

Liebe Lehrerinnen und Lehrer,

wir freuen uns, dass Sie sich dafür entschieden haben, mit unserem **Themenheft** zu arbeiten! Es erwartet Sie eine kleine, aber feine Materialsammlung zum politischen System Großbritanniens: Aktuelle Presstexte aus britischen und US-amerikanischen Medien, Videos, Podcasts und Infografiken sind die Materialien, mit denen Lernende herangeführt werden an grundlegende Inhalte wie z. B. die Bedeutung der Magna Carta für demokratische Gesellschaften, die Aufgaben von Ober- und Unterhaus und des Prime Ministers sowie an das wichtige Thema Devolution. Übungen inkl. Lösungen festigen das Verständnis und bereiten gezielt auf die Abiturprüfungen im Fach Englisch vor.

Viel Erfolg und einen interessanten und abwechslungsreichen Unterricht wünscht

Ihre Englisch-Redaktion

Chapter	Text	Skills	Page
The History of the British Constitution	Magna Carta's Legacy Lives on 800 Years Later © 2015 USA Today	Writing	4
The Houses of Parliament	The House of Commons Unraveled: British Lawmakers Get OK to Go Tieless © 2017 USA Today	Reading	10
	The House of Lords End of the Peer © 2018 Guardian News and Media Ltd	Speaking	17
The Prime Minister	Prime Minister Boris Johnson May Have Broken the Ultimate Taboo © 2019 Los Angeles Times	Listening & Reading	24
Devolution	Devolution © House of Commons Library	Reading & Visuals	31
Answer key			39

Magna Carta's Legacy Lives on 800 Years Later

HISTORY • DEMOCRACY The Magna Carta set out the principle that everybody was subject to the law – even the king.



King John signing the Magna Carta in 1215.

| IMAGE: Picture Alliance

BY JANE ONYANGA-OMARA

1 EIGHT CENTURIES ago, a peace treaty came into being that would become a pillar of English law and the basis of constitutional democracies in the United States and around the world hundreds of years later. Rebel barons made King John of England seal the Magna Carta – the Great Charter – on June 15, 1215, in a bid to limit the power of the monarch who they viewed as cruel and greedy.

2 The document set out the principle that everybody was subject to the law, even the king, for the first time on written record. Some of its key principles influenced the U.S. Bill of Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and many other legal systems.

3 On Monday, Queen Elizabeth II, her husband Prince Philip, Prince William, U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch, British Prime Minister David Cameron, and other dignitaries marked the anniversary in Runnymede in the county of Surrey, near London, where King John sealed the charter. A statue of the queen was unveiled near the site Sunday, and the royal barge *Gloriana* led 200 boats along the River Thames to Runnymede over the weekend.

4 “Magna Carta was a milestone in world history, and its birthplace at Runnymede deserves a lasting legacy,” said the

Surrey County Council, one of the organizers of the anniversary ceremony. The four known surviving copies of the charter are kept at the cathedrals of the cities of Lincoln in northeast England and Salisbury in the south, and two are held in the British Library.

5 So how has a document that began almost a millennium ago become such a profound part of life as we know it today? Historians say Magna Carta is even more revered in the United States than it is in England.

6 “The basis of the Magna Carta is a bastion against tyranny and against over-mighty government,” Derek Taylor, the author of the book *Magna Carta in 20 Places*, told USA TODAY. He said the charter’s importance in the U.S. “can’t be underestimated.” “There’s something about the Magna Carta that rings a bell and chimes with the fundamental American belief about the way society should organize itself,” he said. However, the brutality against Native Americans and slaves and the treatment of women and slave descendants as second-class citizens for generations after the signing of the Constitution show that “it took a long time for those words to have any meaning,” he added.

7 Due process can be traced to Chapter 39 of Magna Carta and is incorporated into the Fifth Amendment, which includes the provision that no person shall be “deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law.”

