Power and People

Compare governments in Europe before World War II

SS24.5.9a "Compare totalitarianism and democracy as represented in the Axis and Allied powers prior to war in Europe."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details about limits on people's voices in Germany or Italy, and circle two details about people's voices in Britain or France. Write the number 1 beside one underlined detail and one circled detail that show a contrast.

Who Could Challenge a Leader?

1. Imagine opening a newspaper in Europe in 1938, before war began there. In Germany, Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party ruled. They shut down other political parties, controlled news, and punished people who spoke against them. The government also took rights away from Jewish people. In Italy, Benito Mussolini's Fascist government silenced opponents and controlled much of the press. Germany and Italy later fought as Axis powers.

2. Across the English Channel, Britain held elections in which eligible voters chose lawmakers from competing parties. Newspapers could criticize the government. France also elected lawmakers from competing parties and allowed public debate, although French women could not yet vote. These countries later fought on the Allied side. Their democracies had limits, but people had more ways to challenge leaders than people in Germany or Italy did.

3. The two kinds of government worked differently. In a totalitarian state, leaders tried to control political life, the press, and what people could say in public. In a democracy, elected lawmakers could be replaced through elections, and criticism of leaders was allowed. Before the war in Europe began in 1939, Germany and Italy showed the Axis pattern; Britain and France showed the pattern of countries that later became Allied powers.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How could newspapers respond to leaders in Britain compared with Germany?

2. How did political parties in France differ from political parties in Germany?

3. How did Italy and France differ in the way people could speak about their leaders?

4. Neither France nor Germany gave everyone equal rights. What was one limit on rights in each country?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent one rule for each of two imaginary countries, one modeled on Axis totalitarian rule and one on Allied democracy. In three sentences, name each country's rule and explain how the rules affect people's ability to challenge leaders.

ANSWER KEY

Power and People

GRADE 5 · SS24.5.9a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details about limits on people's voices in Germany or Italy, and circle two details about people's voices in Britain or France. Write the number 1 beside one underlined detail and one circled detail that show a contrast. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How could newspapers respond to leaders in Britain compared with Germany?	**British newspapers could criticize the government, while Germany's leaders controlled news.**
2	How did political parties in France differ from political parties in Germany?	**France had competing parties, while Germany's Nazi rulers shut down other parties.**
3	How did Italy and France differ in the way people could speak about their leaders?	**Italy's government silenced opponents, while France allowed public debate.**
4	Neither France nor Germany gave everyone equal rights. What was one limit on rights in each country?	**French women could not yet vote. Germany's government took rights away from Jewish people.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In Ridge, the leader must approve every speech at a public meeting. In Harbor, voters can replace council members in elections. Ridge makes it hard to question its leader, but Harbor gives voters a way to challenge their leaders.

Accept other passage-supported contrasts. For the open task, look for two distinct rules and an accurate explanation of how each affects challenges to leaders.