

## Examine the ways in which the US House of Representative differs from the UK House of Commons (Comparative: 12 marker)

### 1) Legislative Body

- Commons is most important part of lawmaking in the UK, and has legislative supremacy
- The Lords can only delay bills in the HOC but cannot stop these bills getting this
- This means that HOC is the sovereign house as they do not have the Lords as a barrier but merely something delay their bills and try to change what they believe needs to be change
- But the HOC does not have to adhere to these changes and are able to rush the bill through anyway
- **eg:** Under the 1911 Parliament Act, the Lords cannot veto the bills but can delay it for up to 2 years, after that it will be passed
- HOR is a far weaker legislative as its powers are equally shared with the senate
- Bills can start either in the HOR or Senate compared to the UK in which only the Commons can start bills, the Lords can only make certain changes
- Bills cannot be passed unless they are passed by both the Senate and the HOR compared to the UK in which the Commons can push through the bill even if the Lords do not want this
- There is also the added barrier of the president being able to veto laws but this veto is not absolute

### 2) Financial Powers

- HOC must initiate the money bills and they cant be amended or rejected by the Lords
- These bills mostly include taxation bills and they must be passed by the Lords, without any changes being made meaning that the supremacy of the Commons is asserted due to their ability to passed unchanged money bills
- **eg:** Under the 1911 Parliament Act, any finance bills are to be passed without question in the Lords
- While the HOR has the exclusive power to initiate the money bills, they are almost the same as the Senate
- While the Reps will start the money bills, the Senate does have the ability to amend or reject them, a power that the Lords doesn't have
- **eg:** 'power of the purse' gives the power to start money bills in the HOR, it doesn't stop the Senate from making changes and amending it

### 3) Constitutional Power

- The Constitution can be altered and changed by the Commons, with bills that are passed
- Therefore the HOC is sovereign over the constitution because they are able to deal with the constitution in the same way that they deal with ordinary laws
- The Constitution is created and altered by the Commons, rather than it being a pre-dated document that is particularly unchangeable
- The HOR are instead quite restricted by the Constitution
- The constitution is sovereign over the HOR and they cannot simply alter this document by passing laws
- They can simply propose amendments to the constitution but these must be based by the Senate and there must be a high majority that agree on the amendment