**Topic: Political system of Ukraine. Date 25/03/2020**

**Group: 71**

**Task 1.**Read some information about the political system of Ukraine and summarize it.

1)What is the general foundations of the political system?

2)What are the state power institutions in Ukraine?

POLITICAL SYSTEM

On August 24, 1991, Ukraine proclaimed its independence and during the referendum held on December 1 of the same year, the Ukrainian people confirmed their choice of independent development by saying “yes” to it. Leonid Kravchuk was elected the first president of a newly independent Ukraine. Ukraine faced a multitude of very difficult tasks which had to be solved within a short period of time: a new political system had to be built; new statehood principles based on law had to be introduced; a new system of national security and defense had to be created. In 1996 the new Constitution was adopted. General foundations of the political system of Ukraine are defined by its Constitution. In accordance with its organic law, Ukraine is a sovereign and independent, democratic, social and jural state. Democratic essence of the Ukrainian state is enshrined by the constitutional provisions concerning its form of government — a republic, governed by sovereignty of the people. State power is divided into legislative, executive and judicial branches, acting within their competence. The Constitution envisages the principle of political, economic and ideological diversity of social life. The social character of Ukrainian state results in constitutional regulation of issues related to the use of property and protection of all subjects of property right, social orientation of the economy, equality of all subjects of property right before the law, and the maintenance of ecologic safety and balance within Ukraine’s territory and other socially important measures. Jural essence of the state is supported by provisions related to supremacy of law and direct action of constitutional norms. The state is responsible to the people for its activities. According to the Constitution, the main task of the state is to establish and promote human rights and freedoms. Ukraine is a unitary state, in which its territory is integral and inviolable. The state has a single citizenship. The state language of Ukraine is Ukrainian.

THE PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE The Constitution of Ukraine designates the President as the Head of State, acting on its behalf. The President is a guarantor of national sovereignty, territorial integrity, adherence to the Constitution, human and civil rights and freedoms. The President is elected by the citizens of the state on the basis of equal and direct universal suffrage through a secret vote. The term of presidential office is five years. Only a citizen of Ukraine, who was residing in Ukraine for ten years before the elections, has voting rights and speaks state language, may be elected President. President may hold his / her post no longer than two consecutive terms.

THE VERKHOVNA RADA (PARLIAMENT) OF UKRAINE

The only legislative body of Ukraine is the Parliament — the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. People’s deputies of Ukraine are elected by the citizens of Ukraine on the basis of equal and direct universal suffrage through secret vote. The election system is mixed — majority and proportional. Altogether 450 deputies are elected. 225 of them are elected at singlemandate constituencies on the basis of relative majority, and another 225 are elected proportionally at multi-mandate national constituency from the lists of candidates coming from political parties and their election blocks. The powers of people’s deputies of Ukraine are established by the Constitution and laws of Ukraine. People’s deputies of Ukraine may voluntarily unite themselves into deputies’ groups called factions with no less than 25 members. Deputies’ groups are formed both on a party and a non-party basis. Deputies’ groups formed on party basis are called ‘factions’. Non-party deputies may join a faction if they support the program of relevant party. Deputies’ groups formed on a non-party basis unite deputies who share the same or similar views of national, social and economic development.

THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE

The Cabinet of Ministers (Government) of Ukraine is the supreme executive authority. Its actions are based on the Constitution, laws of Ukraine and presidential orders. The Government is responsible to the President and is controlled by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, to which it also must report. In practice, this dependency results in presidential appointment of a Prime Minister (with parliamentary consent). The President may also suspend Prime Minister’s authorities and discharge him / her. Upon Prime Minister’s submission, the President appoints and discharges the members of Cabinet of Ministers and other heads of central executive authorities. Parliamentary control of the Government and its reporting to the Verkhovna Rada results is parliamentary approval of government-submitted annual budget, parliamentary resolutions on fulfillment of budgetary provisions, approval or rejection of governmental program and control of government’s work.

THE SYSTEM OF JUDICIAL AUTHORITY

Legal proceedings are carried out by the Constitutional Court and courts of general jurisdiction. The supreme authority of the system of courts of general jurisdiction is the Supreme Court of Ukraine. Legal proceedings may be carried out only by courts. Courts’ jurisdiction covers all legal relationships in the state. The system of courts of general jurisdiction is based on the principles of territorial and special jurisdiction. The Constitutional Court of Ukraine is a separate entity and is independent from the courts of general jurisdiction. It cannot be used as a cassation, appeal or supervisory authority for the courts of general jurisdiction. The activities of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine promote constitutional control in all spheres, stabilization and strengthening of constitutional order, the establishment of principle of primacy of law and the supreme legal force of the Constitution, and the promotion of constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens.

