

**Content-related outcome:**

- Students are familiar with the characteristic features of the political system of the USA as a presidential democracy.
- Students understand the principle of “checks and balances”.
- Students understand the main differences of contemporary political systems.

**Language-related outcome:**

- Students can distinguish between main facts and details.
- Students can work with graphs by extracting necessary information from related statements.
- Students can compare different systems.

**Teacher's Handout:**

| Time<br>100' | Contents                 | Activity type                                              | Classroom format                  | Procedure                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Resources                                          |
|--------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 15'          | The American Way of Life | Brainstorming and collecting positive and negative aspects | Group work (4)<br><br>Whole class | Students do some brainstorming on positive and negative aspects of the American Way of Life and write 3 positive ones on green post-its and 3 negative ones on red post-its to be clustered afterwards on a pin board. | 3.6.A<br>Green and red post-its<br>Markers<br>Pins |
| 15'          | Key lexis                | Finding terms and definitions in a memory                  | Group work (4)                    | Students do the memory. Teacher may eliminate some pairs                                                                                                                                                               | 3.6.B<br>Memory 1,2,3 (Appendix)                   |

|     |                                              |                                                                                |                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                           |
|-----|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 10' | Anti – Americanism                           | Assessing and arguing for and against different opinions                       | Whole class                                    | Teacher challenges the students to assess both their points of view and the source for a discussion                                                                                                                                                                                        | 3.6.C                                                     |
| 10' | The political system of the USA              | Extracting information from statements to complete a diagram                   | Pair work                                      | Students fill in the graph with the help of the statements referring to the American constitution<br>Teacher presents correct version<br>End of lesson                                                                                                                                     | 3.6.D.1<br>Key D 1                                        |
| 5'  | The political system of the USA - revision   | Asking and answering questions                                                 | Pair work                                      | Students form new pairs<br>Teacher gives out A and B questions<br>Students exchange questions and answers                                                                                                                                                                                  | 3.6.D.2<br>Questions and answers<br>A and B               |
| 5'  | The position of the American president       | Analyzing statements to identify main ideas                                    | Whole class                                    | Students discuss which statement is the best to describe the position of the American president.                                                                                                                                                                                           | 3.6.D.3<br>Key: C                                         |
| 40' | Comparison of contemporary political systems | Comparing different contemporary political systems known from previous lessons | Group work<br>Expert groups<br><br>Whole class | Students form 5 groups, each group does internet research on one political system and creates a poster/graph which is put up in the classroom<br>Students form new groups of different experts<br>Groups move from one poster to the next and fill in their tables<br>Comparison of tables | 3.6.F<br>Flipchart papers<br>Felt pens<br>Markers<br>Pins |