8 “For America’s founding fathers, Magna Carta symbolized the ‘rule of law,’ the precept that a government is bound by the law in dealing with its people,” Ralph Turner, history professor emeritus at the University of Florida, said in an article titled “Magna Carta in the United States.” “This view was set forth first in the Declaration of Independence, then in the state constitutions of the former thirteen colonies, and in the fifth and fourteenth amendments to the federal Constitution,” he wrote.

9 More than 1,000 celebrations are taking place in the 53 commonwealth countries this month to commemorate the charter, Sir Robert Worcester, chairman of the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Commemoration Committee, told USA TODAY. “It’s England’s greatest export,” he said. “It affects the lives of nearly two billion people in over one-hundred countries throughout the world. It’s the foundation of liberty; it’s the foundation of human rights; it’s the foundation of democracy.”

© 2015/ Jane Onyanga-Omara/USA Today. All rights reserved.
Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

0-2 LEGACY (legəsi) Vermächtnis — to set out festlegen — to be subject to s.th. etw. unterliegen — peace treaty Friedensvertrag — pillar (pɪlə) Säule — to seal besiegeln — in a bid in dem Bestreben — greedy habgierig — Universal Declaration of Human Rights Allgemeine Erklärung der Menschenrechte

3-5 Attorney General Justizminister(in) — dignitary (ˈdɪgnətəri) Würdenträger(in) —

to unveil (ənˈveɪl) enthüllen — royal barge (ˈbɑːdʒ) königl. Barkasse — surviving erhalten geblieben — Salisbury (ˈsɔːlzbəri) — profound (prəˈfaʊnd) tiefgreifend — to revere (rɪˈvɪə) verehren

6-7 over-mighty übermächtig — to chime with s.th. (fɪɡ) mit etw. im Einklang sein — descendants (dɪˈsendənts) Nachkommen — signing Unterzeichnung — due process (of law) Anspruch auf ein faires Gerichtsverfahren

ren — to trace to s.th. auf etw. zurückführen — to incorporate verankern — amendment Zusatzartikel — provision Klausel — to deprive s.o. of s.th. (dɪˈpraɪv) jdm. etw. entziehen

8-9 founding fathers Gründerväter — rule of law Rechtsstaatsprinzip — precept (ˈpriːsept) Prinzip — to set forth darlegen — to commemorate s.th. (kəˈmeməreɪt) etw. gedenken — chairman Vorsitzender

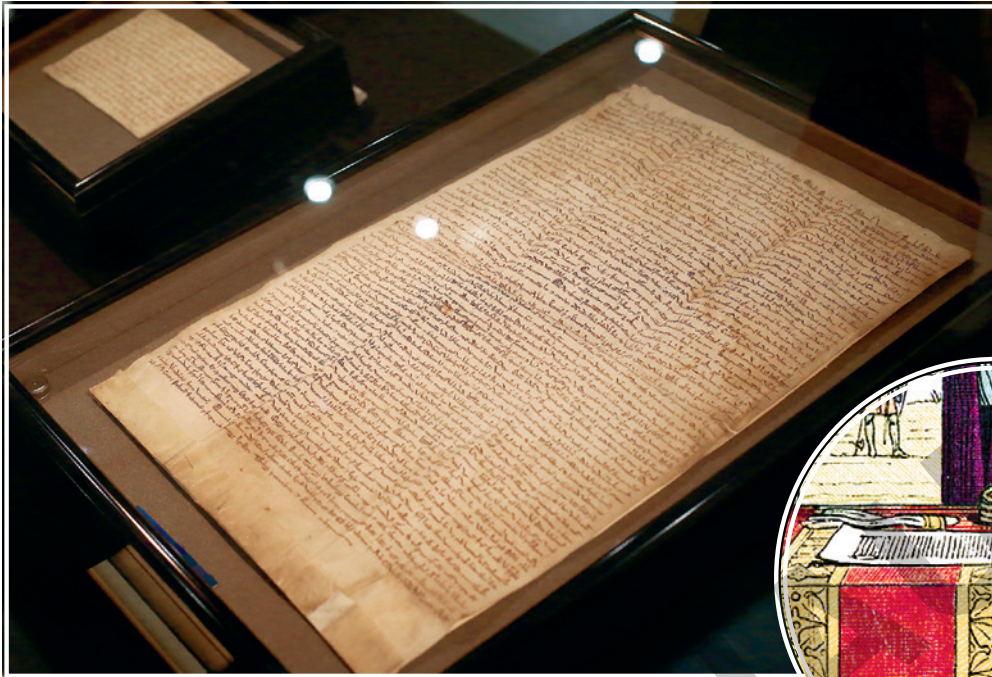


**netzwerk
lernen**

© 2015/ Jane Onyanga-Omara/USA Today. Alle Rechte vorbehalten.

