



Otázka: The political system of Great Britain

Jazyk: Angličtina

Přidal(a): Michaela

Great Britain - political system

Democracy governed within the framework of **constitutional monarchy**

- This means that the official head of state is the monarch, but his or her powers are limited by the constitution
- The British system of government is the oldest parliamentary democracy in Europe

Britain is the member of nearly all important international organisations – UN, EU, NATO and OECD

Branches of political system

- executive – the government
- legislative – Parliament and the Queen
- judicial – the courts

Official Head of State is the Queen Elizabeth II.

- She had four descendants – Charles – Prince of Wales, Andrew, Edward and Anne
- husband – Duke of Edinburgh and a sister – Margaret
- The heir of the throne is William
- became Queen **in 1952**
- can only reign with a support of Parliament – symbolic head

- regular meetings with the Prime minister and she is informed about Cabinet decisions
- seat in Buckingham Palace, Windsor castle – weekend house+state visits
- the **Head of Commonwealth** (a group of former and present-day British colonies)
- **Duties**
 - – to represent state
 - -performs social and ceremonial functions
 - – appoint all the Ministers, including the Prime Minister and judges
 - – visiting foreign countries
 - – holding receptions, receives diplomats
 - -declares war and peace
 - – ratifies and makes treaties
 - -confer honours
 - – summons, prorogues and dissolves Parliament
 - – grants or refuses Royal assent to bills
- **Powers**
 - -head of the executive and judiciary
 - – head of the Church of England
 - – command-in-chief of all armed forces
- **Ceremonies**
 - – State opening – every year opens a parl.session – in May
 - – queen's speech from the Throne in the House of Lords
 - -Garter service
 - -Trooping the colour – on official Queen's birthday

the Parliament

- the supreme law-making body in the country
- seat in **Westminster Palace**
- two chambers – the House of Lords and the House of Commons
- **functions**
 - -law-making
 - -proposals for new bills (laws)
 - -life of the Parliament – two sessions
 - -each session lasts a year
 - – final session terminated by dissolution



- - All the parliamentary proceedings are public, they are broadcasted on TV or radio

House of Lords

- -older - formed in 11th century
- -members are **not elected**, appointed by the Queen, about 1200
- -members consist of hereditary peers, life peers(Lords Temporal), 24 bishops and 2 archbishops (Lords Spiritual)
- - hereditary peers inherit their post from generation to generation
- - life peers become peers when they do something important for the state
- -not involved in matters of taxation and finance
- -lord Speaker - attends and speaks at ceremonial occasions
- - The leader is called **Lord Chancellor**

House of Commons

- -originated in 13th century
- - contains 650 members - They are **elected** - every 5 years
- - each MP represents a definite part of a county
- - Eighteen is the minimum voting age; candidates for election must be over 21
- - New bills are introduced and debated - law making authority
- - A **bill (a proposal of a new law)** must pass through the Houses and then is sent to the Queen for Royal Assent
- -**the speaker**
 - -elected
 - - The chief of the House
 - - maintains order in the House

The executive

- - political **parties** - Conservative and Labour, liberal democrats
- - The party, which wins the majority of seats, forms the Government and its leader



is appointed by the Queen as the **Prime Minister**

- - head of the Government
- -re-elected every 5 years
- -selects all remaining ministers
- - **David Cameron** - conservative party
- - Cabinet is the executive organ of government and meets weekly at **10 Downing street** (where all the British Prime Ministers have lived) to decide on major government questions
- - The second party becomes Opposition and forms the Shadow-Cabinet

The judiciary

- -independent of the executive and the legislative
- -Supreme court of the UK

The United Kingdom constitution is unwritten

- - based on agreement, tradition and common law.
- - set of laws, traditions and customs

British national flag is called „Union Jack“

- - symbolises the Union of England, Scotland and Ireland
- - dates back from 1801
- - The flag is made up of the crosses of the patron saints of England, Ireland and Scotland

National **anthem** is „God Save The Queen“



representative = představitel