The president can influence congressional legislation in a number of ways. My first point is through the President’s use of persuasion. Although, the president, if he is to be a successful persuader, must work through a number of other people. An example is the vice-president. As president of the Senate, the vice-president has a foothold in Congress. He has an office there, where he can meet with members of both houses. Another example is that the president uses members of the Office of Legislative Affairs. They are members of the White House Office who work as full-time lobbyists for the president on Capitol Hill. They meet with members of Congress as well as with senior members of their staff. The congressional liaison staff are usually organised in such a way that some work on the House side and others on the Senate side, hoping to build up good relationships with people whom they will get to know well. Thirdly, the cabinet officers can be deployed by the White House to talk with members of Congress in their own policy areas. George W. Bush used Education Secretary Rod Paige to sell his education reform package to Congress in 2001. Fourthly, the president can influence legislation through the party leadership in Congress: the House Speaker; the majority and minority leaders of both houses; the party whips; the committee chairs and ranking minority members. Ultimately the president uses other people to strengthen his relationship with Congressmen and Senators in a hope that they will work with him and come around to his way of thinking.

However, any of these people may report back to the president that, in order to secure the vote of a particular member of Congress, the president himself needs to get involved. As David Mervin stated, “The president must bargain, he must make deals, he must negotiate with those with whom he shares power. The president may for example, make a personal phone call to certain members of Congress; invite them for an Oval office meeting – either individually or in a small group. He might even go to Capitol Hill to meet with a selected group of members of Congress. If a member whose support is sought of the president, the president might offer to campaign for them in the next congressional elections. A popular president can use this perk to great effect. All this is done to smooze the congressmen and senators and offer them deals such as more “pork” for their constituency, which in turn will give them more to boast about to their constituents as they are “bringing home the bacon”. “Pork” is the president’s main form of leverage over congressmen and senators as he can gain their support in return for government funding. However, persuasion needs to be a two-way street. If members of Congress get the idea that the only time they hear from the president – either directly or indirectly – is when he wants them to cast a difficult vote for him, cooperation will soon dry up. An invitation to a bill-signing ceremony, dinner with the president at the White House, a trip on Air Force One – all these small perks help make the wheels of cooperation turn more smoothly.

The president also influences legislation by having the authority to both sign and veto a bill. Once bills have been passed through a lengthy and complicated legislative process in Congress, they land on the president’s desk. He has a number of options, but the most likely is that of signing the bill into law. He will do this to bills for which he wishes to take some credit. However, as well as signing bills into law, the president also has the option of vetoing them. The regular veto is a much-used presidential weapon. The president has 10 days to sign or reject a bill passed by Congress. Altogether, from George Washington to George W. Bush, presidents have used just under 1,500 regular vetoes. Congress may attempt to override the president’s veto by gaining a 2/3 majority in both houses, but it is rarely successful. The president may have the power of pocket veto at his disposal, too, but this can be used only at the end of a congressional session and cannot be overridden by Congress.

Finally, the president can influence congressional legislation through their State of the Union Address. This allows the President to address the reports on the condition of the nation and also allows the president to propose their legislative agenda and national priorities to Congress.
Chloe

**Explain how the president might influence congressional legislation [10].**

Due to the separation of powers in America the Executive branch is unable to directly produce legislation, however, over the years the Executive has found ways to overcome this barrier and is ultimately able to influence the legislature in several ways.

A major way in which the President may influence congressional Legislation is through what is known as Pork Barrel politics, this refers to the Executive granting funds to a congressman in order to receive their political support. These funds usually concern an area of economic need for the politician's constituency; it is therefore the President’s main form of leverage over both the Senate and House of Representatives. An example of Pork Barrel spending would be the Gravina Island Bridge in the 2008 US Presidential campaign, the project which was known as the 'Bridge to Nowhere' was set to cost $398 million and would connect the island’s 50 residents to the mainland.

