

Leadership Paths

Compare how parliamentary and presidential democracies organize national leadership.

SS6CG3.b "Describe the two predominant forms of democratic governments: parliamentary and presidential."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every detail about only a parliamentary democracy, circle every detail about only a presidential democracy, and number each statement that compares both forms, including statements that name both systems.

Two Ways to Lead

- ① Democratic governments give citizens a voice through elections, but they organize leadership in different ways. In a parliamentary democracy, citizens elect members of parliament. The party or group that has enough support in parliament chooses a prime minister. The prime minister leads the government and works closely with parliament to pass laws. If parliament loses confidence in the government, it may force the prime minister and cabinet to resign or lead to a new national election.
- ② In a presidential democracy, citizens elect a president separately from the lawmakers in the legislature. The president is both head of state and head of government, leading the executive branch. Lawmakers make laws and can check presidential power, while the president can use powers given by the constitution. Because the president does not need parliament's daily support to remain in office, the president usually serves a fixed term unless removed under constitutional rules, such as impeachment or another legal process set by law.
- ③ Both forms use elections and laws to limit power, but their leaders reach office differently. In parliamentary systems, the prime minister depends on continuing support from parliament. In presidential systems, voters elect the president separately, so the president does not depend on the legislature's daily support. A parliamentary government may change when parliamentary support shifts. A presidential government usually keeps the same president for a fixed term, even when lawmakers strongly disagree with that president or oppose policies.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How does a prime minister take office in a parliamentary democracy?

2 What can happen if parliament loses confidence in the government?

3 How is a president chosen in a presidential democracy, and what kind of term does the president usually serve?

4 Compare how leaders take office in the two forms of democracy.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

A new country is choosing a government. Write 4 sentences that explain how leaders take office in both forms, then recommend one form for a country that wants its leader to stay for a fixed term even when lawmakers disagree.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline every detail about only a parliamentary democracy, circle every detail about only a presidential democracy, and number each statement that compares both forms, including statements that name both systems. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does a prime minister take office in a parliamentary democracy?	The party or group that has enough support in parliament chooses the prime minister.
2	What can happen if parliament loses confidence in the government?	Parliament may force the prime minister and cabinet to resign or lead to a new national election.
3	How is a president chosen in a presidential democracy, and what kind of term does the president usually serve?	Citizens elect the president separately from lawmakers in the legislature. The president usually serves a fixed term unless removed under constitutional rules.
4	Compare how leaders take office in the two forms of democracy.	In a parliamentary democracy, the party or group with enough support in parliament chooses the prime minister. In a presidential democracy, voters elect the president separately from lawmakers in the legislature.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In a parliamentary democracy, the party or group with enough support in parliament chooses a prime minister. The prime minister depends on continuing support from parliament. In a presidential democracy, voters elect a president separately from lawmakers in the legislature. I recommend a presidential democracy because the president usually serves a fixed term even when lawmakers disagree.

Accept equivalent descriptions that correctly distinguish parliamentary selection by a party or group with enough parliamentary support from separate election of a president. For the open response, accept either recommendation only if the explanation accurately matches the chosen form.