

Constitutions

Law

What a constitution does, codified or not.

Codified

- One authoritative written document
- Usually entrenched against easy change
- Often supreme over ordinary legislation
- Courts may strike down legislation
- Amendment requires a special process

Uncodified

- Rules drawn from several sources
- Statute, convention, case law, practice
- Changed like ordinary law
- Parliamentary sovereignty may prevail
- Flexible, but less certain

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Both allocate and limit power. They differ in how entrenched those limits are against a determined majority.

Educational reference. Constitutional conventions are binding politically but generally not enforceable in court.