zur Vollversion

What is Britain's Magna Carta?



| PHOTO: Getty Images

3 Watch the video, and decide if the statements are true or false.

Video 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7xo4tUMdAMw>

Statements	True	False
a) Magna Carta means "the Great Map".	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b) The origins of Magna Carta date back to the Middle Ages.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c) A lot of people believed in King John and his family.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d) Magna Carta is based on the barons' negotiations with King John.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e) Magna Carta became a very influential document in England.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4 Watch the video again, and write short answers to the following questions in one to two complete English sentences.

a) What did you learn about King John?



b) What did the barons demand that King John should do?

c) How often was Magna Carta reissued before it became part of English law?

5 Watch the second video. Write suitable endings to the following sentences.

Video 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQ7vUkbtlQA>

a) *When Magna Carta was printed for the first time ...* _____

b) *The Petition of Right ...* _____

c) *In 1964, ...* _____

6 Use the following link or QR code to watch a short documentary about the legacy of Magna Carta, and try to answer the questions.

<https://eu.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2015/06/14/magna-carta-anniversary/71206922/>



a) Why is Magna Carta one of the most important documents of Western civilisation?

b) Only three provisions of Magna Carta remain today. What are they?



Greene: Why do you call it a national (e) _____? I mean, is there an argument that taking a pause and holding a new (f) _____ and seeing where people stand today is maybe the safest option to take stock of where people sort of are now, compared to when they last voted?

Gray: Well, let's imagine you did have a second referendum. Then, of course, some people would, no doubt, vote to leave, some people would, no doubt, vote to remain. For all I know, the result may well be precisely identical. It was 52 to 48 per cent in favour of leaving or 52–48 in favour of (g) _____.

That wouldn't change the situation we're in. Not only that, but also, it means it would take us beyond the European Union elections, which are scheduled for May. And we'll, therefore, have to put up

(h) _____ for that. What a humiliation that would be, to say we're going to leave the European Union, we detest everything about this, but nonetheless, we aren't going to be allowed to do so. So I just think that it's right that we, at this stage in our great nation's history – and we love the United States; we love the special relationship – I think it's just right that we, as a nation, should say, well, look, we don't like the European Union, 17.4 million people – a majority of the Brits – voted against it. Let us now find a reasonable way of leaving the European Union, walking out with our heads held high. (...)

The Day Boris Johnson Became Prime Minister

Use the link or QR code and watch the short news report on Johnson becoming the new Prime Minister of the UK.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNIMA8TOJhM>



- 5 While watching, fill in the missing information in the following tasks. One aspect is enough.

Tip! Make sure that you read all the tasks first before you watch the video. Example a) might help you.

- a) Why are people applauding at the beginning of the news report?

Boris Johnson moves into Downing Street.

- b) What are Johnson's major expectations?
-
-

- c) May's greatest motivation
-
-



Devolution

POWERS Different parts of the UK have different forms of devolution and varying degrees of power.

1 “DEVOLUTION” is the term used to describe the process of transferring power from the centre to the nations and regions of the United Kingdom. The term is derived from the Latin, meaning “to roll down”.

2 It is different from a federal or confederal system of government, under which every constituent part of a state enjoys autonomy and sovereignty. Under the UK constitutional tradition of “parliamentary sovereignty” devolution is, in theory, reversible, and the devolved institutions products of UK statute.

