**Executives Revision Tasks**

**Task 1**

Describe the powers of the UK PM

**Task 2**

Describe the powers of the US President

**Task 3**

Explain the concepts of ‘separation of powers’ and ‘fusion of powers’ giving examples from a US and UK context.

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| **Separation of powers** |
| **UK** |
|  |
| **US** |
|  |
| **Fusion of powers** |
| **UK** |
|  |
| **US** |
|  |

**Task 4**

Draw a diagram to show the branches of power in the US political system

**Task 5**

Draw a diagram to show the branches of power in the UK political system

**Task 6**

Compare the amount of power and influence the UK and US executives have in relation to **fiscal** powers. Which has more power? Give examples.

**Task 7**

Compare the amount of power and influence the UK and US executives have in relation to **patronage** powers. Which has more power? Give examples.

**Task 8**

Compare the amount of power and influence the UK and US executives have in relation to **making laws**. Which has more power? Give examples.

**Task 9**

Compare the ways in which the legislatures in the UK and US are able to effectively scrutinise their executives. Give relevant examples.

**Task 10**

Read the incomplete essay below on the policy making powers of the US President and UK PM.

Your task is to complete the introduction (by completing the line of argument – do this once you have read the incomplete essay) write one more paragraph and a conclusion.

Your third paragraph could be about any policy that you have looked at in lessons or have read about in the news. You can use examples of the policies that President Biden has made recently in relation to US troops abroad. You could also look at the policies made by both executives in relation to their Covid-19 response.

Your conclusion must have 4 separate points. There are 4 marks ringfenced for this aspect. The conclusions must not be a summary or a repetition of what has already been written.

**‘The executive branch has significant influence in relation to making policy’.**

**Discuss.**

**You must refer to two political systems that you have studied.**

 **20 marks**

A policy is a deliberate system of principles to guide decisions and achieve rational outcomes. A policy is a statement of intent, and is implemented as a procedure or protocol. In the UK the prime minister is responsible for this and similarly, in the US, the president directs policy. Policies relate to numerous areas: foreign policy (relations with other countries), domestic policy (issues within the home country such as money and taxes, natural resources, social welfare, and personal rights and freedoms), and the environment, among others. This essay will discuss the influence the UK and US executives have over policy making and will argue that the UK executive has greater influence in this area as a result of…….

Foreign policy is a major consideration for any executive. Developing and maintaining positive international relations is important to a nation’s economy in terms of trade and possibly support in military campaigns. Foreign policy can also be antagonistic as it can relate to conflict with other nations. One of US President Donald Trump’s foreign policy directives was to strengthen the U.S. military and deploy it appropriately in the East and South China Seas. This is significant as Trump believed that these actions would discourage Chinese adventurism that he believed encroached on American interests in Asia. This policy was designed to show our strength as the US renegotiated its trading relationship with China. The implication of this policy was that such a strong military presence would be a clear signal to China and other nations in Asia and around the world that America was a dominant global power. While this is a clear demonstration of power by the US executive, it could be argued that this policy could be limited in its influence as a result of the balance of power between the branches of state in the USA. This is because in order to increase military spending the US executive must gain approval from Congress. The fiscal powers of the US executive are not unlimited as they are for the UK executive. This is because US government budgets are voted upon in Congress which could mean that the US executive fails to gain support and approval for its policies. The UK executive under the leadership of Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, announced a major foreign policy shift in 2019. In the post Brexit-era, the UK executive is trying to establish foreign policies that will bolster economic relationships and an increase in GDP. A deal has been negotiated between the UK executive and the USA, China and Saudi Arabia among other nations. Despite the fact that this new direction in foreign policy is controversial (not least because of the human rights criticisms of these nations) and will be vigorously debated by the legislature in the UK Parliament, very little can be done to change the UK executive’s foreign policy. Although the concept of parliamentary sovereignty exists giving the legislature supreme authority over all government institutions (including the executive), making foreign policy does not require legislative bodies to vote to decide a direction or the suitability of any policy made by the executive. In this sense, the UK executive wields greater power over policy making than the US executive because while the UK legislature can scrutinize such policies via PMQs and Select Committees, the legislature cannot withhold funds that could move forward an executive policy as is the case in the US.

Healthcare is another area in which an executive must identify a policy. The UK’s welfare state offers free health care via the NHS. In the USA there is no such comprehensive provision of healthcare with private healthcare insurance being a common way in which citizens ensure access to medicines and health care services. One of the US Executive’s first actions under President Trump was to repeal the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare. Mr Trump called Obamacare a “complete and total disaster”. He promises that the legislation would be replaced by new measures at the same time as it is repealed despite the fact that large numbers of people would lose their existing health insurance. The fact that the US executive can simply strike down legislation made by their predecessors through an Executive Order demonstrates the influence the executive has over policy making. That said, for both procedural and substantial reasons, it is much easier for the US executive to pass legislation to repeal Obamacare than agree measures to replace it. This is because an Executive Order to repeal legislation is a powerful way in which the US executive may circumvent the legislative body, Congress. This shows the influence that the US executive has over policy making. The UK executive also has significant influence in terms of healthcare policy making. In 2019, PM Boris Johnson outlined his healthcare policies which included a pledge to recruit 50,000 more nurses, as well as training 500 more GPs each year from 2021-22 to help create 50 million more appointments in GP surgeries every year. The NHS budget will also increase to £33.9 billion by 2023-24, alongside pledges to upgrade 20 hospitals and rebuild 40 over the next decade. The fact that the UK executive may make healthcare policies that have significant fiscal implications is significant. Because the UK executive’s budget is presented as a *fait acompli* to the legislative body of Parliament, the influence that the PM has when it comes to increasing or decreasing healthcare budgets demonstrates that while such actions may be scrutinised, the PM wields an almost unlimited power.

**Task 11**

Which executive has the most power overall? Write a paragraph explaining whether the US or UK executive has greater power. Consider that one executive may have less power in relation to fiscal authority but greater power in terms of the ability to pass laws.