**Topic: International organizations. Date 25/03/2020**

**Group: 71**

**Task 1.** Read the text and fill in the table.

The Council of Europe is an international organization promoting co-operation between all countries of Europe in the areas of legal standards, human rights, democratic development, the rule of law and cultural co- operation. It was founded in 1949, has 47 member states with some 800 million citizens, and is an entirely separate body from the European Union (EU), which has only 27 member states. Unlike the EU, the Council of Europe cannot make binding laws. The two do however share certain symbols such as the flag of Europe. The Council of Europe has nothing to do with either the Council of the European Union or the European Council, which are both EU bodies. The best known bodies of the Council of Europe are the European Court of Human Rights, which enforces the European Convention on Human Rights, and the European Pharmacopoeia Commission, which sets the quality standards for pharmaceutical products in Europe. The Council of Europe’s work has resulted in standards, charters and conventions to facilitate cooperation between European countries. Its statutory institutions are the Committee of Ministers comprising the foreign ministers of each member state, the Parliamentary Assembly composed of MPs from the parliament of each member state, and the Secretary General heading the secretariat of the Council of Europe. The Commissioner for Human Rights is an independent institution within the Council of Europe, mandated to promote awareness of and respect for human rights in the member states. The headquarters of the Council of Europe are in Strasbourg, France, with English and French as its two official languages. The Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress also use German, Italian, and Russian for some of their work. While the member states of the European Union transfer national legislative and executive powers to the European Commission and the European Parliament in specific areas under European Community law, Council of Europe member states maintain their sovereignty but commit themselves through conventions (i.e., public international law) and co-operate on the basis of common values and common political decisions. Those conventions and decisions are developed by the member states working together at the Council of Europe, whereas secondary European Community law is set by the organs of the European Union. Both organizations function as concentric circles around the common foundations for European integration, with the Council of Europe being the geographically wider circle. The European Union could be seen as the smaller circle with a much higher level of integration through the transfer of powers from the national to the EU level. Being part of public international law, Council of Europe conventions could also be opened for signature to non-member states thus facilitating equal co-operation with countries outside Europe.

The Council of Europe’s most famous achievement is the European Convention on Human Rights, which was adopted in 1950 following a report by the Council of Europe’s Parliamentary Assembly. The Convention created the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. The Court supervises compliance with the European Convention on Human Rights and thus functions as the highest European court for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It is to this court that Europeans can bring cases if they believe that a member country has violated their fundamental rights.

|  |
| --- |
| The Council of Europe is the organization that unites |
| Its structure |  |
| It works to |  |
| It has created |  |
| Its programmes |  |

**Topic: Constitution of Ukraine. Date 25/03/2020**

**Group: 71**

**Task 1.** Read the text and translate.

CONSTITUTION OF UKRAINE

The political system of Ukraine, its laws, its home and foreign policy, the rights and duties of its citizens are established, based and guaranteed by the Constitution. There have been several previous constitutional documents in the history of Ukraine (1710, 1918, 1919, 1929, 1937, 1978). The new Constitution of Ukraine as an independent, sovereign, democratic, social and legal state was adopted by the Verkhovna Rada on June 28, 1996 as the Fundamental Law of the country. The idea of a constitution was first elaborated by Greek philosopher Aristotle / 84–322 B.C. / in his classification of governments. The modern idea of Constitution came after the Reformation begun by Luther in 1517. The first constitutional document in history of Ukraine was the Constitution of Bendery of 1710. The chief author of the Constitution was Pylyp Orlyk, who was elected Hetman on April 16, 1710 in Bendery. The Constitution was signed by Hetman P.Orlyk, his officers and the Zaporizhzhian Cossacks. The constitution consisted of 16 articles. It proclaimed the Orthodox faith to be faith of Ukraine, reflected the interests of the Zaporizhzhian Cossacks, limited the powers of the Hetman, established a unique Cossack parliament, protected the rights of towns and limited the taxation of peasants and poor Cossacks. The Constitution of the Ukrainian National Republic was adopted on April 29, 1918. The Constitution had 83 articles. In accordance with the Constitution the UNR was a sovereign, independent and free state. The people of Ukraine had the right to exercise power through the National Assembly. The Constitution did not specify the borders of Ukraine, but the territory was indivisible. The citizens of the republic were guaranteed basic civil and political rights.

**Task 2.** True or False

1) The first constitutional document in Ukraine appeared in the 18th century.

2) There have been more than six constitutions in the history of Ukraine.

3) Juridical power in Ukraine is represented by the Cabinet of Ministers.

4) Men and women have the equal rights.

5) Not all people have the right to dwelling.

6) The state language of Ukraine is Russian.

**Task 3.** Fill in the gaps.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***freedom*** | ***laws*** | ***branch*** | ***law*** | ***power*** |
| ***government*** | ***agree*** | ***democracy*** | ***executive*** |  |

The United States is a (1) … . The Constitution of the USA guarantees individual (2) … to all. The Constitution sets the basic form of (3) … : it has three branches — legislative, (4) … and judiciary. Congress, the legislative (5) … of the federal government, is made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives. Congress makes all (6) … , and each house of Congress has the (7) … to support or reject a bill offered by the other. When they both pass a bill on which they (8) … , it is sent to the president for his signature. Only after that a bill becomes a (9) … .