Practical Guide to Settling Into a New Executive Position

3.1: The structure, role and powers of the executive

3.3: The prime minister and Cabinet

3.2: The concept of ministerial responsibility

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3.1: The structure, role and powers of the executive
How powerful is the UK executive?

DEBATE

Does the UK executive have too much power?

NO

YES

HOT Question

What functions does the executive perform in the UK?

EXTENSION: Is the royal prerogative a more significant power than the ability of the executive to control the legislative agenda in Parliament?

TASK: Prerogative Power

Royal Prerogative: A set of powers vested in government ministers, or the monarch, that do not require parliamentary approval. Most of these powers date from a time when the monarch had direct involvement in government.

STEP 1: Come up with some examples of royal prerogative powers.

STEP 2: Make an argument in favour of the continued existence of prerogative powers.

STEP 3: Which prerogative power is most need of reform?

The Cabinet

Consists of 22 to 23 senior ministers. Helps the Prime Minister make decisions.

Which of these levels of the executive form part of the core executive?

The Prime Minister

Head of the executive who chairs Cabinet and manages its agenda.

Approves members of Cabinet and junior ministers.

Organises the structure of Cabinet - can abolished/departments.
**Learning Objectives**

**Know** - The structure of the UK government

**Understand** - The functions and powers of the UK executive.

**Skills** - Categorising information, evaluation and debate.

**Prime Minister**

Evaluates the powers of the UK executive.

Explains the functions of the UK executive.

Describes the hierarchy of the UK executive.

**Government Department**

**Cabinet**
STARTER: The Hierarchy of Government

Place these levels of the UK government in order of hierarchy.

**Executive Agencies**

**Government Departments**
Each one is responsible for a government department.
Each headed by a Cabinet minister and supported by several junior ministers who are responsible for specific elements within the department.

**The Cabinet**
Consists of 20 to 23 senior ministers. Help the Prime Minister make decisions.
Many decisions taken in Cabinet committees, which deal with particular areas of policy such as economic affairs.

**The Prime Minister**
Head of the executive who chairs Cabinet and manages its agenda.
Appoints members of Cabinet and junior ministers.
Organises the structure of Cabinet - can abolish/merge departments.

Which of these levels of the executive form part of the core executive?
HOT Question

What functions do the executive perform in the UK?

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The Three Core Functions

- Propose legislation
- Propose the budget
- Make policy

How might they carry out these functions?
**TASK: Each One, Teach One!**

Using pp.184-185.

**STEP 1:** One person from each pair research the following powers:
- a) initiation of legislation.
- b) secondary (delegated) legislation

Find out:
1. What it is.
2. How and why it is powerful
3. Limitations on the power.
4. Criticisms
5. An example of its use

**STEP 2:** Teach each other about your power.