1. How can we ensure politicians understand life in the real world?
2. Would lowering the voting age encourage politicians to think more about young people?
3. How do you think we can make politicians keep their promises?
4. Should all politicians have a job outside politics before they can stand for election?
5. Should voting in national elections be compulsory for all adult citizens?
6. Why is voter turnout so low?

**Political systems**

**The USA**

The **United States** is a [federal republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_republic) in which the [president](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_the_United_States), [Congress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Congress), and [courts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_federal_courts) share [powers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Separation_of_powers) reserved to the national government according to its [Constitution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_the_United_States). At the same time, the [federal government](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_government_of_the_United_States) shares [sovereignty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sovereignty) with the [state](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._state) governments.

The [executive branch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_%28government%29) is headed by the President and is formally independent of both the legislature and the judiciary. The cabinet serves as advisers to the President. They include the Vice President and heads of the executive departments. Legislative power is vested in the two chambers of Congress, the [Senate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Senate) and the [House of Representatives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_House_of_Representatives). The judicial branch (or judiciary), composed of the [Supreme Court](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Supreme_Court) and lower federal courts, exercises [judicial power](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judiciary) (or judiciary). The judiciary's function is to interpret the [United States Constitution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Constitution) and [federal laws](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law_of_the_United_States) and regulations. This includes resolving disputes between the executive and legislative branches. The federal government's layout is explained in the Constitution.

Two [political parties](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_party), the [Democratic Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_Party_%28United_States%29) and the [Republican Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republican_Party_%28United_States%29), have dominated American politics since the [American Civil War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Civil_War), although there are also [smaller parties](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_political_parties_in_the_United_States) like the [Libertarian Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Libertarian_Party_%28US%29), the [Green Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_Party_%28US%29), and the [Constitution Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_Party_%28United_States%29).

**The UK**

The [United Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom) is a [unitary state](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unitary_state) governed within the framework of a [constitutional monarchy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitutional_monarchy), in which the [Monarch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monarchy_of_the_United_Kingdom) is the [head of state](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Head_of_state) and the [Prime Minister of the United Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_the_United_Kingdom) is the [head of government](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Head_of_government). [Executive power](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_power) is exercised by [Her Majesty's Government](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_the_United_Kingdom), on behalf of and by the consent of the Monarch, as well as by the [devolved](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Devolution) Governments of [Scotland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_Government) and [Wales](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Welsh_Assembly_Government), and the [Northern Ireland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Ireland) Executive. [Legislative power](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legislative_power) is vested in the two chambers of the [Parliament of the United Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_the_United_Kingdom), the [House of Commons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Commons_of_the_United_Kingdom) and the [House of Lords](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Lords), as well as in the [Scottish parliament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_parliament) and [Welsh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Assembly_for_Wales) and [Northern Ireland assemblies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Ireland_Assembly). The [judiciary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judiciary) is independent of the executive and the legislature. The highest court is the [Supreme Court of the United Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_the_United_Kingdom).

The UK political system is a [multi-party system](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Multi-party_system). Since the 1920s, the two largest political participation have been the [Conservative Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conservative_Party_%28UK%29) and the [Labour Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Labour_Party_%28UK%29).

**The CR**

The **Czech Republic** is a [unitary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unitary_state) [parliamentary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliamentary_system) [constitutional republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitutional_republic), in which the [President](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_the_Czech_Republic) is the [head of state](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Head_of_state) and the [Prime Minister](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_the_Czech_Republic) is the [head of government](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Head_of_government). Executive power is exercised by the [Government of the Czech Republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_the_Czech_Republic) which reports to the [lower house](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lower_house) of [Parliament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_the_Czech_Republic). The Legislature is [bicameral](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bicameral), with the [Chamber of Deputies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chamber_of_Deputies_of_the_Czech_Republic) (*Poslanecká sněmovna*) consisting 200 members and the [Senate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senate_of_the_Czech_Republic) (*Senát*) consisting 81 members. Both houses together make [Parliament of the Czech Republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_the_Czech_Republic).

Political system of the Czech Republic is a [multi-party system](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Multi-party_system). Since 1993, the two largest parties were [Czech Social Democratic Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Social_Democratic_Party) (ČSSD) and [Civic Democratic Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civic_Democratic_Party_%28Czech_Republic%29) (ODS). This model changed in early 2014, when new political party [ANO 2011](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ANO_2011) ended up as a [runner-up](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Runner-up) and created a [coalition government](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coalition_government) with [ČSSD](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Social_Democratic_Party) and [KDU-ČSL](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KDU-%C4%8CSL). The biggest opposition parties being KSČM ([far-left wing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Far-left_politics)) and [TOP09](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TOP09) ([right wing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Right-wing_politics%22%20%5Co%20%22Right-wing%20politics)).