

THE BRITISH POLITICAL SYSTEM (4)

CHECK YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

The point of this section is for you to test not only your understanding of what has just been explained but also your ability to state it in your own words. Imagine this is a question asked by a jury about a text: how would you briefly make yourself clear in English?

1. What is a backbencher ?
2. How is an M.P. elected ?
3. What is an hereditary Lord ? How many are there left in the House of Lords so far?
4. What is a Quango ?
5. How is a British Civil Servant in a Department different from a French one ?
6. Would you compare the British system of regions to a Federal system ?
7. Has the House of the Lords Reform been finished yet ?
8. Would you say the Checks and Balances are guaranteed in Great Britain ? What are the theoretical powers of the Queen ? Her actual powers ? For example, can she choose Secretaries of State or the Prime Minister ? Does she ?
9. What is the Queen's Speech ? Provide an example of a measure announced then and implemented in the following year.
10. What is the Civil List ?

CHECK YOUR VOCABULARY

1. La reine Elisabeth vient de fêter son cinquantième anniversaire au pouvoir.
2. L'actuel premier ministre britannique, c'est-à-dire Tony Blair, a exigé que l'on réforme la Chambre des Lords. La proposition de loi est devenue une loi et a été appliquée. Cela a provoqué beaucoup de débats.
3. La reine fixe le calendrier de travail du parlement lorsqu'elle prononce son discours annuel. Mais c'est le gouvernement qui a le vrai pouvoir.
4. Le gouvernement de Tony Blair a lancé beaucoup de réformes, comme c'est le cas pour la réforme des Lords, une des réformes les plus controversées.

CORRECTION DES PHRASES DE THEME

1. Queen Elisabeth (has) just celebrated her fiftieth anniversary in power / at Buckingham.

*Queen Elisabeth: il n'y a pas d'article lorsqu'on utilise le titre de la personne.
George W. Bush, the president of the United States, is visiting Europe.
President Bush is visiting Europe.
Birthday: anniversaire de naissance
Anniversary: anniversaire d'un événement ou commémoration*

2. The incumbent British Prime Minister, namely Tony Blair, demanded that the House of Lords should be reformed. The White Paper became an Act of Parliament. This triggered many debates.

*To demand + subjonctif: I demand it should be done
Traduction du "on": privilégiez une forme passive
Préférez « many » à « a lot of » qui est moins soutenu*

3. The Queen sets out Parliament's agenda when she delivers the Queen's Speech. Yet, it is the Cabinet who has / have the actual power.

*Agenda: ordre du jour
Has / have : « the cabinet » est en fait un pluriel (plusieurs personnes le compose), grammaticalement, le mot tolère donc un pluriel ; vrai –et obligatoire- pour « the police » par exemple
Parliament : pas d'article*

4. Tony Blair's Cabinet (has) launched many reforms, as is the case for the abolition of the lords, one of the most controversial reforms.

*Temps: soit le present perfect (idée de bilan dans le present), soit le preterit (action passée)
« as is the case » et non « as it is »
one of the + pluriel*