

Power Across Europe

Compare how European governments organize leadership and citizen power.

SS6CG3 "Compare and contrast various forms of government."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that show how citizens or elected bodies influence government, and circle two details that show limits on power or political rights.

Three Government Systems

- ① European countries use different systems to make public decisions. In a democracy, citizens choose leaders through elections. Germany is a federal parliamentary republic. Voters elect members of the Bundestag, the national parliament. The Bundestag chooses a chancellor, who leads the government. Germany also has a president, but this office has mostly ceremonial duties. Germany's states share some powers with the national government, such as roles in education and policing. This sharing of power is called federalism.
- ② Spain is a parliamentary democracy and a constitutional monarchy. Its constitution limits the monarch's powers. The king is head of state and represents the country at ceremonies, while an elected parliament makes laws. After elections, the Congress of Deputies helps select a prime minister to direct the government. Like Germany, Spain uses elections and has a parliament. Unlike Germany, Spain has a monarch as head of state, and it is not organized as a federal republic. Spain has autonomous communities with important regional responsibilities.
- ③ Russia is a federal state with a president, a parliament, and regional units, but its government operates very differently from Germany's or Spain's. Russia holds elections, yet political power is strongly concentrated in the president's office. The president has major influence over the government, security forces, and lawmaking. Critics of the government face limits on free speech and political opposition. In a democracy, competitive elections and protected rights help citizens influence government. Russia's limited political competition makes it commonly described as an authoritarian state.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What is one way Germany and Spain are alike in how they choose or use leaders?

2 How is Spain's head of state different from Germany's head of state?

3 Compare the way Germany and Spain divide responsibilities within the country.

4 Why is Russia commonly described as authoritarian rather than democratic, according to the passage?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write four sentences comparing Germany and Russia. Include one similarity and two differences about political power or citizens' choices, using comparison words such as both, however, or unlike.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show how citizens or elected bodies influence government, and circle two details that show limits on power or political rights. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is one way Germany and Spain are alike in how they choose or use leaders?	Both use elections and have an elected parliament.
2	How is Spain's head of state different from Germany's head of state?	Spain has a king as head of state. Germany has a president whose duties are mostly ceremonial.
3	Compare the way Germany and Spain divide responsibilities within the country.	Germany's states share powers with the national government through federalism. Spain has autonomous communities with important regional responsibilities, but Spain is not a federal republic.
4	Why is Russia commonly described as authoritarian rather than democratic, according to the passage?	Political power is strongly concentrated in the president's office, and critics face limits on free speech and political opposition. Political competition is limited.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Both Germany and Russia have a federal structure and hold elections. However, Germany's elected Bundestag chooses the chancellor, while political power in Russia is strongly concentrated in the president's office. Germany is a democracy with competitive elections, unlike Russia. In Russia, limits on free speech and political opposition reduce citizens' influence over government.

Accept equivalent comparisons supported by the passage. For the open response, look for one accurate similarity, two accurate differences, and clear comparison language.