3 The legislative frameworks for devolution were originally set out in the Scotland Act 1998, the Government of Wales Act 1998, and the Northern Ireland Act 1998, although all three have subsequently been amended. There is also a non-legislative framework of agreements between Government departments and the devolved institutions which help resolve disputes between central and devolved government.

4 The UK system of devolution is asymmetric, in that different parts of the UK have different forms of devolution and varying degrees of power. Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland now all possess executive and legislative devolution, while metro mayors in parts of England (and the Mayor of London) have only executive powers. Combined Authorities and the London Assembly can scrutinise executive decisions but not legislate in the manner of the Scottish Parliament, Welsh Parliament, and the Northern Ireland Assembly.

5 Those three legislatures can only pass primary and secondary laws in devolved (or “transferred” in the case of Northern Ireland) areas, with “reserved” matters (or reserved and “excepted” in NI) remaining the responsibility of Westminster. The UK Parliament can still legislate in devolved areas, but, under the Sewel Convention, does “not normally” do so without the explicit consent of the relevant devolved body.

6 Prior to the 1997 referendum on devolving power from Westminster to Wales, the then Secretary of State for Wales, Ron Davies, memorably referred to devolution as “a process, not an event”. ...

7 Devolution in the United Kingdom did not begin in the late 1990s. Rather it has taken many forms in Scotland, Wales, and Ireland (later, Northern Ireland) since the 18th century:



Houses of Parliament in London. | PHOTO: Mary_R_Smith/Pixabay



The Scottish Parliament Building in Edinburgh. | PHOTO: Picture Alliance



The Senedd, home of the Welsh National Assembly, in Cardiff. | PHOTO: Getty Images



Stormont, the Northern Ireland Parliament Buildings in Belfast. | PHOTO: Picture Alliance

- **administrative** – the practice of transferring central government responsibilities to territorial departments of the same government;
- **executive** – where the prerogative powers of the UK Government are transferred to ministers of devolved governments or, in England, elected “metro” mayors;
- **legislative** – where law-making powers are transferred from Westminster to other legislatures within the UK.

8 The application of these different forms of devolution has often reflected the composite nature of the UK which, as Professor James Mitchell has argued, has never been unitary but “a state of unions”.

...

Source: “Introduction to devolution in the UK”, House of Commons Library

0-2 **TO TRANSFER** übertragen — **to derive from s.th.** (dɪˈraɪv) s. von etw. ableiten — **confederal** (kənˈfɛdərəl) auf e-m Staatenbund beruhend — **constituent part** (kənˈstɪtjuənt) Bestandteil — **reversible** (rɪˈvɜːsəbəl) umkehrbar — **devolved** dezentralisiert — **statute** (ˈstætjuːt) Gesetz

3 **legislative framework** (ˈledʒɪslətɪv) Gesetzesrahmen — **to set out** abstecken — **act** Gesetz — **subsequently** (ˈsʌbsɪkwəntli) später — **to amend** ändern; ergänzen — **non-legislative** ohne Gesetzesrang — **Government department** Ministerium

4-5 **to possess** (pəˈzɛs) besitzen — **Metro Mayor** (meə) Oberbürgermeister(in) — **executive power** (ɪgˈzɛkjətɪv) vollziehende Gewalt — **Combined Authorities** (ɔːθrətɪz) Regionalverwaltungen — **London Assembly** Legislative der Metropolregion London — **to scrutinise** (ˈskruːtɪnaɪz) eingehend prüfen — **to legislate** (ˈledʒɪsleɪt) Gesetze erlassen — **legislature** (ˈledʒɪslətʃə) Parlament — **to reserve** vorbehalten — **to except** ausschließen — **explicit consent** (ɪkˈsplɪsɪt) ausdrückliche Zustimmung — **body** Gremium; Organ

6-8 **prior to** (ˈpraɪə) vor — **Secretary of State** Kabinettsminister(in) — **memorably** (memərəbli) einprägsam — **to refer to s.th.** von etw. sprechen — **territorial departments** (terɪˈtɔːriəl) für die jeweiligen Regionen zuständige Ministerien — **prerogative powers** (prɪˈrɒɡətɪv) Privilegien — **law-making power** Gesetzgebungsgewalt — **application** Anwendung — **composite** (kəmˈpɒzɪt) komplex; zus.gesetzt — **unitary** (juːnɪtəri) zentralistisch





