

## (CSS-2017) - Pol-Science (Paper-II)

To what extent is it true that the President of the US is more powerful than the PM of the United Kingdom? Justify your answer with comparative analysis.

The power dynamics between the President of the United State and Prime Minister of the United Kingdom are shaped by their respective political systems and constitutional:

frameworks.

### 1. Executive Authority:-

- **President of United States:** The President has significant executive powers, including the ability to veto legislation, issue executive orders, and act as the commander-in-chief of the armed forces. These powers allow the President to make substantial decisions independently of Congress.

- **Prime Minister of United Kingdom:**

While the Prime Minister has considerable influence, their power is more dependent on the support of the Parliament. The PM must maintain the confidence of the House of Commons to stay in office, which can limit their ability to act unilaterally.

### 2. Separation of Powers:-

→ **US:** The U.S. operates under a system of separation of powers, where the executive, legislative, and judicial branches are distinct. This system provides check and balances, limiting the President's power. For example, while the

President can veto bills. Congress can override the veto with a two-third majority.

• UK: The UK follows a parliamentary system where the executive branch is derived from legislature. The Prime Minister, as the leader of the majority party in the House of Commons, has more direct control over legislation & policy making.

### 3) Fixed term limits :-

United States:- The President serves a fixed four-year term and can be re-elected once, providing a stable period during which they can implement their agenda. The fixed term allows the president to plan & execute long-term policies without immediate threat of losing office.

United Kingdom :- The Prime Minister does not have a fixed term and can be removed from office through a vote of no confidence or party leadership challenges.

This lack of fixed tenure can lead to political instability and short-term policy focus.

#### 4. Legislative Powers:-

- United States: The President cannot directly introduce legislation; this is the prerogative of congress. However, President can influence legislation through executive orders and by lobbying congress.
- United Kingdom: The PM, as a member of Parliament, can directly introduce & advocated for legislation. This often results in more stream-lined policy making processes, and a greater ability to implement their agenda.

#### 5. Global Influence:

- President of US: The President of US is often seen as one of the most powerful individuals globally, with significant influence over international affairs, global economic policies, and military actions. The US president's decisions can have a far-reaching impacts world wide.
- Prime Minister of UK: While the UK Prime Minister is influential, their global impact

is generally considered less extensive compared to the US President. The UK's influence, though significant does not match the global reach of US.

### Conclusion:

In the US, the President of United States holds significant executive powers. The system of checks and balances can limit this power.

On the contrary, the PM of UK enjoying the support of a stable majority in the house can make, amend & repeal the law & constitution, can impose any taxation and can declare war, and conclude peace. However, the Prime

Minister's power is contingent on maintaining the confidence of House of Commons, which can be limiting factor.

Both roles have their unique strengths & weaknesses, making it challenging to declare one as definitively more powerful than the other. The context of the political systems & the specific circumstances of their tenure play crucial roles in determining their relative power.