The Presidential Veto is also a way in which the executive can influence the legislation process. The President has ten days from when he receives a bill to either sign, veto it or ‘pocket-veto’ it. If the President decides to veto a bill his objections are sent back to congress where it may decide to revote the issue or ignore his veto. However, more interestingly, the President may if he knows an adjournment is coming, place the bill in his pocket and ‘forget’ about it, this then kills the bill and thus illustrates his influence over congressional legislation. During his eight years in office, President George W. Bush used the veto on eleven occasions including his veto of the State Children’s Health Insurance Programme in 2007.

The use of a Bully Pulpit is another form of influence that the President holds, it provides President with the opportunity to speak out and be listened to on an important matter. It often brings issues to the forefront that were not initially in debate due to the Whitehouse’s stature and publicity. relatively recent example of this would be President Obama’s nuclear summit in April 2010, in which he used it to push his agenda on how to deal with nuclear terrorism from the Al Qaeda.

The most common form of Presidential persuasion of congressional legislation is the State of the Union Address in which the President can propose legislation that he would wish to be passed. As it states in Article Two of the Constitution the President can, ‘from time to time give to the congress information of the State of Union’ this acts as an almost agenda for the President. The reason it can influence congressional legislation is that this address is broadcasted across America and therefore the President is not only influencing congress directly but also indirectly through the people.

Neustadt argued that a president only has the power to persuade both the public and congress to enact his vision for America through legislation. Without which, a president may be doomed for failure. When the public is inspired, we expect congress to respond. And they should, because according to the mandates of the constitution, they’re duty is to represent us, not their own self-interest. Presidents have been known to make personal phone calls to key congressmen, for example in an important budget vote in the House in August 1993, President Clinton phoned Majorie Margolies-Mezvinsky, this resulted in her casting the crucial 218th vote to ensure the passage of his budget. Neustadt stated "The essence of a President's persuasive task is to convince such men that what the White House wants of them is what they ought to do for their sake and on their authority."
Explain how the president might influence congressional legislation [10].

American Presidents because if the Separation of Powers and with the nature of Their Politics, the President relies very much so on “Schmooze” and Pork Barrel Politics to persuade the House’s Legislation. Pork Barrel Politics can be defined as the President asking for a Congressman’s vote in return for “pork” or Government funding in their state. This will make the Congressman more popular with the “folks back home” and have a better chance of being re-elected. An example of Pork Barrel Politics is when a Senator for Alaska was given 200 million dollars to build a bridge for 50 people in return for his vote in congress.

Again Schmooze is a very big part of American Politics. It is not an office where the President can dictate to his senate. It is the opposite. The president must try and persuade the senate and let the senate persuade him, to come to a middle ground with most legislation. This is done by maybe offering a Congressman and his family to stay in the Whitehouse, or let them go for an afternoon sail in the Presidential Yacht “The U.S.S. Sequoia” and during that time maybe subtly bring up the legislation. Richard Neustadt put it that “Presidential Power is the power to persuade” and this power comes naturally to some presidents and others, not at all. For example, Jimmy Carter was so used to having his own way as Governor of Georgia, when he became president he couldn’t do anything, and he even sold the Presidential Yacht. The Skill of Bargaining is indispensable in a President.

A constitutional Power of the President is to Veto Legislation. As well as being able to sign legislation into Law he has the chance to veto a Bill, this is a much used weapon in the executive office. Sometimes with the threat of a veto, it can submit a Congressman to negotiation with legislation. Pocket veto is another aspect of this strategy, it is when the president refuses to sign the Bill, and he “pockets” it. This can be pocketed for up to ten days before it becomes official law. This may not sound very powerful but, at the end of a congressional session, pocketing a bill can define a bill being scrapped or the president getting his way with it.

