

# Practical Guide to Settling Into a New Executive Position



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# 3.1: The structure, role and powers of the executive

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## How powerful is the UK executive?

### Learning Objectives

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



Prime Minister

Evaluates the powers of the UK executive.

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



Cabinet

Explains the functions of the UK executive.

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



Government Department

Describes the hierarchy of the UK executive.

Learning Outcomes

### DEBATE

Does the UK executive have too much power?



FOR THE BEST BREXIT DEAL

Conservatives

NO

YES

### TASK: Each One, Teach One!

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Using pp.184-185.

**STEP 1:** One person from each pair research the following powers:

- initiation of legislation.
- secondary (delegated) legislation

Find out:

- What it is.
- How and why it is powerful
- Limitations on the power.
- Criticisms
- An example of its use

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

### TASK: Prerogative Power

**Royal Prerogative** - A set of powers exercised by government ministers, or the monarch, that do not require parliamentary approval. Most of these powers date from a time that 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 in most need of reform?

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

### HOT Question

What functions do the executive perform in the UK?

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### STARTER: The Hierarchy of Government

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

#### Executive Agencies

Semi-independent bodies that carry out some functions of government departments - Environment Agency, Standards and Testing Agency, Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency.

#### 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.

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

#### 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 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.

## Learning Objectives

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

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



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**Learning Outcomes**

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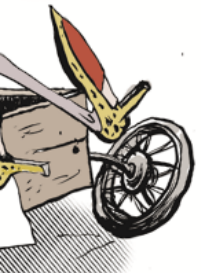
# HOT Question

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?



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