

Q. To what extent is it true that the president of the United States is more powerful than the Prime Minister of the UK? Justify your answer with comparative analysis.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The president of the United States is much more powerful than the prime minister of the United Kingdom. The superiority is not only relative but also general. In fact, the president of the United States (US) is often referred to as the 'president of the world.' The president has more legislative powers due to his veto, independent executive orders, indirect influence on legislature despite not being a part of it, appeal to public in a matter Congress does not comply, and the power of delegated legislation. The president is also a stronger executive authority. He has a constitutionally secured term, owns a personal and stronger council of ministers, heads the government as well as the state, is not accountable to the Congress, and acts as the commander-in-chief of the US armed forces. Moreover, the president has independent judicial powers of appointing judges and issuing pardons. All in all, the American president has greater authority over the legislative, executive and judicial domains making him more influential than the prime minister of the United Kingdom (UK).

Use elaborate and self explanatory headings, relevant to the qs statement

### III. COMPARISON OF THE LEGISLATIVE POWERS

#### A. The Pocket veto: A Legislative Maneuver

The pocket veto is a unique power possessed by the president of the United States where he can veto a bill he does not assent to. He does it by leaving the bill unsigned until it is too late (beyond the ten-day period). On the other hand, the UK prime minister is a member of the parliament and his vote is equivalent to any other member of the parliament. The final assent is given by the Crown.

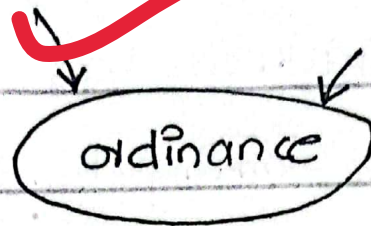
#### B. Issuance of Independent Ordinance

Both the president of the United States and the prime minister of United Kingdom have the authority to issue ordinances - a legislative power given to executive. What distinguishes the president is that he does not need the assent of his ministers, whereas the prime minister cannot do so without

taking its cabinet into confidence. As illustrated:

US' president

UK's Prime Minister  
with its cabinet



## C. Influence On the Legislature

As a part of the parliament, the prime minister of the UK along with its majority members have a direct role in legislation. In US, the executive is separate from the Congress. However, the president can influence the decisions through messages, favors, and special sessions. As a famous political scientist said, "to say <sup>that</sup> American president does not possess legislative powers is to talk of philosophy."

## D. The President's Appeal to the Public to persuade the Congress

Public opinion is a major influence in law-making in United States due to the concept of popular sovereignty. In cases of conflict with the Congress, the president, who is a very powerful figure, can appeal to the public to get the work done.

### Example

Andrew Jackson had conflict with the Congress wanting to end the second National Bank. He asked the public for support and got it.

## E. Delegated Legislation By the Executive: The Implied power

Both the president of the fifty states and the British Prime Minister have relatively similar powers of the delegated legislation. The term refers to the assumption filled in between the gaps of laws by the executive. Here again, the president has the edge that he does so as 'the boss' while the PM does it as an accountable leader.

### III. COMPARISON OF THE EXECUTIVE POWERS

#### A. Security of the Position

The American president has a constitutionally secured term. This means that he can only be deposed by the end of his term. The British prime minister, on the other hand, is at the mercy of a party majority. As long as the majority in House of Commons exists, his position is secured; any disruption in support can remove the prime minister through a vote of no-confidence.

#### B. The President is a Dual Head,

##### The Prime Heads the Government Only

Since the American government is a presidential type, it means the president is both the head of the state and the head of the government. It is the president that gives the final assent. The British prime though advises the Crown, does not have the last signature.

Add and highlight examples against your arguments

### C. The Spoil System : President's personal Council of Ministers

The president gets to choose secretaries at his will that the political scientists call his family or 'blue-eyed boys'. He may appoint and dismiss anyone from around the state. This benefit extends to President choosing proficient experts for each ministry. The prime minister's cabinet, however, is limited to the legislative members.

### D. Freedom From Accountability to the Legislature

The concept of separation of power in the United States privileges the executive to be unanswerable to the congress. The president does not have to justify his actions unless he does commit a criminal offense. The prime minister, in contrast, is answerable for every action and if dissatisfied, the parliament can remove him.

## E. Authority in the matters of Defence

The American president alone can declare war at his will, though the continuation beyond 90 days will require ratification from the Senate.

The British ~~Prime~~ prime minister decides at the behest of the <sup>and</sup> Crown, parliament, ~~and the~~.

### Examples

i) Harry Truman never asked for Congressional authorization to send US troops to Korea.

ii) Tony Blair could not call president Bush in Iraq, invasion due to lack of assent from the Crown, the head of British armed forces.

## IV. COMPARISON OF JUDICIAL POWERS

### A. Appointment of Judges

The judges of the Supreme Court are nominated by the president of United States and forwarded to the Congress. In the UK, the appointments are made by Judicial Appointments Commission.

## B. B. The Power to Pardon

This power is granted to the head of the state, implying that in the United States it is with the president and UK, the Crown.

## V. CRITICAL ANALYSIS

Although the US president is very powerful, the prime minister of the UK has more implicit powers as well. Most of the authority given to the crown are ceremonial and the real execution rests in the prime minister. Nonetheless, the powers of American president exceed significantly as compared to the British prime minister.

## VI. CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, the president of the United States is much more powerful than the prime minister of the United Kingdom. The former is delegated many legislative powers, is a supreme executive and has substantial judicial influence. Although the British prime minister has a significant presence, the American president overshadows it.