Quite an obvious influence over the legislature is the fact that the President can propose legislation. It is stated in Article 2 “from time to time give to the congress information of the state f the Union” this Article is one of the evolved powers that has turned into the annual “State of the Union Address”. This is the one yearly time that the President can go into Congress and suggest what legislation he would like passed. However, there are other ways to propose legislation, such as Calling a press conference or making an announcement at a public event.

Finally, Signing legislation, as the President can be seen as the ‘Top Man’ he likes to have a say in the Legislation, as he has a number of options, some I have spoke about already. He usually signs the Legislation and usually as publicity stunt, signing it in an elaborate place in front of many Congressmen who support the Legislation.
The President of the United States is often viewed as the most powerful man within the US, with nothing and no-one being able to limit his power. However, in reality this is very different. Congress can amend delay or reject the President’s legislative proposals, control the power of the purse and reject nominations that the president has put forth for the Senate. Not to mention impeach the President. Therefore the President has to get on ‘good terms’ with Congress. There are many ways in which he can do this.

Pork
Typically, "pork" involves funding for government programs whose economic or service benefits are concentrated in a particular area but whose costs are spread among all taxpayers. I.e. everyone pays but only one constituency benefits. This was the case in 1996, Congress gave Bill Clinton, (the US President at this time) a line-item veto over parts of a bill that require spending federal funds. The Supreme Court ruled that Clinton’s use of the veto against a pork barrel appropriation for New York City was unconstitutional.

Congress control the power of the purse although the President will draft up the budget it is Congress that must approve it. Therefore if the President approves their bills in return he expects favors. i.e. More budgetary allowance. Plus, if the President can get more of a budget to specific states then in return he expects a higher voting percentage or else more funding (contributions) from ‘the people’ for election campaigns.

Veto/ Signature
Once Congress proposes a bill and it is passed through either one or both of the houses it is then passed onto the President for review. The president must sign the bill in order to make it law. However, if the President does not sign it within 10 days if Congress and Congress is still in session it automatically becomes law. Although if Congress adjourns before the 10 days and the President has not signed the bill does not become law and this is known as a pocket veto. President Franklin Roosevelt (1933-1945) ‘pocked’ a shocking total of 263 Bills; this was mainly due to the fact that during his time in Office the Second World War had occurred and many of these veto’s were trying to solve problems that came with the Second World War and the Great Depression. If the President vetoes the bill it is sent back to Congress with a note listing his/her reasons. The chamber that originated the legislation can attempt to override the veto by a vote of two-thirds of those present. If the veto of the bill is overridden in both chambers then it becomes law. Yet again Franklin Roosevelt has the highest number of vetoes at a total of 635 vetoes during his time in office with a percentage of overridden bills as 1%. Showing Roosevelt must have had a lot of power and persuasive skills with Congress. However, many Presidents do not take this approach as usually, the more bills they can pass the better and more powerful influence they can have on Congress. i.e. (favours for favours).

Bully Pulpit
The term ‘bully pulpit’ was created by Theodor Roosevelt who referred to the white house as a, ‘Bully Pulpit’. When stating this he referred to the way that Washington is a position of authority of sufficiently high rank that provides the President with an opportunity to speak out and be listened to on any matter. The bully pulpit can identify new issues that were not initially in debate, due to the office’s stature and publicity. In 2006 President Bush showed his bully pulpit in support of the two anti-terrorism measures he claimed would help to protect the US from terrorist attacks. Bush argues that ‘These two pieces of legislation will make us safer and more secure, the President argued’. It has been argues that the number of people that died in the terrorist attacks in 2001 have been slaughtered every day in Americans abortion clinics whilst the President’s bully pulpit has remained silent. The right to live act (HR 552) has over 80 sponsors and many argue that it should be strongly supported as before ‘terrorism’ can be tackled internal ‘liberty’ must be identified.
Smoozing/persuasion
As Thomas Jefferson said, ‘I hope our wisdom will grow with our power, and teach us that the less we use our power the greater it will be.’ This basically refers back to the old saying one good turn deserves another. Jefferson means that the more, ‘friends’ that the executive can make within Congress the less they need to use political means and more just friendly agreements. But it has been stated that no president has been as effective at this as Johnston, the secret behind his success was this idea of giving and taking. A former Senate Democrat once explained. "If you go along with him, he gives you a little here and there—a dam, or support for a bill." He often used body language, i.e. squeezing a colleague's elbow or draping a hand over their shoulder, to create a more friendly atmosphere. Even on the phone Johnston was still effective, Hubert Humphrey (Johnston’s vice president) once complained that the only way he could resist Johnston’s hypnotic persuasiveness was by not answering the phone. An example of which would be when Congress killed a proposed $545 million pay boost for Government employees, and Johnston argued that he had not spent all the budget the year before compared with other presidents who had occurred debt within the US and therefore breathed life back into the measure with a few phone calls and the earnest talk with congressional leaders.

