5.13 Comparative US/UK Executives: The President and the Prime Minister: 10-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Short answer questions may be brief; extended answers and levels-marked responses should use full sentences and relevant comparative detail. The final question is a 30-mark evaluative essay. Total time suggested 10 minutes.

1 Explain two ways in which the UK Prime Minister typically has stronger day-to-day control over Cabinet appointments and government business than the US President has over the US Cabinet and congressional agenda.

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

2 Compare in two developed points how Senate confirmation and congressional oversight affect a US President's choice of cabinet and senior appointees differently from the UK Prime Minister's appointment of UK ministers.

(Total for Question 2 is 6 marks)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

Mark scheme · 5.13 Comparative US/UK Executives: The President and the Prime Minister: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies the PM can appoint and dismiss ministers without legislative confirmation	**B1**
explains that this ability allows the PM to shape the Cabinet and discipline ministers quickly	**B1**
identifies that the PM sets the government's legislative programme in the Queen's/King's Speech and controls parliamentary timetable via the majority and the Whips	**B1**
explains that this means UK government business is usually easier to prioritise and pass when the PM has a Commons majority	**B1**

Answer: The Prime Minister can appoint and dismiss ministers without a formal legislative confirmation process, enabling swift reshuffles to reward loyalty or remove dissenters; additionally the Prime Minister sets the government's legislative programme in the King's Speech and, when commanding a Commons majority and effective Whips, can usually control the parliamentary timetable to prioritise government bills, giving stronger day-to-day control over government business than Presidents typically exercise over the US legislative agenda.

Question 2

identifies that senior US appointees require Senate confirmation	**B1**
explains how this can limit the President to candidates acceptable to the Senate majority or require concessions	**B1**
identifies that UK ministers do not require a legislative confirmation process	**B1**
explains how this gives the UK Prime Minister more freedom to choose loyalists but also increases party-centred accountability	**B1**
identifies congressional oversight hearings as a constraint on executive appointments and behaviour	**B1**
explains that UK ministers face parliamentary questions and select committee scrutiny but not a formal confirmation veto	**B1**

Answer: In the US senior executive appointments typically require Senate confirmation, meaning Presidents often select candidates who can win Senate approval or accept that nominees may be rejected, which can force compromises; in the UK the Prime Minister appoints ministers without a legislative confirmation process, giving the PM greater freedom to install loyal colleagues quickly, though ministers remain politically accountable to Parliament and the party. Congressional oversight hearings can also publicly constrain and delay US appointments; UK ministers face parliamentary questions and select committee scrutiny but lack a formal confirmation veto, so the balance is greater formal legislative check in the US and greater executive managerial freedom in the UK.

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk