

Power Paths

Compare who holds power and how governments function.

6.10 "Government. The student understands various ways in which people organize governments. The student is expected to: identify and give examples of governments with rule by one, few, or many..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each named society, then write 1, F, or M beside the sentence that shows whether power is held by one, few, or many, so you can compare how governments work.

Who Holds Power?

- ① Governments answer a basic question: who has the power to make public decisions? In rule by one, a single ruler holds most power. In rule by few, a small group controls major decisions. In rule by many, citizens have a broad role, often by voting. These labels describe how power is used, not just what a country calls itself. Ancient Athens helped develop democracy. Some eligible citizens met in an assembly and voted directly on laws, but women, enslaved people, and noncitizens were excluded.
- ② Modern countries organize power in different ways. China is a one-party state led by the Chinese Communist Party. Party leaders make the most important national decisions, so China is an example of rule by few. Germany is a federal parliamentary democracy. German voters elect representatives to the Bundestag, the national parliament. The Bundestag chooses the chancellor, who leads the government. Germany's states also have powers over some local matters. Its elections and elected representatives show rule by many.
- ③ India is also a federal parliamentary democracy, and it has a very large electorate. Voters elect members of the Lok Sabha, India's lower house of Parliament. The party or coalition that wins support in the Lok Sabha forms the national government, led by a prime minister. Russia's constitution describes a federal, semi-presidential republic with elections. In practice, power has become highly centralized around President Vladimir Putin. Russia can be described as rule by one in practice, while opposition candidates and independent media face limits. Comparing rules with actual power gives a fuller view.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did citizens take part in government in Ancient Athens, and how is Germany's system different?

2 Which country is an example of rule by few? Use one detail from the passage to explain your answer.

3 Give one similarity and one difference between how India and Germany organize their national governments.

4 Why is it incomplete to describe Russia only as a republic with elections?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

In 5 sentences, design a government for a new island community. State whether it uses rule by one, few, or many, explain who makes decisions and how people take part, name one protection against unfair power, and contrast it with Ancient Athens.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each named society, then write 1, F, or M beside the sentence that shows whether power is held by one, few, or many, so you can compare how governments work. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did citizens take part in government in Ancient Athens, and how is Germany's system different?	In Ancient Athens, some eligible citizens voted directly in an assembly. In Germany, voters elect representatives to the Bundestag, which chooses the chancellor.
2	Which country is an example of rule by few? Use one detail from the passage to explain your answer.	China. The Chinese Communist Party's leaders make the most important national decisions.
3	Give one similarity and one difference between how India and Germany organize their national governments.	Both are federal parliamentary democracies where voters elect representatives. In Germany, the Bundestag chooses a chancellor, while in India, a party or coalition with support in the Lok Sabha forms the government led by a prime minister.
4	Why is it incomplete to describe Russia only as a republic with elections?	The passage says that power is highly centralized around President Putin and that opposition candidates and independent media face limits.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My island community uses rule by many. Every adult citizen votes to elect twelve council members for two-year terms. The council passes laws, but citizens can vote directly on major changes to the community rules. An independent court can reject laws that violate the community charter. Unlike Ancient Athens, all adult citizens, regardless of gender or birthplace, may take part.

Accept accurate descriptions of China as rule by few, Germany and India as rule by many, and Russia as rule by one in practice because power is centralized. For the open response, accept varied government designs if the student correctly identifies the power structure, explains participation, includes a realistic limit on power, and gives an accurate contrast with Ancient Athens.