State of union address
A President’s State of the Union address is a special occasion in his presidency. For almost the entire year, the audience is fragmented, with the news media covering a variety of topics. Yet, on this night, all the major networks, both broadcast and cable, in addition to many radio networks, transmit the President’s speech live. In addition, the President addresses nearly all members of Congress, Supreme Court justices, top commanders of the military, and members of his cabinet, among many other elites. For example the 2010 State for union address was given by President Obama where he outlined some of his goals for the upcoming year i.e. Fees on the country's largest banks (to follow up on the Trouble Assets Relief Program (TARP), or his health care reform. The state of the Union address can allow the president to influence legislation as he can outline some goals that Congress wish to pass.

In conclusion the President does have a degree for Influence, but let us not forget Congress exists as a separate body thanks to the Separation of powers and Congress have overall control as they can even override the Presidents veto with a 2/3 majority and therefore it is debatable whether or not the President really has that mulch influence on Congress’ legislation.
Explain how the president might influence congressional legislation [10].

The President may influence congressional legislation in number of ways. First of all the president can veto a bill, hoping that the congress will make the changes in the bill. This is a very powerful method of influencing Congressional Legislation as unlike the Queens the president is not obliged to sign the legislation. President G.W Bush for example had vetoed the State Children’s Health Insurance Programme in 2007. However congress can override ‘presidential veto’ for example Military Construction Appropriations Bill of 1995 was passed over Clinton’s veto.

President can also ‘pocket veto,’ this is a legislative manoeuvre in US politics which allows President to indirectly veto a bill. Article 1 section 7 states that if a bill doesn’t return to Congress within 10 days it automatically becomes a law therefore if the bill is likely to be unpopular President can pocket veto it without signing the bill. Unless the Congress by it Adjournment prevents its return in which case the bill dies.

Third way in which the President of United States influences legislation is through State of Union Address which allows him to outline his legislative agenda and national priorities to Congress. For example G.W. Bush used the State of Union Address in 2002 to get Congress to focus on his ‘war with terrorism.’ However unlike ‘Queens Speech’ state of union is just a list of things which the president would like to happen, but at the end of the day it rarely affects legislation.

Another way in which the US President can influence legislation is by schmoozing and persuading the congressmen. Because the president cannot propose legislation himself, he can persuade friendly congressmen to do it for him, he does that by making promises and favours. However at the same time the president can lose a lot of his legislation due to unfriendly congressmen.

Furthermore all US presidents use and have used the ‘Pork -barrel’ to influence legislation, the president would offer certain amount of money towards a constituency of a politician in return for his/her support. One of the most famous pork-barrel projects was the Big Dig in Boston which ended up costing $14.6. It was funded in order to get Tip O’Neil’s support in Congress.

President also uses ‘Bully Pulpit’ in order to get some legislation passed. The term basically refers to the media coverage that goes with the office of President, i.e. whatever the person holding the office says in public finds its way onto the Evening News such as Fox News ultimately pressurising the Congress.