

BA-1, Paper-2, Unit-3(a2)

08
(10) Main features of British Constitution-
09 Part-2

10 (10) Rule of Law - Rule of law is one
11 of the outstanding features of the British
12 Constitution. It means government of
13 law as against government of men.

14 (11) Gap between theory and practice -

15 Another notable feature of British
16 Constitution is the gap between the theory
17 and practice of the constitution. In
18 theory, the king is all powerful. He
19 is an absolute monarch and therefore
20 does no wrong. But in practice his
21 powers are zero; he is a mere
22 figurehead. All powers are exercised
23 by his ministers who are responsible
24 to the Parliament.

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20 (12) Hereditary Element -

21 Another notable
22 feature of the British Constitution is its
23 hereditary element. England is a
24 classical example of democratic government
25 yet many of its political institutions rest
26 on the principle of hereditary. House
27 of Lords is mostly composed of hereditary
28 peers.

(13) Large Number of Conventions - Another notable characteristic of the British Constitution is that it has a large number of conventions. As the Constitution is unwritten, the conventions play a predominant role in the working of the governmental system.

(14) Judge made Constitution - The English constitution is essentially a judge-made constitution. Most of the rights enjoyed by the British citizens have been guaranteed to them by the decisions given from time to time by the judges of England.

(15) Principle of Checks and Balances -

The English constitution is based on the principle of checks and balances. The British parliament can pass a law but it cannot be enforced unless and until it is assented to by the Monarch.

(16) Bi-Party System -

system is yet another notable feature of the British Constitution and politics. The two political parties -

Conservative and Labour - have played
pivotal role in the British politics for
more than three countries.

(17) Mixed Government -

Due to the process of growth, there has emerged a mixed government in the U.K. There is a blend of monarchy, aristocracy and democracy in the British system.