Focus on Devolution: Part I

- 1 Read the introductory text on devolution in the UK and match the following words with their definitions.

a) confederal system (para. 2)	A the part of the government of a country that carries out decisions
b) asymmetric system (para. 4)	B a system involving two or more nations
c) prerogative powers (para. 7)	C a system marked by an unbalanced or uneven distribution or organisation of powers, etc.
d) executive power (para. 7)	D powers restricted to a sovereign government or its representative

a) _____ b) _____ c) _____ d) _____

- 2 Which of the following major topics are discussed in the article? Mark the correct topics.

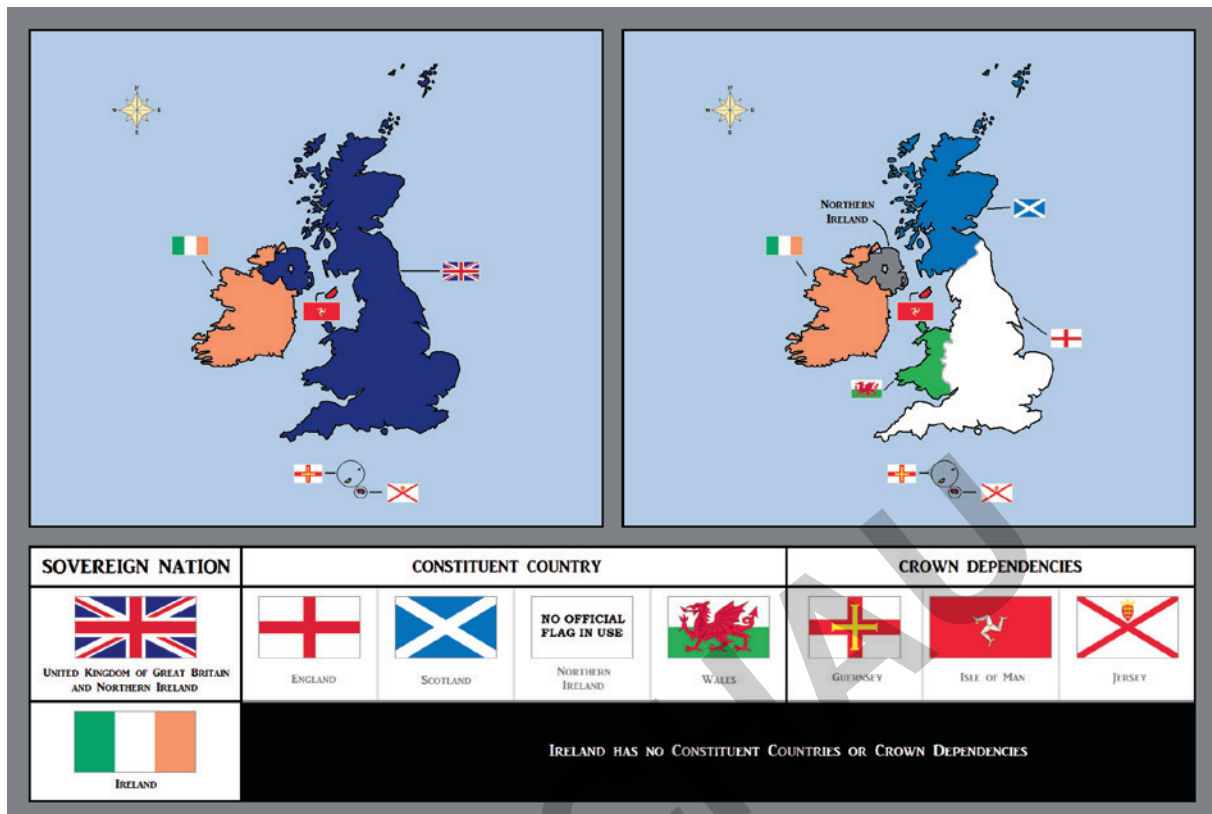
- Distribution of power in the UK
- Brexit referendum
- Major upcoming changes in the UK
- Role of Scotland in the British political system
- Relationship between the UK and Europe
- Government of Wales Act 1998

- 3 Skim through the text again. Decide if the following statements are true or false.

