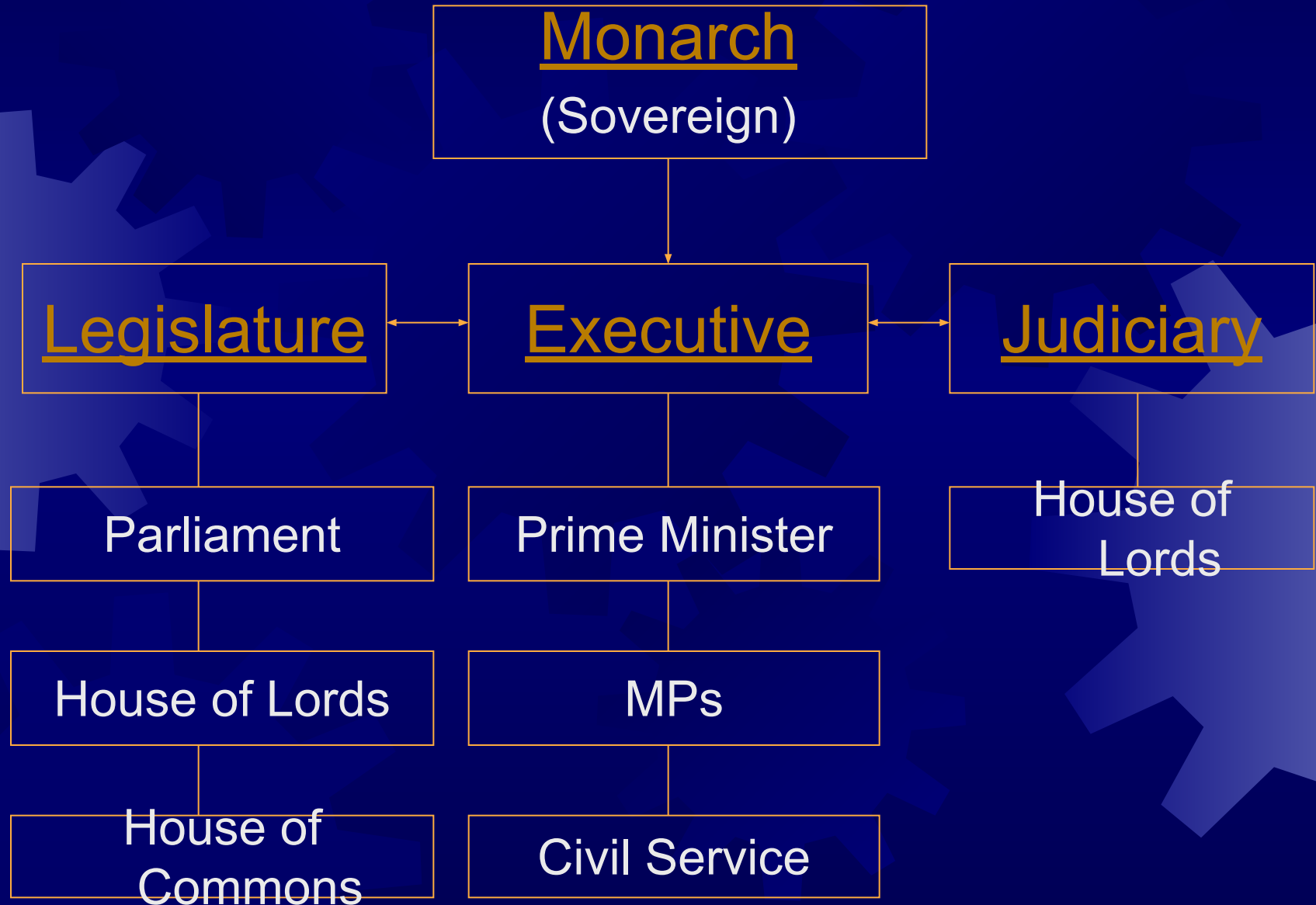


# Structure of the Central Government of the UK

# Overview of UK Government

- ✱ parliamentary democracy
- ✱ based on universal suffrage
- ✱ also a constitutional monarchy
- ✱ ministers of the Crown govern in the name of the Sovereign, who is both Head of State and Head of the Government
- ✱ no 'written constitution' (rely on statute law, common law and conventions)

