Who Holds Power?

Compare how governments gain and use authority

7.C.6.1 "Compare the source of authority and power of representative governments (republic, constitutional monarchy) versus authoritarian systems (dictatorship, absolute monarchy, totalitarian regime, oligarchy..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words that show who holds or chooses power in each example, circle any limits on that power, and write R beside representative systems or A beside authoritarian systems.

A Crown Is Not the Whole Story

1 At a state ceremony, two monarchs may wear crowns, yet their power can differ. In the United Kingdom, elected members of Parliament make laws, and a prime minister leads the government. The monarch follows laws and long-standing rules and has mainly ceremonial duties. This is a constitutional monarchy, where voters choose lawmakers. In Saudi Arabia, the king is head of state and head of government. The royal family holds major governing authority, and citizens do not choose the king through a national election. A crown alone does not reveal who governs.

2 A crown is not required for a government to represent its people. In France, a republic, voters elect a president and lawmakers. A constitution limits their powers, and a constitutional council can check whether laws follow it. These officials get their authority from voters and laws rather than inheritance. China also has a president and a national legislature, but the Chinese Communist Party controls top leadership and major policy. People cannot vote a competing party into national power. Having government offices does not, by itself, mean voters control the government.

3 Other authoritarian systems concentrate power in different hands. A dictatorship gives one leader overwhelming power. Under Francisco Franco, Spain's people could not freely replace him through competitive national elections. In an oligarchy, a small group rules, as the Thirty Tyrants did in ancient Athens. In a theocracy, religious authorities govern. The pope leads Vatican City. A totalitarian regime goes further by trying to control public life and private beliefs. Nazi Germany used propaganda, secret police, and terror to crush opposition. To compare these systems, ask who chooses leaders and who can limit them.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Both the United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia have monarchs. Compare who makes governing decisions in each country and whether voters choose those leaders.

2. France and China both have a president and a national lawmaking body. What difference does the passage show in where their leaders get power?

3. Compare how people in France and people under Franco's rule in Spain could affect who led their country.

4. Compare who held power in the Thirty Tyrants' Athens, Vatican City, and Nazi Germany. Which regime also tried to control private beliefs?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent a country facing a water shortage. In four sentences, describe how its leaders would gain and use power as a representative republic and as a dictatorship, including who could limit each leader.

ANSWER KEY

Who Holds Power?

GRADE 7 · 7.C.6.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words that show who holds or chooses power in each example, circle any limits on that power, and write R beside representative systems or A beside authoritarian systems. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Both the United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia have monarchs. Compare who makes governing decisions in each country and whether voters choose those leaders.	**In the United Kingdom, elected lawmakers make laws and a prime minister leads the government, while the monarch has mainly ceremonial duties. In Saudi Arabia, the king and royal family hold major governing authority, and citizens do not elect the king.**
2	France and China both have a president and a national lawmaking body. What difference does the passage show in where their leaders get power?	**In France, voters elect the president and lawmakers, whose powers are limited by a constitution. In China, the Chinese Communist Party controls top leadership and major policy, and voters cannot elect a competing party into national power.**
3	Compare how people in France and people under Franco's rule in Spain could affect who led their country.	**People in France elect a president and lawmakers. People under Franco could not freely replace him through competitive national elections.**
4	Compare who held power in the Thirty Tyrants' Athens, Vatican City, and Nazi Germany. Which regime also tried to control private beliefs?	**A small group ruled under the Thirty Tyrants, religious authority rests with the pope in Vatican City, and Nazi Germany was a totalitarian regime. Nazi Germany also tried to control private beliefs.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In my invented country of Luma, voters elect lawmakers and a president to respond to a water shortage. The lawmakers pass a water plan, and courts can block a plan that breaks the constitution. In a dictatorship version of Luma, a general takes power without a free election and orders water delivered only to supporters. Citizens cannot remove the general in a fair election, so the general faces fewer checks than the elected president.

Accept other accurate comparisons that identify who holds or chooses power and whether that power is limited. For Part 3, look for four sentences that apply those differences to the invented water shortage.