



UK and US political vocabulary and political systems

Are the things below about the UK/ USA/ both? (Most are only about one of those countries)

Backbenches/ Backbenchers

Buck House

Buckingham Palace

Cabinet

Camp David

Chancellor (of the Exchequer)

Chequers

Coalition government

Confirmation hearings

Congress

Cross-bench

Downing Street

Filibustering

Foreign Secretary

Governor

Heir to the throne

Her Majesty's Government

Home Secretary

House of Commons

House of Lords

House of Representatives

Houses of Parliament

Independent candidates

Labour (= The Labour Party)

Leader of the House

Leader of the Opposition

Mayor

Member of Parliament

Monarch

MP

MEP

Number 10

Number 11

Peers

PM

President

Primaries

Prime Minister

Senate

Speaker

Supreme Court

Term limits

The Conservatives (= The Conservative Party)

The Constitution



The Democrats (= The Democratic Party)
The GOP
The Palace of Westminster
The Queen's Speech
The Republicans (= The Republican Party)
The right to bear arms
The First Amendment
The Tories
The White House
Two-party system
Westminster
Whips
Whitehall

Which things above are different words for the same thing?

Which things in different systems are more or less equivalent?

These things have different meanings in the two countries. What are they?

Red
Blue
Conservative
Liberal

Which country's system seems more similar to your country's? What are the similarities and differences?

Try to explain your own country's political system.

Explain what you know about these recent political stories, using vocabulary from above if you like.

- Barack Obama's re-election campaign
- Cash for honours
- Cash for questions
- Mitt Romney
- Reform of the House of Lords
- The coalition government
- The Hutton Enquiry/ The Smoking Gun
- The parliamentary expenses scandal
- The phone hacking scandal
- The Tea Party

Do the same for recent political stories from your country.



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Answer key

Backbenches/ Backbenchers - UK

Buck House/ Buckingham Palace – UK

Cabinet – Both (though only the UK has a real cabinet system)

Camp David – US equivalent to Chequers - UK

Chancellor (of the Exchequer) - UK

Coalition government - UK

Confirmation hearings - US

Cross-bench - UK

Downing Street/ Number 10 – UK equivalent to White House - US

Filibustering – both (though only formally part of the debates in the US)

Foreign Secretary - UK

Governor – US (though most British overseas territories and Commonwealth countries still have governors)

Heir to the throne - UK

Her Majesty's Government - UK

Home Secretary - UK

House of Commons – UK equivalent to House of Representatives - US

House of Lords – UK equivalent to Senate - US

Houses of Parliament/ Westminster/ The Palace of Westminster – UK equivalent to Congress - US

Independent candidates - both

Labour (= The Labour Party) equivalent to the Democrats - US

Leader of the House - US

Leader of the Opposition - UK

Mayor - both

Member of Parliament/ MP - UK

Monarch - UK

MEP - UK

Number 11 - UK

Peers - UK

PM/ Prime Minister – UK

President - US

Primaries - US

Speaker - both

Supreme Court - both

Term limits - US

The Conservatives (= The Conservative Party)/ The Tories – UK equivalent to Republicans/ GOP - US

The Constitution - US

The Queen's Speech - UK

The right to bear arms - US

The First Amendment - US

Two-party system – US (though the UK system usually works out that way)

Whips - UK

Whitehall - UK