### 3.6.D.2 Questions and Answers

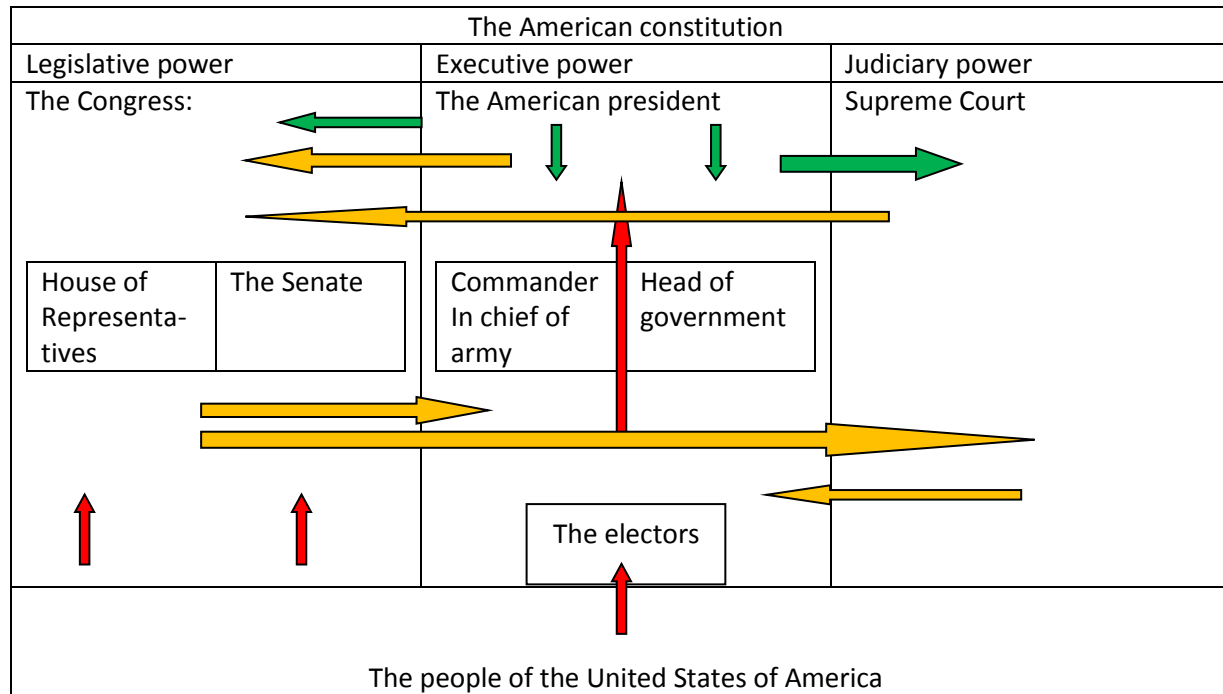
#### A

|                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| What is a presidential democracy?                                               | In a presidential democracy the president is head of the government.                                                                                                                |
| What are the main institutions of the US constitution and which power are they? | The president, he is the chief executive,<br>The Congress, consisting of the House of representatives and the Senate, they are the legislature<br>The Supreme Court, the judiciary. |
| Why are “checks and balances” in a democracy so important?                      | Checks and balances make sure that the separation of power is kept, that the legislative, executive and judiciary powers control each other.                                        |
| What is the power of the Supreme Court?                                         | The Supreme Court reviews the laws to see if they are in agreement with the constitution. The Supreme Court controls the president.                                                 |
| Who can initiate impeachment against the President and the Chief Justice?       | The Congress                                                                                                                                                                        |

**B**

|                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Which power does the president of the United States have? | He is head of the state, commander-in-chief of the army, party leader and responsible for American foreign policy. He is the chief executive. So the initiatives for new laws come from him.                                                                                                                                     |
| How is the president elected?                             | The president is not elected directly. The country is divided into constituencies, which correspond to the 50 US states. Each state has a certain number of electors. The candidate who gets the most votes in a state, gets all the electors in that state to vote for him.                                                     |
| How do the “check and balances” work in the USA?          | There is a mutual system of control. The Congress can initiate impeachment against the president and the Chief Justice, the president can veto laws from the Congress, the Congress has to pass the laws initiated by the president and the Supreme Court has to check that all the laws are in agreement with the constitution. |
| Who appoints the judges of the Supreme Court?             | The president appoints the judges to their lifetime position.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

**Key 3.6.D.1:**



### Appendix: 3 Memory-Games:

|                               |                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>presidential democracy</b> | a <a href="#">republican system</a> where the <a href="#">head of government</a> is the president and leads the government that is separate from the <a href="#">legislative branch</a> | <b>constitutional monarchy</b> | a monarchy in which the monarch's power is determined by a constitution.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>oligarchy</b>              | A form of <a href="#">power structure</a> in which a small number of people have all the power                                                                                          | <b>absolute monarchy</b>       | A system where the monarch holds absolute power over his/her people. There is no separation of power.                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>dictatorship</b>           | a form of government where the power is held by one person and executed through oppression and violence                                                                                 | <b>parliamentary democracy</b> | A system of democracy in which the people elect the parliament. The parliament is the legislative power. The executive power is the government and gets its power from parliament. The <a href="#">head of state</a> is the president, he a different person from the <a href="#">head of government</a> , the Prime Minister. |

|                        |                                                                            |                             |                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>constitution</b>    | a set of rules according to which a state is governed                      | <b>separation of powers</b> | a system in which the legislature, the executive and the judiciary have separate areas of responsibility and thus do not get into mutual conflicts, but control each other. |
| <b>majority voting</b> | The majority of votes decide over the decision – making bodies in a state. | <b>constituency</b>         | an electoral district                                                                                                                                                       |

|                              |                                                                                                     |                    |                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>checks and balances</b>   | Regulation within the governmental system that allows the different branches to control each other. | <b>judiciary</b>   | The power that interprets and applies the laws in the name of the state                                                           |
| <b>legislature</b>           | The decision – making organization that enacts, amends and repeals laws                             | <b>executive</b>   | The branch of the government that has the responsibility of administrating of the state                                           |
| <b>vote of no confidence</b> | a vote that states that the government/ a person is no longer thought fit to hold that position     | <b>impeachment</b> | a formal process in which an official is accused of unlawful activity, which may lead to the removal of that official from office |



|                      |                                                                                                            |                   |                                                     |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>federalism</b>    | A democratic system in which the power to govern is shared between local, provincial and state governments | <b>centralism</b> | The concentration of government in one central body |
| <b>supreme court</b> | the highest <a href="#">court</a> within the hierarchy of legal <a href="#">jurisdictions</a>              | <b>franchise</b>  | suffrage, the civil right to vote                   |

|                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                  |                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>House of Representatives</b> | The lower body of the two chambers of legislature in the USA, called the Congress. Its power is to pass federal legislation.                                                     | <b>The Senate</b>      | The second chamber of the Congress. It has several exclusive powers, such as agreeing to <a href="#">treaties</a> , appointing higher federal officials, and setting up trials of federal officials <a href="#">impeached</a> by the House of Representatives. |
| <b>lobbyism</b>                 | the act of attempting to influence decisions made by officials in the <a href="#">government</a> to support the interests of certain groups                                      | <b>election</b>        | a process by which a population chooses an individual to hold a public function                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>The Democrats</b>            | One of the two main US parties. They are liberal, support the rights of minorities and are committed to the socially disadvantaged. They think that a strong state is important. | <b>The Republicans</b> | The conservative party in the US. They stand for American entrepreneurship, and traditional values such as national pride, religion and family.                                                                                                                |

|                       |                                   |                  |                                                                                                                                             |
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| <b>Prime Minister</b> | the head of an elected government | <b>cabinet</b>   | body consisting of the top leaders of the <a href="#">executive branch</a> , usually called <a href="#">ministers</a> and state secretaries |
| <b>overrule</b>       | the rejection of a decision       | <b>sovereign</b> | a supreme ruler, a king, a queen, a monarch<br>a body that has supreme power                                                                |