

# Power, Choice, and Work

Assess how communist rule shaped daily life and public power.

**SS.7.HC.1.1** "Assess the effects of communist governments on individual freedoms, political participation, and the economy."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline statements showing limits on individual freedoms, circle statements showing limits on political participation, and put a star beside each effect on the economy. Your marks will help you assess how government control affected people.

### Life Under Communist Rule

- ① In the Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin, the Communist Party controlled the government during the 1930s. The constitution described rights, but daily life could be dangerous for people who criticized leaders. Government censors controlled many newspapers, books, and plays. Secret police arrested some people accused of opposing the state, often without fair trials. Many religious groups faced limits on worship. These policies reduced individual freedoms because people could not safely share ideas, organize independent groups, or practice religion freely.
- ② Communist governments often claimed to represent workers and peasants. In practice, a single communist party usually held power. Citizens could vote in some elections, but voters often had only party-approved candidates or lists. Independent parties and protests were restricted. Party leaders made major decisions about laws and jobs. Some citizens joined local meetings or party groups, yet they had limited power to replace national leaders. Political participation existed, but it was much less open and competitive than in a multiparty democracy.
- ③ Communist leaders in the Soviet Union and Mao-era China used command economies. The state set production goals and controlled most factories, farms, and prices. Leaders could direct resources toward steel mills, roads, or military equipment, sometimes creating rapid industrial growth. However, workers and farmers had little control over what to produce or sell. Officials sometimes reported success even when plans failed. In the Soviet Union, shortages of consumer goods became common. In China, the Great Leap Forward's forced changes to farming helped cause a devastating famine from 1959 to 1961.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** Name two individual freedoms that were limited under Stalin's government. Use details from the passage.

---

---

**2** Why were elections under many communist governments less open and competitive than elections in a multiparty democracy?

---

---

**3** What was one possible benefit and one problem of a command economy described in the passage?

---

---

**4** How did control by party leaders affect both political participation and economic choices?

---

---

---

**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Write 4 sentences assessing which area gave citizens the least control: individual freedoms, political participation, or the economy. State your choice and support it with at least two facts from the passage.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline statements showing limits on individual freedoms, circle statements showing limits on political participation, and put a star beside each effect on the economy. Your marks will help you assess how government control affected people. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                                                | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Name two individual freedoms that were limited under Stalin's government. Use details from the passage.                 | <b>People could not safely criticize leaders or share ideas. They also faced limits on organizing independent groups or practicing religion freely.</b>                                                                                         |
| 2 | Why were elections under many communist governments less open and competitive than elections in a multiparty democracy? | <b>Voters often had only party-approved candidates or lists, while independent parties and protests were restricted.</b>                                                                                                                        |
| 3 | What was one possible benefit and one problem of a command economy described in the passage?                            | <b>A benefit was that leaders could direct resources toward projects such as steel mills, roads, or military equipment. A problem was that workers and farmers had little control, and shortages or failed plans could occur.</b>               |
| 4 | How did control by party leaders affect both political participation and economic choices?                              | <b>Party leaders made major decisions about laws and jobs, so citizens had limited power to replace leaders. The state also controlled production and prices, leaving workers and farmers with little control over what to produce or sell.</b> |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

I think individual freedoms gave citizens the least control. People could be arrested for criticizing leaders, and religious groups faced limits on worship. Political participation was also limited because candidates were party-approved. In the economy, workers and farmers had little control over what to produce or sell. Accept any claim that is supported by at least two accurate passage details. Students may reasonably choose any of the three areas if they explain their assessment with evidence.