**Comparative Countries**

US vs UK

1. Ideology: Do they have a foundational ideology (“ism”) behind the country’s founding?

US: librialism (<https://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2011/08/why-are-americans-so-ideologically-united/243951/> )

UK: conservatism (always had its monarchy) (<https://www.royal.uk/united-kingdom-monarchs-1603-present> )

2. Institutional type: are they Unitary, Federal, Confederation?

US: Federal (shared between the federal government and state government) (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/our-government/> )

UK: unitary (<https://web.archive.org/web/20140704080747/http://www2.rgu.ac.uk/publicpolicy/introduction/uk.htm> ) but devolution [main gov has given these political bodies regional power]

3. Do they have a constitution?

US: yes (<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution-transcript> )

UK: no, a set of laws that act like a constitution (<https://www.parliament.uk/site-information/glossary/constitution/> )

4. Regime type: are they Democratic, Authoritarian, or something in between?

US: democracy as there are free and fair elections as seen below

UK: democracy as there are free and fair elections as seen below

a. Do they have free and fair elections? What are their Electoral Laws / Systems: FPP-WTA? Proportional Representation?

US: the elections are free and fair, the most recent one is arguably freer and fairer than those of the past two decades as there was a higher voter turnout (<https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/04/record-high-turnout-in-2020-general-election.html> ). The election is a first past the post system based on electoral college votes by the states, most states determine how the electoral votes are distributed through a winner takes all system, however maine and Nebraska have a pseudo-proportional representation system based on each congressional district and an additional two votes for the state-wide popular vote winner (<https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/04/record-high-turnout-in-2020-general-election.html> )

UK: free and fair (<https://freedomhouse.org/country/united-kingdom/freedom-world/2021> ), it’s a first past the post system for the election of their MPs (<https://www.parliament.uk/about/mps-and-lords/members/electing-mps/> people vote for MPs, <https://www.parliament.uk/about/how/elections-and-voting/voting-systems/> voting for MPs is a first past the post system)

b. Do they have Political parties and what are the major ones?

US: There are many parties, but the major parties are the democratic party and the republican party (<https://ballotpedia.org/List_of_political_parties_in_the_United_States> )

UK: there are many parties, the major parties are Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties (<https://www.parliament.uk/about/mps-and-lords/members/electing-mps/> ) (<https://www.parliament.uk/about/mps-and-lords/members/parties/> many parties can be seen at this website)

c. Are they Presidential, Parliamentary, Semi-Presidential, or something else? Who is their Head of state and their Head of government? Are they the same person?

US: presidential, president is both (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/our-government/the-executive-branch/> ) “The President is both the head of state and head of government of the United States of America”

UK: parliamentary, the people are allowed to vote for their MP and the head executive [prime minister] is appointed by the monarch (<https://www.parliament.uk/about/how/elections-and-voting/general/> ). The head of state is the monarch (<https://www.royal.uk/queen-and-government> ), the head of government is the prime minister (<https://www.gov.uk/government/ministers/prime-minister> )

<https://www.bl.uk/magna-carta/articles/britains-unwritten-constitution>