

POLITICAL AND JUDICIAL POWERS :WHAT TO REMEMBER

France is a republic

There were 5 republics

Our 5th republic has been created in 1958 ; it would be the longest if it lasted until 2029

It's a bicameral system with two chambers :

- The National Assembly is the equivalent of your Senate. It's composed of 577 deputies
- The Senate has 321 senators and is the equivalent of your House of representatives

The recent legislative election has been a shock because :

- It came after the president dissolved the National Assembly
- It showed a rise of the Far right with the National rally having 30% of the votes
- The second round showed the victory of a left-wing coalition

President Macron will have to run the country with a prime minister different from his party : It's called COHABITATION

When a president dies or resigns there is a new election and the president of the Senate takes over as a provisional president.

The president is only allowed two-consecutive 5-year terms

France never had a female president

Try to remember two of the president's superpowers for the final

The French justice system is made of civil courts and penal courts. Judges are public servants but they are free to judge as they wish

There are some common points : try to remember two

There are some differences : try also to remember two

Death penalty was the guillotine and it was abolished in 1981. The last to be guillotined was in 1977.

There is no real life imprisonment and sentences cannot be accumulated like in the USA/ 30 years is the maximum even if you have killed 10 persons !

The PACS is a union contract between two French : it's to benefit from some tax advantages or to be able to inherit from each other It does not give the French nationality.

It's free and it's easy to « depacs » : if one in the « couple » wants to depacs, it's enough. It was made in 1999

In 1999 it was also said in a law that when it's possible there should be as many women as men in politics

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