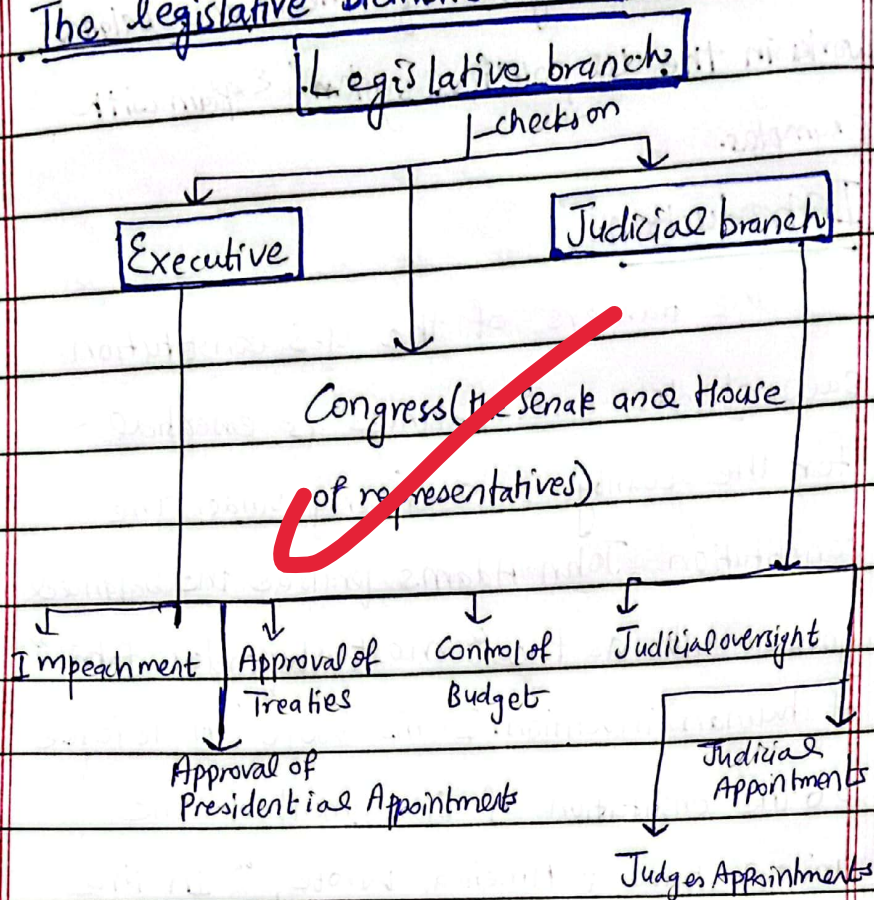


Q. How does the system of Checks and Balances work in the US political system? Explain with examples.

1- Introduction:

The framers of the U.S. constitution saw checks and balances as essential for the security and liberty under the constitution. John Adams praised the balanced government as the "most stupendous fabric" of human invention. In his book "A defence of the constitution of Government of the United States of America", wrote, "In the mixed Government we contend for, the ministers, at least of the executive power, are responsible for every instance of the exercise of it, and if they dispose of a single commission by corruption, they are responsible to the house of representatives, who may, by impeachment, make them responsible before a Senate, where they may be accused, tried, condemned, and punished by independent judges." With checks and balances, each of the three branches of government can limit the powers of the others.

2) The legislative branch's checks:



2a. Checks on Executive branch:

Firstly, Congress can impeach the President, Vice President and other civil officers for high crimes and misdemeanors (Article II, section 4). The Senate must approve the President's appointments to the Supreme Court, Federal courts, and executive branch positions (Article II, section 2). The Senate must ~~also~~ approve all treaties negotiated by the President by a 2/3rd supermajority (Article II, section 2). Congress has the power to approve or reject the President's

