

What are the main characteristics of the United Kingdom's current political system? Has this system been successful in creating efficient mechanisms to ensure adequate public participation in the affairs of state?

### 1. Introduction

The United Kingdom has constitutional monarchy with parliamentary system. This system has effectively blended the traditional norms with some democratic contemporary practices thus forming an organized democratic framework. It includes a constitutional monarch with

with bicameral parliament. The parliament consist of elected 'House of Commons' and unelected 'House of Lords.' The majority of the parliament is led by prime minister. This system is praised for its effectiveness, adaptability, and maintaining the democratic society. However, questions are raising about the extent of participation of public in state's affairs.

## 2. Characteristics of the UK's political system

UK's political system has constitutional monarchy, parliamentary democracy, and the rule of law.

The prime minister holds the executive power, legislative authority is vested in parliament, and the independent role of judiciary, but lacks the authority to strike down the parliament. One notable feature is first-past-the-post (FPTP) electoral system used for favouring the major parties in the country.

### 3. Ensuring public participation

The UK's political system allows public to participate primarily through public consultation, petitions, referendum, and parliamentary lobbying. These measures are

allowing public to interfere in critical national issue like Brexit referendum of 2016. However, it is still facing some limitations like low voter turnout among certain demographics and problems with electoral systems, as smaller parties often struggle to gain representation.

#### 4. Arguments for Success in public participation

As the availability of parliamentary debates, petitions, and referendums are allowing public to raise their issues and voice. Similarly in the similar fashions devolution of power to Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland

has brought decision-making closer to the public. However, the FPTP electoral system is often <sup>criticized</sup> criticized for marginalizing smaller parties.

### 5. Potential for Improvement

Improvement could be made to enhance public participation. Introducing proportional representation could lead to a more representative democracy, giving smaller parties a fair chance.

This ~~can~~ will enhance public trust and will foster their participation. Another way, digital democracy, can make the system more efficient through digital referendums etc.

## 6. Conclusion

In conclusion, although UK's political system has allowed public to interject in state's affairs, but still there are some reservations regarding the FPTP electoral system and turnout low voter turnout among certain demographics. This acquire some reforms to balance the UK's unique system with contemporary needs. Introducing mechanisms like digital democracy could strengthen public participation, fostering a more participatory democracy.