

Law Topic 6: The foundation of British law: The Magna Carta.

Exercise 6.1. *Name legal documents of constitutional importance, which have affected modern legal systems. (Назвіть юридичні документи, які вплинули на формування юридичної системи).*

Exercise 6.2. *Read the text. (Прочитайте текст).*

The Magna Carta

At the heart of the English system are two principles of government – limited government and representative government. The idea that government was not all-powerful first appeared in the Magna Carta, or Great Charter, that King John** signed in 1215 under the threat of civil war.

Earlier kings of England had issued charters, making promises to their barons. But these were granted by, not exacted from the king and were very generally phrased. Later the tension between the Kings and the nobility increased. Since 1199 John's barons had to be promised their rights. It is, therefore, not surprising that Stephen Langton, archbishop of Canterbury,

directed baronial unrest into a demand for a solemn grant of liberties by the king. The document known as the Articles of the Barons was at last agreed upon and became the text from which the final version of the charter was drafted and sealed by John on June 15, 1215.

The Magna Carta established the principle of limited government, in which the power of the monarch, or government, was limited, not absolute. This document provided for protection against unjust punishment and the loss of life, liberty, and property except according to law. It stipulated that no citizen could be punished or kept in prison without a fair trial. Under the Magna Carta, the king agreed that certain taxes could not be levied without popular consent.

Although the Magna Carta was originally intended to protect aristocracy and not the ordinary citizens, it came in time to be regarded as a cornerstone of British liberties. It is one of the oldest written constitutional papers.

* **Magna Carta** – Велика хартія вільностей.

** **King John** – Іоанн Безземельний, англійський король (1199-1216).

(Law Worldwide K:2002)

Exercise 6.3. *The word **GOVERNMENT** has the following meanings (слово “Government” має наступні значення):*

- 1) державна влада
executive government – виконавча влада; judicial government – судова влада; legislative government – законодавча влада;
- 2) керівництво
to carry out the government of a state – здійснювати керівництво державою;
- 3) форма правління, державний устрій, політичний устрій
democratic / republican / federal / parliamentary government – демократична / республіканська / федеральна / парламентська форма правління; constitutional government – конституційна форма правління; a system of government – система правління;
- 4) уряд
Liberal / Labour/ Conservative Government – ліберальний, лейбористський, консервативний уряд; to form the government – сформувати уряд.

Exercise 6.4. Match the following English expressions with their Ukrainian equivalents (знайдіть український еквівалент англійським сполученням):

1) arbitrary government	a) діючий уряд
2) authoritarian government	b) місцеве самоврядування
3) colonial form of government	c) військова адміністрація
4) government investigation	d) змішана форма уряду
5) government of the day	e) парламентський уряд
6) government offices	f) уряд Її Величності
7) government official	g) правляча партія
8) government party	h) правлячі заклади
9) government(al) department	i) урядова форма
10) government(al) regulation	j) тимчасовий уряд
11) government's term of office	k) розпустити уряд
12) Her Majesty's Government	l) органи державного управління
13) local government	m) автократія
14) military government	n) президентська влада
15) mixed government	o) авторитарна форма правління
16) organs of government	p) урядове відомство
17) parliamentary government	q) урядове слідство
18) presidential government	r) колоніальна форма державного уряду
19) provisional government	s) постанова уряду
20) representative government	t) урядовий службовець
21) to dissolve the government	u) термін повноважень уряду

Exercise 6.5. Use the expressions above to make sentences of your own ex. 6.4. (5 sentences). (Складіть власні речення зі сполученнями впр. 6.4. (5 речень)).

Exercise 6.6. Answer the following questions. (Дайте відповіді на запитання).

1. What were the two basic principles of the English system of government at the beginning of the 13th century? How do you understand these principles?
2. What political situation necessitated the granting of the Magna Carta?
3. What provisions did the Magna Carta contain?
4. Who enjoyed the rights granted by the Magna Carta?