# Basic Structure of Government



# Monarch

- ✦ The Sovereign: the constitutional head of State
- ✦ No longer exercises political power, but performs symbolically:
  - presiding over the State Opening of Parliament, giving Royal Assent of agreement to any new law etc.
- ✦ Keeping in touch with the Prime Minister by a weekly meeting

# Legislature:

- ✴ Legislative body: Parliament of Britain
- ✴ Located in Westminster
- ✴ Parliament consists of the House of Lords & the House of Commons
- ✴ Government's policies can become laws only if approved by both Houses.



# Main Function of Parliament

- ✴ to pass laws
- ✴ to provide - by voting for taxation - the means of carrying out the work of government,
- ✴ to scrutinise Government policy and administration, including proposals for expenditure,
- ✴ to debate the major issues of the day.

# House of Lords

## *Members*

- ✦ Before the reform:

Composed of hereditary peers, senior judges and church figures, and some life peers appointed by the Queen.

- ✦ After the reform:

Members can no longer inherit their titles. More members will be elected through the society.

# House of Lords

## *Function*

- ✦ legislative: taking part in the laws making
- ✦ Judiciary: the highest court of UK, playing important role in judicial part.



# House of Commons

## *Members*

- ★ 659 Members of Parliament (MPs), elected by the people from the 659 constituencies
- ★ Re-elected when a new government is formed.
- ★ The chief officer of the House of Commons is the Speaker, elected by MPs to preside over the House.

# House of Commons

## *Power*

- ✦ Most legislative power rests with it.
- ✦ The leader of the party which has the most MPs becomes the Prime Minister and selects his Cabinet among MPs.

# House of Commons

## *Function*

- ✦ Debating issues of national and international importance.
- ✦ Supervising Government by questioning.
- ✦ Controlling Government income and spending
- ✦ Able to alter or oppose proposed new laws.

# Executive

- ✦ Executive body: the Sovereign, Prime Minister & Cabinet
- ✦ Dealing with regular national and international affairs
- ✦ Making decisions of new policies
- ✦ Supervising departments of the government

# Prime Minister

- ★ PM: the leader of the political party which wins the majority of seats in Parliament.
- ★ Selecting the cabinet from their own party in the House of Commons
- ★ Responsible for the conduct of national affairs directly
- ★ His authority comes from support in the House of Commons.



# Cabinet

## *Members*

- ✦ consists of about 20 ministers chosen by the Prime Minister Selected by the Prime Minister
- ✦ Members of Commons
- ✦ Sit on the “front benches” in the House of Commons

# Cabinet

## *Function*

- ✦ It balances ministers' individual duties with their collective responsibility as members of the Government and takes the final decisions on all government policy.
- ✦ Cabinet Committees include those dealing with defence and overseas policy, economic policy, home and social affairs, the environment, and local government.



# Civil Service

- ✦ Servants of the Crown
- ✦ Non-political group
- ✦ Career officials who remain in office despite changes in government
- ✦ Offering advice about the possible consequences of policy
- ✦ Responsible for implementing the policies of Government

# Judiciary

- ✦ The House of Lords is the ultimate appeal court in the UK
- ✦ The Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs and Lord Chancellor heads the judiciary and sits on the judicial committee of the House of Lords. He also presides over the upper House in its law-making role and, as a senior Cabinet minister, heads the Department of Constitutional Affairs.

The background is a solid dark blue color. Overlaid on this are several large, semi-transparent gears of varying shades of blue. On the far left, there is a vertical strip of a colorful, abstract, and textured pattern in shades of orange, yellow, and brown.

Thank you  
for your attention!