

Leaders and Legislatures

Compare how executive leaders are selected and kept in office.

SS7CG1.b "Describe the two predominant forms of democratic governments: parliamentary and presidential."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that tell how each system chooses its executive leader, then write **Par** beside parliamentary details and **Pre** beside presidential details so you can compare the systems.

Two Paths to Democratic Leadership

- ① Democratic governments give citizens ways to choose leaders and hold them accountable. Two common forms are parliamentary and presidential democracy. Both use elections, constitutions, laws, and representative bodies, but they organize executive power differently. In a parliamentary system, voters elect members of a legislature, often called parliament. The legislature then determines who leads the executive branch. This connection can make the government respond quickly when lawmakers lose confidence in its leader and choose a replacement.
- ② In Ethiopia, the prime minister is the head of government in a parliamentary system. Citizens elect representatives to the House of Peoples' Representatives. Those representatives select the prime minister, who leads the government as long as the legislature supports that leader. If enough representatives withdraw support, a new leader or government may be chosen without holding a nationwide election for an executive president. The president has a separate, mainly ceremonial role and limited political power there.
- ③ In a presidential system, citizens usually elect the president separately from the legislature. The president is both head of state and head of government, and serves a fixed term under the constitution. Ghana is an example in Africa. Ghanaian voters elect a president and members of Parliament in separate contests. Because the president does not depend on Parliament's daily confidence to remain in office, disagreements can last longer. Still, Parliament can make laws, approve budgets, and check executive actions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How is Ethiopia's prime minister selected in the parliamentary system described in the passage?

2 Why can Ethiopia choose a new leader without a nationwide election for an executive president?

3 According to the passage, what two roles does Ghana's president hold?

4 How is the executive leader's relationship with the legislature different in a parliamentary system and a presidential system?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Create two possible democratic plans for a fictional African country named Luma. Write exactly four sentences that explain how the executive leader would be selected in a parliamentary plan and a presidential plan, what could happen if lawmakers withdraw support in the parliamentary plan, and which plan Luma might choose.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that tell how each system chooses its executive leader, then write **Par** beside parliamentary details and **Pre** beside presidential details so you can compare the systems. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How is Ethiopia's prime minister selected in the parliamentary system described in the passage?	Citizens elect representatives to the House of Peoples' Representatives, and those representatives select the prime minister.
2	Why can Ethiopia choose a new leader without a nationwide election for an executive president?	The prime minister leads only as long as the legislature supports that leader. If representatives withdraw support, they can choose a new leader or government.
3	According to the passage, what two roles does Ghana's president hold?	The president is both head of state and head of government.
4	How is the executive leader's relationship with the legislature different in a parliamentary system and a presidential system?	A parliamentary leader depends on legislative support to remain in office. A president is elected separately and does not depend on the legislature's daily confidence to remain in office.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In Luma's parliamentary plan, voters elect lawmakers, and the lawmakers choose a prime minister. If most lawmakers no longer support the prime minister, they can select a new government. In Luma's presidential plan, voters elect a president separately from the legislature for a fixed term. Luma might choose the parliamentary plan because lawmakers can replace an unsupported leader without a separate nationwide presidential election.

Accept accurate descriptions of parliamentary systems in which the legislature selects the executive leader and can replace that leader after loss of support. Accept accurate descriptions of presidential systems in which voters elect the president separately from the legislature for a fixed term.