

Citizens in Action

Compare citizen roles and political participation in three societies.

6.11 "Citizenship. The student understands that the nature of citizenship varies among societies. The student is expected to: describe and compare roles and responsibilities of citizens in various contemporary societies..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each responsibility citizens have. Circle each way citizens can participate in or influence government, then compare the choices you marked.

Different Paths to Participation

- ① In the United States, citizens have rights such as voting in elections and speaking about public issues. Citizens who meet age and registration rules can choose representatives in local, state, and national elections. They may contact officials, attend public meetings, join groups, or campaign for causes. Responsibilities include obeying laws, serving on a jury when selected, and paying taxes they owe. These actions help people influence government between elections. They also serve in the armed forces if required by law.
- ② China is a one-party state led by the Chinese Communist Party. Chinese citizens age 18 or older may vote in direct elections for local people's congresses at the township and county levels, except people deprived of political rights by law. These congresses help select representatives at higher levels. Citizens may offer opinions through local meetings, letters, approved online channels, or community groups. However, independent political parties cannot compete for national power, and the government limits public criticism and protests. Citizens are expected to obey laws, follow tax laws, and may be required to perform military service.
- ③ Germany offers another example of a multiparty democracy. Eligible adult German citizens elect members of the Bundestag, the national parliament. Voters can choose among several parties, and candidates can campaign for office. Citizens may petition the Bundestag, join civic groups, and take part in peaceful assemblies. Like citizens in the United States, Germans have broad ways to influence political choices. Compared with China, they have more opportunities to organize independent parties and publicly criticize national leaders. In each society, citizens also must follow laws and pay taxes when owed.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How can citizens in the United States influence government between elections? Name two ways from the passage.

2 Name one responsibility shared by citizens in all three societies.

3 How does voting in China differ from voting for national representatives in the United States?

4 Why do citizens in Germany have more opportunities than citizens in China to influence national political choices?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine Jordan wants the government to improve a local water system. Write exactly four sentences comparing what Jordan could do in the United States and in China. Include one conclusion about which society gives Jordan more ways to influence government.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each responsibility citizens have. Circle each way citizens can participate in or influence government, then compare the choices you marked. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How can citizens in the United States influence government between elections? Name two ways from the passage.	They may contact officials, attend public meetings, join groups, or campaign for causes.
2	Name one responsibility shared by citizens in all three societies.	Citizens in all three societies must follow or obey laws. Paying taxes when owed is also shared.
3	How does voting in China differ from voting for national representatives in the United States?	In China, citizens directly vote for local people's congresses, which help select representatives at higher levels. In the United States, eligible voters choose representatives in national elections.
4	Why do citizens in Germany have more opportunities than citizens in China to influence national political choices?	Germany has several political parties that citizens can choose from and support. Germans can also organize independent parties and publicly criticize national leaders, while China limits those activities.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Jordan wants the city to improve its water system. In the United States, Jordan could attend a public meeting, contact an official, and join a group. In China, Jordan could offer an opinion through a local meeting or an approved online channel. The United States gives Jordan more independent ways to organize and criticize leaders.

Accept equivalent passage-based examples of responsibilities and participation. For the open response, accept a clear four-sentence comparison that accurately distinguishes broader independent political participation in the United States from the more limited channels described for China.