

Choosing Leaders

Compare how citizens participate in three Southwest Asian governments.

SS7CG3.a "Explain citizen participation in autocratic and democratic governments i.e., the role of citizens in choosing the leaders of Israel (parliamentary democracy), Saudi Arabia (autocratic monarchy), and Turkey (presidential democracy)."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each sentence that tells how citizens take part in choosing national leaders, then number the three countries 1, 2, and 3 in the margin to compare how direct each choice is.

Three Paths to Leadership

- ① Israel is a parliamentary democracy. Citizens who are eligible to vote choose party lists in national elections, rather than voting directly for individual Knesset members. Each party receives Knesset seats based largely on its share of the vote. After the election, parties may negotiate to form a coalition, or partnership. The president usually asks a Knesset member who has support from enough parties to try to form a government. That person can become prime minister. Citizens therefore influence national leadership through their votes for parties.
- ② Saudi Arabia is an autocratic monarchy. The king is the national leader, and the position normally passes within the royal family. Citizens do not vote in a national election to choose the king or a national legislature with lawmaking power. The king appoints major national officials and members of the Consultative Assembly, which advises the government. Citizens may share concerns through local channels, but they have limited influence over top national leadership. Their role in choosing the king is very different from the role of voters in a democracy.
- ③ Turkey is a presidential democracy with multiparty elections. Citizens who are eligible to vote choose the president directly in a nationwide election. They also elect members of the Grand National Assembly, Turkey's parliament. The president is both head of state and head of government. Political parties nominate candidates, and voters can support different parties or candidates. By voting for a president, citizens make a direct choice about the top national leader. By voting for parliament, they also choose lawmakers who debate and pass laws.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 How do Israeli citizens vote in national elections, and how can their votes affect who becomes prime minister?

- 2 Why do Saudi citizens have limited power to choose their top national leader?

- 3 Name the two national choices Turkish citizens make when they vote.

- 4 Which country gives citizens the most direct vote for its top national leader? Use one detail from the passage to support your answer.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Imagine three citizens want to affect who leads their country. Write four sentences that explain what an Israeli, Saudi, and Turkish citizen can do, then compare which citizen has the most direct choice of a top national leader.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each sentence that tells how citizens take part in choosing national leaders, then number the three countries 1, 2, and 3 in the margin to compare how direct each choice is. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do Israeli citizens vote in national elections, and how can their votes affect who becomes prime minister?	They vote for party lists. The elected parties can negotiate to form a coalition that supports a Knesset member to become prime minister.
2	Why do Saudi citizens have limited power to choose their top national leader?	The king is not chosen in a national election. The position normally passes within the royal family.
3	Name the two national choices Turkish citizens make when they vote.	They choose the president directly and elect members of the Grand National Assembly.
4	Which country gives citizens the most direct vote for its top national leader? Use one detail from the passage to support your answer.	Turkey. Eligible citizens choose the president directly in a nationwide election.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

An Israeli voter can study party lists and vote for a party, because elected parties can join a coalition that supports a prime minister. A Saudi citizen cannot vote to choose the king, because the monarchy normally passes within the royal family. A Turkish voter can vote directly for a president and can also vote for members of the Grand National Assembly. Turkey gives citizens the most direct choice of a top national leader, while Israel's choice is indirect and Saudi Arabia's is limited.

Accept equivalent explanations that accurately distinguish direct presidential voting in Turkey, party-list voting and coalition government in Israel, and hereditary monarchy in Saudi Arabia. For the open response, require all three countries and a supported comparison of direct citizen choice.