

Exam the ways in which the US and UK constitution are similar (Comparative: 12 marker)

1) Human / Citizen rights

- **Both constitutions have the concept of rights for its citizens, meaning they have protected rights to avoid exploitation and unfair treatment**
- UK has protected rights in the form of a law called the Human Rights Act of 1998 which let you defend your rights in court like the bill of rights
- These rights include right to a fair trial and freedom of religion and expression
- **eg:** R v Sec of State, which meant that due to the Human Rights Act people 'sleeping rough' could not be used as a reason to deport an EU citizen from the UK
- Codification of the US constitution, has the Bill of Rights (first 10 amendments)
- Ensures rights such as free speech and right to bear arms is protected
- **eg:** Engle v Vitale, meant that due to freedom of religion, New York could not encourage a recitation of a daily prayer composed by state officials in schools
- **Both reduce the tyranny fo the government as the public have an actual document to avoid exploitation**

2) Ability to amend constitution

- Amendment process must receive approval of 2/3 of Congress or 3/4 of the states
- If this doesn't occur then the constitution will remain unchanged and if it does then the constitution will be altered
- UK also has ability to be amended through the legislature branch voting on the change of law, made easier by not codification of the constitution
- If there is the majority votes for the amendment then the constitution will be amended
- **eg:** House of Lords Reform 1999 which removed all hereditary peers except 92 which ensured that all parties were better represented in the Lords
- **The amendment process in each constitution helps to ensure that the constitution remains up to date**
- **They can be changed if there is an issue with how the constitution currently is**

3) Both written down in official documents

- One singular document, first penned in 1788
- Means that it is contained in one place and can be read, which upholds its sovereignty in the US political system because there is physical evidence of it
- While the UK Constitution does not exist in one single document, all of the laws that make up the constitution are written down
- **Cnd only use the bits of the constitutions they wanted to use because there wouldn't be any way tp prove that they were using the constitution for their own advantage**
- **Both constitutions means that if there is a problem encountered that must be take to court, because they laws are expressed in full official documents, its easier to properly address these issues**