Statements	True	False
a) The system of power in the UK is subdivided into different parts.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b) Every part of the UK is completely independent and autonomous.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c) Metro mayors have no legislative powers.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d) The process of devolution has undergone many changes in the past.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e) James Mitchell argues that the UK is not unitary.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Devolution in the UK: Working with Maps



Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Devolution_in_the_United_Kingdom#/media/File:British_Isles_-_UK_&_Ireland.png

- 9 Describe the maps to a partner. Partner A describes map 1; partner B describes map 2. The following questions in the box as well as the useful phrases may help you. (Focus on description)

Supporting questions to describe a map	Useful phrases
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What can you see in the map(s)? • What does the map look like? • Which colours are used? • What information does the map contain? • What major/minor differences are shown? 	<p><i>In the map there is/are ...</i></p> <p><i>The map clearly shows ...</i></p> <p><i>The following colours are used ...</i></p> <p><i>The effect of the ... shows ...</i></p> <p><i>In the centre ...</i></p> <p><i>On the left/right side of the map there is/are</i></p> <p>...</p>

Page 4 | Magna Carta's Legacy Lives on 800 Years Later

- 1
 - a) **council:** assembly of (secular and ecclesiastical) people
 - b) **adviser:** a person who gives advice, opinions, or recommendations
 - c) **baron:** (British) rank of nobility
 - d) **rebellion:** act of resistance
 - e) **representative:** a person who represents or stands in for somebody or something

- 2 For the first time on written record in the history of England, Magna Carta limited the power of monarchs and said that they were also subject to the law. To this day, Magna Carta ensures legal rights, equality, and democracy.

- 3 a) false • b) true • c) false • d) true • e) true

- 4 **Major events**
 - a) King John was the ruler of England in 1215, and he is believed to have been one of the worst kings in history.
 - b) The barons demanded that King John obey the law.
 - c) Magna Carta was reissued three times in the 13th century before it was made part of English law.

- 5
 - a) ... in 1508, it became the first law that all English lawyers studied.
 - b) ... set out to limit the king's powers.
 - c) ... Nelson Mandela declared his admiration for Magna Carta.

- 6
 - a) Magna Carta is a document, a symbol, and the international foundation of civil liberty in Western civilisation.
 - b) They are the freedom of the Church of England, the rights of London, and the law of the land.

- 7
 - a) constitutional democracies • b) evil
 - c) human rights • d) Runnymede
 - e) rule of law

- 9 important document • influenced America's constitution • more than 800 years old

- 10 America's founding fathers used Britain's Magna Carta as inspiration for their nation's founding documents, which include the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and the US Constitution. Its "Law of the Land" was used in documents to state America's fundamental beliefs before the official Constitution and the Fifth Amendment were adopted.

Page 10 | Unraveled: British Lawmakers Get OK to Go Tieless

- 1 a) E • b) F • c) A • d) D • e) B • f) C
- 2 a) true • b) true • c) true • d) true • e) false

3 Individual student answers

- 4
 - a) a maximum of five years
 - b) people living and voting in a specific part of the country
 - c) deciding how much tax people must pay
 - d) recent issues of national interest

- 5 **convention-breaking (para. 1):** to no longer observe a regulation or agreement

lawmaker (paras. 7–9): person making or changing laws

uniform ban (para. 6): to forbid a certain form or kind of clothing or way of dressing

dress code (paras. 6–8): set of rules that specify the type of clothing to be worn by a specific group of people

6 Traditional Values in the UK

- traditional dress code, including a tie
- tradition-bound fashion sensibility
- Queen usually wears her crown at official events

Modernisation in Progress

- new dress code (business-like attire)
- Queen: simple hat instead of crown
- less strict for students at some British schools
- new dress code in Parliament

