

Power Across Governments

Compare how leaders, voters, and laws shape power.

SS7CG3 "Compare and contrast various forms of government."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that tell how citizens influence government, circle details that show a limit or check on power, and write I, S, or R beside each paragraph to identify Israel, Saudi Arabia, or Iran.

Three Systems of Power

- ① Israel is a parliamentary democracy. Citizens elect members of the Knesset, its national legislature. After an election, parties may join a coalition that has enough Knesset seats to support a prime minister. The president is the head of state and has mostly ceremonial duties. The prime minister leads the government, but the Knesset can remove the government through a vote. Israel has written Basic Laws, court decisions, and other laws that guide government power in the country.
- ② Saudi Arabia is an absolute monarchy. The king is both head of state and head of government, and the position usually passes within the royal family. Citizens do not elect national lawmakers or a national executive. The king appoints the Council of Ministers and the Shura Council, which can advise on proposed laws. Saudi Arabia's Basic Law states that the Qur'an and Sunnah are its constitution. These religious sources shape laws and government decisions there.
- ③ Iran is an Islamic republic with elected and unelected institutions. Citizens elect a president and members of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, often called Parliament. Parliament can pass laws, but the Guardian Council reviews legislation to decide whether it fits the constitution and Islamic law. The Supreme Leader has major authority over key areas, including the armed forces. The Assembly of Experts, whose members are elected, selects the Supreme Leader. Thus, elections matter, while unelected religious bodies also limit political choices.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How does the way national leaders gain power differ in Israel and Saudi Arabia?

2 How are Saudi Arabia's Shura Council and Iran's Guardian Council alike, and how do their roles differ?

3 Compare the ways citizens vote in Israel and Iran.

4 What limits or checks on power are described for Israel and Iran?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Complete the table to compare Iran and Saudi Arabia. Use the categories Leader Selection, Citizen Voting, Role in Laws, and Key Contrast.

COMPARISON CATEGORY	IRAN	SAUDI ARABIA

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that tell how citizens influence government, circle details that show a limit or check on power, and write I, S, or R beside each paragraph to identify Israel, Saudi Arabia, or Iran. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the way national leaders gain power differ in Israel and Saudi Arabia?	In Israel, a prime minister is supported by a coalition in the elected Knesset. In Saudi Arabia, the king's position usually passes within the royal family.
2	How are Saudi Arabia's Shura Council and Iran's Guardian Council alike, and how do their roles differ?	Both are involved with laws. The Shura Council advises on proposed laws, while the Guardian Council reviews laws for agreement with the constitution and Islamic law.
3	Compare the ways citizens vote in Israel and Iran.	Israeli citizens elect Knesset members. Iranian citizens elect a president and members of Parliament.
4	What limits or checks on power are described for Israel and Iran?	In Israel, the Knesset can remove the government through a vote. In Iran, the Guardian Council reviews legislation, and unelected religious bodies limit political choices.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

COMPARISON CATEGORY	IRAN	SAUDI ARABIA
Leader Selection	Citizens elect a president, and the elected Assembly of Experts selects the Supreme Leader.	The king usually inherits the position within the royal family.
Citizen Voting	Citizens elect a president and members of Parliament.	Citizens do not elect national lawmakers or a national executive.
Role in Laws	Parliament passes laws, and the Guardian Council reviews them.	The Shura Council advises on proposed laws.
Key Contrast	Elections choose some officials, but unelected institutions hold major power.	The king and appointed councils hold national power.

Accept accurate comparisons that use details from the passage. For the table, accept equivalent wording that clearly contrasts leader selection, citizen voting, and the role of lawmaking bodies.