Rights in Practice

Compare government structures with citizens' daily freedoms.

7.C.3 "Describe how major forms of governments of Japan, North Korea, India, South Africa, and China currently protect or violate the human rights of their citizens."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one way each government protects or supports a right, and circle one way it limits a right or fails to secure it. Number the five countries so you can compare them.

What Rights Look Like in Daily Life

1 Imagine asking who gets to criticize a leader without fear. Japan is a constitutional monarchy with an elected parliament that runs the government. Its constitution and courts protect free speech and religious practice, although women still face barriers to equal treatment at work. India is a federal parliamentary democracy where voters choose representatives at several levels. Its constitution protects speech and religion, but journalists have faced pressure, and some religious minorities face discrimination. In both countries, written rights matter most when people can use them in daily life.

2 South Africa is a parliamentary republic. Voters elect a national assembly, which chooses the president. Its constitution promises equal treatment, and independent courts can rule against government actions that break those promises. Yet deep inequality makes safe housing and basic services harder to reach for many citizens. China is a one-party state led by the Communist Party. Government programs have expanded access to schooling and health care. At the same time, officials restrict independent news, public criticism, and some religious activities, limiting freedoms that citizens cannot easily defend in court.

3 North Korea is a one-party dictatorship ruled by the Kim family. The government provides schooling, supporting access to education, but shortages make food and other basic needs hard to secure. Although its constitution names some rights, authorities tightly control news, limit travel, and punish political dissent. Citizens cannot freely choose leaders in a competitive election. Across these five countries, a government's name alone does not tell the whole story. Look at who holds power, what laws promise, and what happens when citizens try to speak, worship, or meet basic needs.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How are Japan and India each governed, and how does the passage describe free speech in each country?

2. How does South Africa's parliamentary republic help protect equal treatment, and what problem makes some rights harder to enjoy?

3. Give one way China's one-party government supports a right and one way it limits a freedom.

4. How do North Korea's form of government and its actions differ from the rights named in its constitution?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a reporter wants to publish a story criticizing a new policy. Write four sentences comparing what might happen in two countries from the passage. Name each form of government, use one passage detail about rights for each country, and explain a difference between them.

ANSWER KEY

Rights in Practice

GRADE 7 · 7.C.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one way each government protects or supports a right, and circle one way it limits a right or fails to secure it. Number the five countries so you can compare them. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How are Japan and India each governed, and how does the passage describe free speech in each country?	**Japan is a constitutional monarchy with an elected parliament, and its constitution and courts protect free speech. India is a federal parliamentary democracy whose constitution protects speech, but journalists have faced pressure.**
2	How does South Africa's parliamentary republic help protect equal treatment, and what problem makes some rights harder to enjoy?	**Independent courts can rule against government actions that violate constitutional promises of equal treatment. Deep inequality makes safe housing and basic services harder to reach.**
3	Give one way China's one-party government supports a right and one way it limits a freedom.	**Government programs have expanded access to schooling or health care. Officials restrict independent news, public criticism, or some religious activities.**
4	How do North Korea's form of government and its actions differ from the rights named in its constitution?	**North Korea is a one-party dictatorship whose constitution names some rights, but authorities control news, limit travel, and punish political dissent. Citizens cannot freely choose leaders in a competitive election.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A reporter wants to publish a story criticizing a new policy in Japan and China. Japan is a constitutional monarchy with an elected parliament, and its courts protect free speech. China is a one-party state where officials restrict independent news and public criticism. The reporter could speak more freely in Japan, while publishing the same story in China could be restricted.

Accept accurate comparisons using any two countries and a plausible reporter scenario. The response should name both government forms, cite a relevant passage detail for each, and explain a difference in how the reporter's freedom may be affected.