Attempt this by giving subheadings

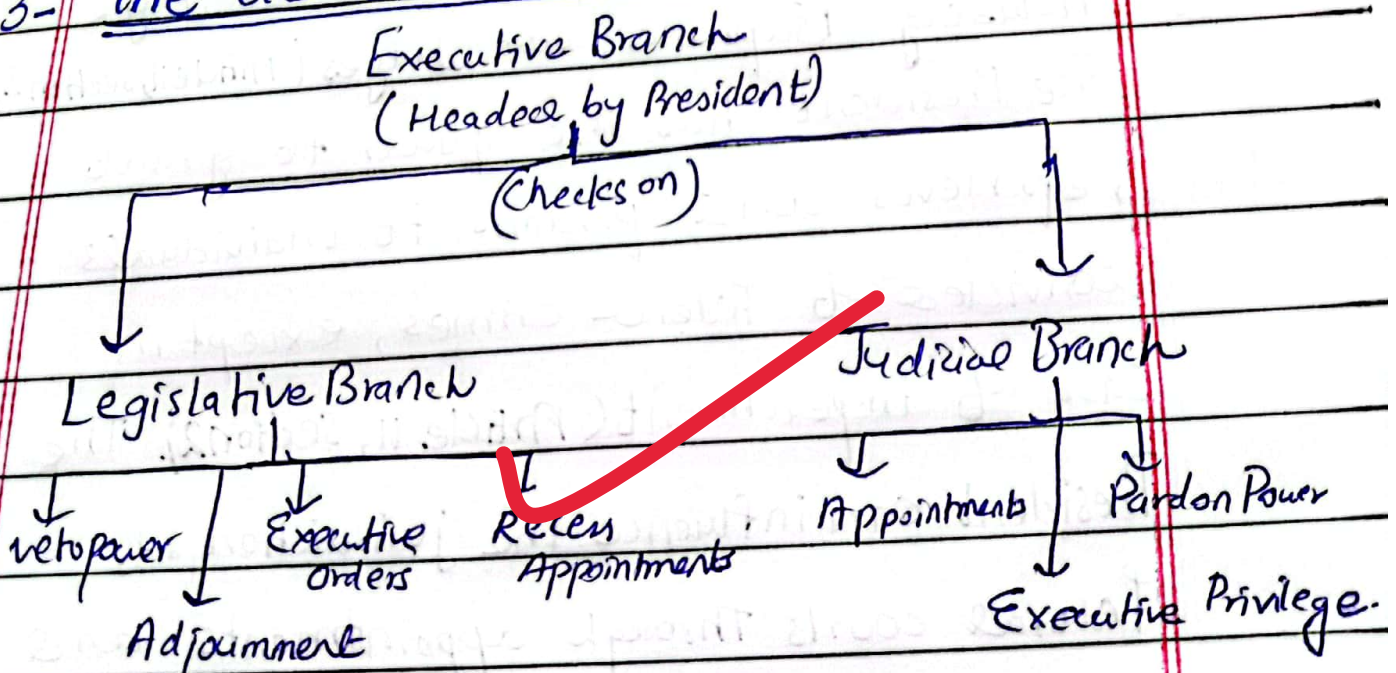
Date: _____

budget proposals, controlling government spending (Article I, Section 9). Therefore, Congress can conduct investigations and hold hearings to oversee the executive branch's action and policies.

2b. Checks on Judicial branch:

Congress can impeach Federal Judges, including Supreme Court Justices, for high crimes and misdemeanors. The Senate must approve the President's nominations for judicial positions (Article II, Section 2). Congress can conduct investigations and hold hearings to oversee the judicial branch's actions and decisions.

3- The US executive branch checks.



3a. Checks on legislative branch:

The President can veto laws passed by Congress, although Congress can override the veto with a two-thirds majority in both the House and Senate (Article 1, Section 7).

The President can convene Congress (Article 2, Section 3). The President can issue executive orders, which have the force of law but do not require Congressional approval (Article 11, Section 3). The President can make recess appointments to fill vacancies in executive branch positions, by passing Senate approval (Article 11, Section 2).

3b. Checks on the Judicial branch:

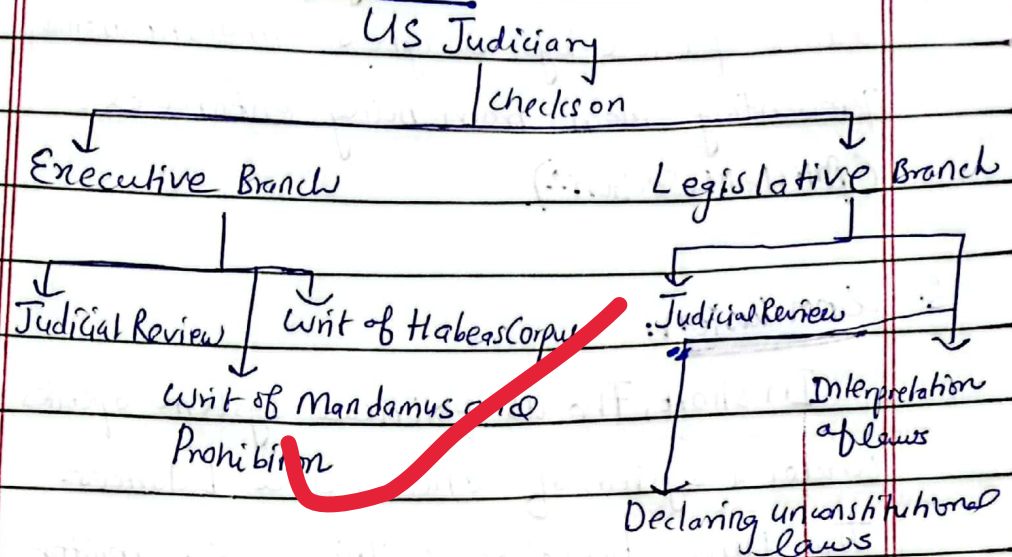
The President appoints Federal judges, including Supreme Court Judges (Article 11, Section 2).

The President has the power to grant reprieves and pardons to individuals convicted of Federal crimes, except in the case of impeachment (Article 11, Section 2). The

President can influence the jurisdiction of Federal courts through appointments and other means, although Congress also plays

a role in determining court jurisdiction.

4. US Judiciary Checks:



4a Checks on Executive branch:

The Judiciary can declare Executive actions unconstitutional (Article III Section 2). The judiciary can issue a writ of Habeas corpus to release individuals held by executive branch in violation of the law. (Article I, Section 9). The Chief Justice of Supreme Court presides over impeachment trials of the President (Article I, Section 3).

4b Check on the legislative branch:

The Judiciary can declare laws passed by Congress unconstitutional. (Article III, Section 2)
The Judiciary interprets laws, providing

guidance on their implementation - (Article III, Section 2). The Judiciary can declare laws passed by Congress unconstitutional, preventing them from being enforced. (Article III, Section 2)

Conclusion:

In short, The US political system operates under a system of checks and balances. The three branches of this system monitor each other's functioning, ensuring that no single branch exceeds its limits or misuse its power.

"The accumulation of all powers, legislative, executive, and judiciary, in the same hands, whether of one, a few, or many, and whether hereditary, self-appointed, or elective, may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny. The constitution can divide the power among three branches, and the Bill of Rights limits the power of all three."

(James Madison, speech to Virginia Ratifying convention (1788)).

Improve the structure of the answer. A 20 marks answer should have around 15 subheadings