

The roles of the British sovereign

head the State

largely a ceremonial and representational role

national duties

- opens Parliament
- holds a weekly meeting with Prime Minister
- approves orders of Council
- signs acts of parliament

international duties

- represents Britain to the rest of the world
- receives foreign ambassadors (Botschafter)
- makes state visits

head of nation

less formal

- provides a focus for national identity
- provides continuity in times of constant political change
- recognizes great achievements
- meets a lot of people
- has to care for a good relationship to Scotland and Wales
- represents the people's mood (at sport events / when soldiers are commemorated e.g. on Remembrance Day)