

# Salient Features Of British Constitution

## Introduction

stitution system is the oldest democratic system in the modern world. The British were the first to discover how to manage a large state on democratic principles. Great Britain is mother of democracy.

There are so many qualities of British constitution it is called Salient Feature of UK Constitution. These qualities are as follows

### i) Unwritten

Most important feature of British constitution is unwritten. It is said that UK constitution is unwritten because it is not available in a single book. These problems are discussed in other books. Such as Parliament Act of 1911, and Act of Settlement.

The origin of constitution is unwritten and these problems are discussed in other books, it consists of other traditions.

### ii) Flexible Constitution

The British constitution is flexible in its nature because, with the simple majority this constitution can be amended, replaced and rejected. So, its amendment is very easy as we compare with other non-flexible constitutions.

### iii) Evolutionary Growth

The British constitution has evolutionary growth because it developed over time and through the passage of time this constitution grows.

### iv) Unitary

This is also a salient feature of UK constitution that a single government runs the functions of UK. There is no part in this regard; a single government maintains all systems and this government is responsible for the enforcement of law.

## **v) Bicameralism**

The parliament consists of two chambers: House of Lords and House of Commons. House of Commons is most popular because its representatives are elected from citizens, while House of Lords is hereditary. They are not elected, the Queen selects them.

## **vi) Rule of Law**

UK constitution provides rule of law. All persons are equal in the eyes of law. If any person violates the law, he should face trial of the case in the Government. No person is given imprisonment until his offence is proved in the court.

## **vii) Supremacy of constitution**

There is supremacy of constitution in UK. Every person's problem is settled according to the constitution.

## **viii) Independence of Judiciary**

In UK, there is independent judiciary. Judges are bound to obey and respect the constitution. They independently make the decision under the court.

They receive handsome salaries. Nobody, above, has caused separation of power.

## **ix) Collective Responsibility**

Ministers must stand together and they cannot oppose the Government's policy. Every minister is also individually responsible to the House of Commons and the Crown.

## **x) Fundamental Rights**

Fundamental rights of the citizen have not been incorporated in the form of a list in the English constitution.

Constitutional law is not a creator but a product of fundamental rights, which have been recognized from time to time by the courts.

### **xi) Conservativeness**

The British constitution is a symbol of conservativeness. The trend of the people of UK is absolutely in favour of old institution and this concept is existence of conservatism.

### **xii) Limited Separation of Power**

In British, there is limited separation of power. There is concentration of political power in the parliament. Nevertheless many safeguards have been provided especially under Act of settlement of 1701 to secure the independence of judiciary from under influence on the part of other two branches of the Government.

### **xiii) Two Party System**

Two party system is very important in any democratic system. It is against the dictatorship. The party selected by majority gets elected. Two parties in British political system are

a) Conservative Party

b) Labour Party

### **xvi) Contrast Between Theory and Practice**

There is considerable gap between theory and practice in Britain e.g according to convention of the majority party in the newly elected parliament to form the cabinet, while all the ministers are appointed by the Prime Minister.

### **Conclusion**

To conclude, I can say, that UK constitution is neither absolutely unwritten nor absolutely written. It is a combination of both and has made a circuit for the globe and has become the common possession of civilized man.