

Government Systems Compared

Read closely to compare how national governments are organized and operate.

6.10.B “compare ways in which various societies such as China, Germany, India, and Russia organize government and how they function; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the phrase that tells how each country is organized, and circle the phrase that tells how national leaders are chosen or use power. These marks will help you compare the systems.

Four Ways Governments Work

- ① China is a unitary state led by the Chinese Communist Party, or CCP. The CCP is the only political party that governs nationally. China’s National People’s Congress is the national legislature, but the CCP guides major decisions. The president is China’s head of state, while the premier leads the State Council, which manages many daily government jobs. Citizens do not choose national leaders in competitive multiparty elections. Instead, party-controlled political processes select top leaders. This system concentrates national authority under CCP leadership.
- ② Germany is a federal parliamentary democracy. Its 16 states share some powers with the national government. Voters elect members of the Bundestag, the lower house of parliament. Usually, several parties must work together in a coalition to support a government. The Bundestag elects the chancellor, who leads the national government. Germany also has a president, but this role is mainly ceremonial. Federal laws and coalition decisions show how Germany’s government depends on both elected representatives and cooperation among parties.
- ③ India is a federal parliamentary democratic republic. Voters elect members of the Lok Sabha, the lower house of Parliament. The president is head of state, while the prime minister leads the government and usually leads the party or coalition with most Lok Sabha seats. States have their own elected governments. Russia is a federal state with a president and a prime minister. Its legislature is the Federal Assembly. Although Russia holds elections, the president has extensive powers, including appointing the prime minister, and national political power is highly concentrated around the presidency.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How is China's government organized differently from Germany's government?

2 Compare how Germany and India get their chief government leaders. Who selects or supports each leader?

3 How does Germany's coalition system make its government function differently from China's CCP-led system?

4 Compare China and Russia on elections and concentrated power. What does the passage say about each country?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly four sentences comparing Germany and Russia. Include two differences in how their governments are organized or function and one similarity.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the phrase that tells how each country is organized, and circle the phrase that tells how national leaders are chosen or use power. These marks will help you compare the systems. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How is China's government organized differently from Germany's government?	China is a unitary state led by the CCP, while Germany is a federal parliamentary democracy with states that share powers with the national government.
2	Compare how Germany and India get their chief government leaders. Who selects or supports each leader?	In Germany, the Bundestag elects the chancellor. In India, the prime minister usually leads the party or coalition with the most Lok Sabha seats after voters elect Lok Sabha members.
3	How does Germany's coalition system make its government function differently from China's CCP-led system?	In Germany, several parties often work together to support a government, so cooperation among parties matters. In China, the CCP guides major decisions and leads the national government.
4	Compare China and Russia on elections and concentrated power. What does the passage say about each country?	China does not have competitive multiparty elections for national leaders, and authority is concentrated under CCP leadership. Russia holds elections, but the president has extensive powers and power is highly concentrated around the presidency.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Germany is a federal parliamentary democracy, while Russia is a federal state with a president and prime minister. In Germany, the Bundestag elects the chancellor, and coalitions often support the government. In Russia, the president appoints the prime minister and has extensive powers. Both countries have legislatures, but Germany depends more on cooperation among parties, while power in Russia is highly concentrated around the presidency.

Accept equivalent comparisons that accurately use details from the passage. For the open response, check for exactly four sentences, two valid differences, and one valid similarity.