

Who Chooses Leaders

Compare citizen participation in five Asian governments.

SS7CG4.a "Explain the role of citizen participation in autocratic and democratic governments [i.e. explain the role of citizens in choosing the leaders of China (communist state), Japan (parliamentary democracy), North Korea (autocracy)..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence or sentences that explain how citizens help choose leaders in each country. Circle words that show whether citizens have meaningful choices among candidates or parties.

Different Paths to Power

- ① Citizen participation looks very different when a country limits political competition. In China, the Chinese Communist Party leads the state. Citizens vote in local elections for people's congress representatives, but candidates and political activity operate within a system dominated by the party. Local congresses help select higher-level congresses. The National People's Congress chooses the president and other top officials. Citizens therefore influence leadership most directly at the local level, not through a nationwide popular vote for the national leader.
- ② In North Korea, the Workers' Party of Korea tightly controls government and political life. Citizens are expected to vote in elections, yet each district normally has one approved candidate. Voters cannot use the election to choose among competing candidates or parties. The legislature formally selects top state leaders, but the ruling party's leadership controls this process. Compared with China, citizens have even less meaningful choice in selecting leaders. Both governments restrict citizen participation, so elections do not give voters the same power found in democracies.
- ③ Japan, South Korea, and India use democratic elections, but citizens choose national leaders in different ways. In Japan and India, voters elect lawmakers to a parliament. The parliament then selects, or supports, a prime minister to lead the government. Japan's National Diet chooses the prime minister. In India, the president appoints as prime minister the leader who has majority support in the Lok Sabha. In South Korea, citizens directly elect the president. Democratic citizens can compare competing candidates and parties, vote, and replace leaders through regular elections.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How do citizens in China participate in choosing leaders, and what is one limit on their role?

2 Why do elections in North Korea give citizens little meaningful choice when selecting leaders?

3 Compare how citizens help choose the head of government in Japan or India with how citizens choose the president in South Korea.

4 What two actions can citizens take in the democratic countries described that give them more influence over leadership?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly four sentences comparing citizen participation in North Korea and South Korea. Explain how voting works in each country and how much meaningful choice citizens have.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence or sentences that explain how citizens help choose leaders in each country. Circle words that show whether citizens have meaningful choices among candidates or parties. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do citizens in China participate in choosing leaders, and what is one limit on their role?	Citizens vote for local people's congress representatives, and local congresses help select higher-level congresses. Citizens do not directly elect the national leader in a nationwide popular vote.
2	Why do elections in North Korea give citizens little meaningful choice when selecting leaders?	Each district normally has one approved candidate, so voters cannot choose among competing candidates or parties. The ruling party controls the leadership-selection process.
3	Compare how citizens help choose the head of government in Japan or India with how citizens choose the president in South Korea.	In Japan and India, citizens elect lawmakers, and the parliament selects or supports a prime minister. In South Korea, citizens directly elect the president.
4	What two actions can citizens take in the democratic countries described that give them more influence over leadership?	They can compare competing candidates and parties and vote. They can also replace leaders through regular elections.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In North Korea, citizens cast ballots for a single approved candidate in their district. They cannot choose among competing candidates or parties. In South Korea, citizens directly elect the president. South Korean voters can compare competing candidates and replace leaders through regular elections.

Accept accurate four-sentence comparisons that explain North Korea's single approved candidates and limited choice and South Korea's direct presidential election and competitive choices. Students may use different wording if the comparison remains accurate.