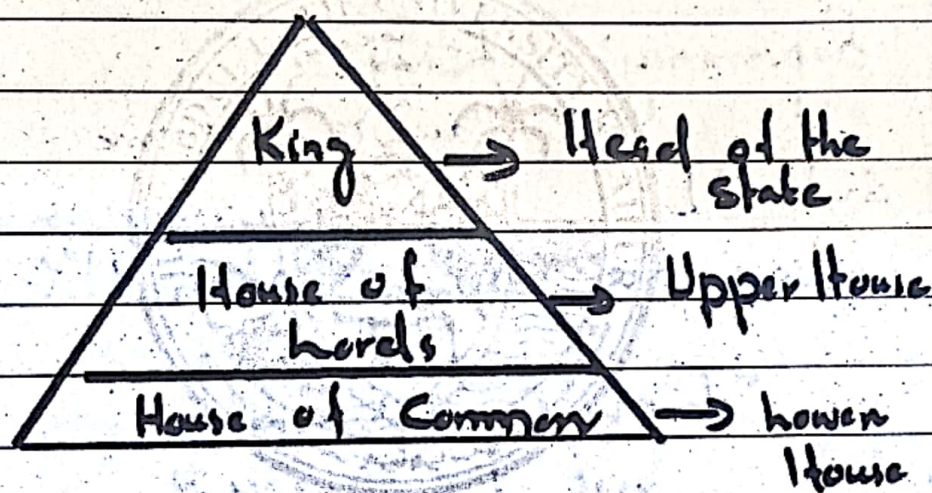
d) Supremacy of parliament

"No one can stop parliament from making laws."

(- Stefan)

In the parliament of the UK, all bills are passed by the lower house, 'House of Commons'. After passing

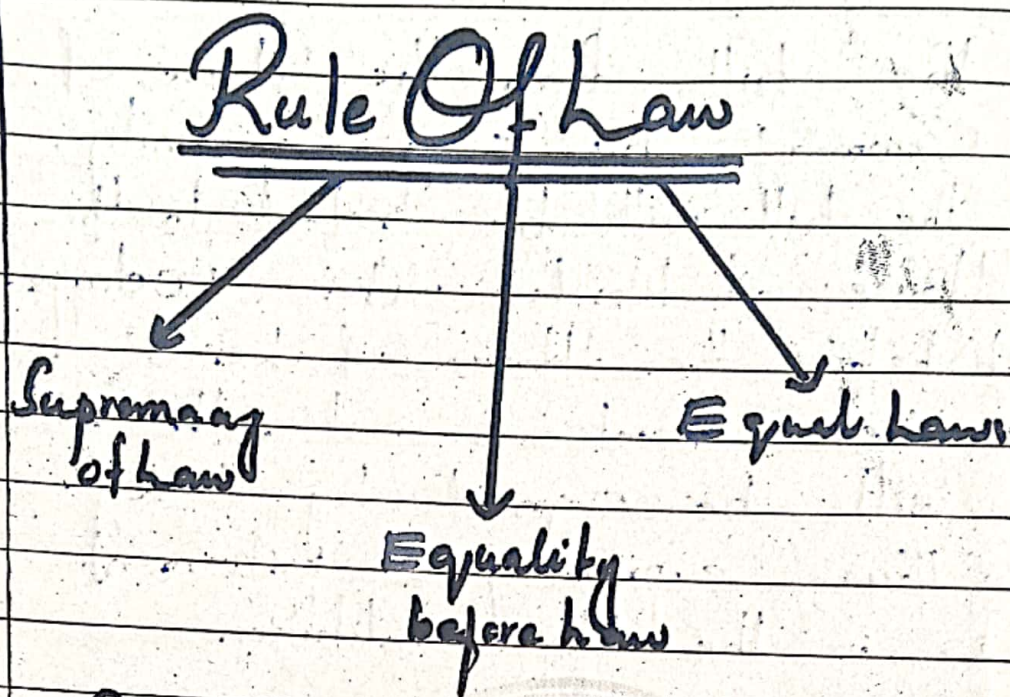
the bill from the 'House of Commons', by simple majority, the bill will be voted in the 'House of Lords' within 100 days. Whether, the 'House of Lords' makes consent or not, the bill will be signed by king. Thus, supremacy of parliament is in the UK constitution.



• The UK Parliament

e) Rule of law

Rule of law is the feature of the UK's constitution. Rule of law is further divided into three main categories



i) Supremacy of Law

The law is supreme in the UK. In fact, none is above the law in the UK.

"Law is supreme, not the people."

(Magnus Carta, 1215)

Hence, in the UK, law is supreme.

ii) Equality before law

Equality before law in the UK is one of the main features of the

UK constitution - Every body is equal in the eyes of law whether he is King.

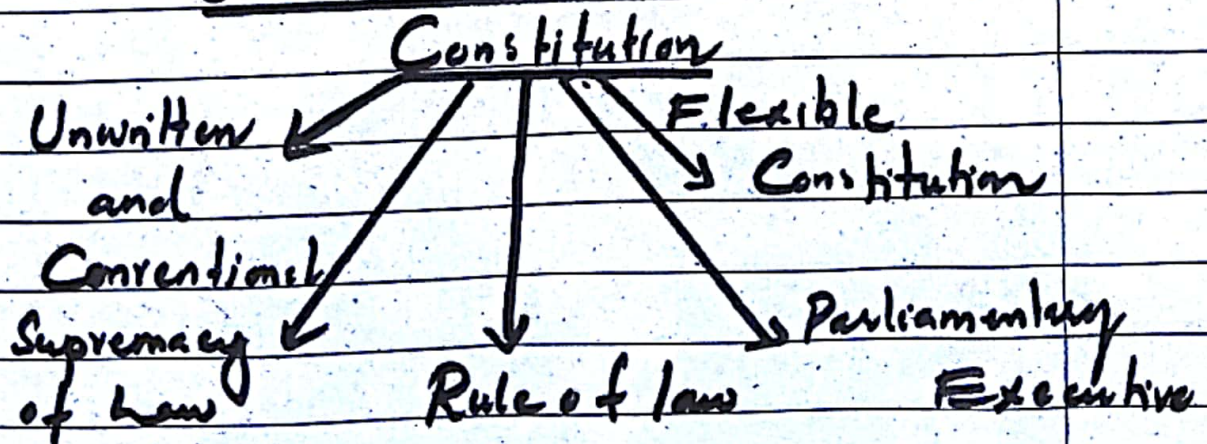
"Uniform laws are followed in the UK."

(- Huther Sutherland)

iii) Equal laws

Equal laws are applicable in the UK. For every person, there is the same court and the same judge to deal people and maintains supremacy of the law. Hence, equal laws are followed in the UK.

Salient Features of the UK



4-

Conclusion

“Breaking of convention is the violation of laws.”

(-Professor Dicey)

The UK constitution is conventions and is followed yet by the people of the UK. In fact, the UK constitution has the significant features that makes it unique and is supreme even today.