

Salient features of the British Cabinet part-2

(5) Responsibility to Parliament -

The members of the executive are answerable to the House of Commons for every policy they embark upon and for every action that they take. They hold their office only so long as they command the confidence of the House of Commons, when they cease to do so, they resign.

(6) Collective Responsibility -

The responsibility of the ministers to the House of Commons is collective. As a general rule every important piece of departmental policy is taken to commit the entire Cabinet, and its members stand or fall together.

(7) House of Commons can be dissolved earlier -

The House of Commons is elected for a period of five years. But it may be dissolved by the Crown on the advice of the prime minister before the expiry of

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its term.

(8) Secrecy - The secrecy of the proceedings of the Cabinet is also a very significant feature of the system. In the Cabinet meetings, ministers discuss the issues before them frankly and even contradictory views are expressed. Ultimately decisions are taken unanimously. But whatever is said by the minister in the Cabinet meetings or in official discussions among ministers or with the prime minister is confidential, it cannot be made public.

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