

## GED® Preparation Lesson Plan

### Module: Social Studies

#### Lesson Title: Systems and Forms of Government

#### Standards: GED® Preparation (Adult General Education)

Social Studies Practices 2014 Assessment Targets High Impact Indicator	Social Studies Content Area 2014 GED® Assessment Targets	Related Indicators from Other Content Areas
Describe people, places, environments, processes, and events and the connections between and among them. (SSP.2.b)	Types of modern and historical governments. (CG1.a)  Principles that have contributed to development of American constitutional Democracy. (CG1.b)	Reasoning through Language Arts: Draw conclusions or make generalizations that require synthesis of multiple main ideas. (R.2.8)  Mathematical Reasoning: Identify the information required to evaluate a line of reasoning. (MP.5.c)  Science: Identify and refine hypotheses for scientific investigations.

### Objectives of the Lesson

Students will:

- Describe pertinent elements in the text, including: people, places, environments, processes, and events
- Identify and explain relationships among multiple elements
- Identify and analyze different types and systems of government

### Materials

- Prep Activity, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YNWVM3liOK0> Mr. Raymond's Civics and Social Studies Academy, *Systems of Government* video (8.39 minutes)
- Computer and speakers (projector for showing video to full class)
- Handout A: Vocabulary List – Systems of Government
- Handout B: Systems and Forms of Government
- Handout C: Who Rules? Worksheet
- Handout D: Informal Assessment: A or B?

## Instructional Plan

### Overview

The GED® Social Studies test focuses on the fundamentals of social studies reasoning including a deep conceptual understanding of social studies content, procedural skill and fluency, and the ability to apply these fundamentals in realistic situations. Describing people, places, environments, processes, and events and the connections between and among them, is one of the identified skills that are key to reasoning in both textual and quantitative social science contexts. This lesson draws from the content domain of civics and government, which comprises approximately 50% of the social studies content and reflects what is most relevant and useful for an adult population. The GED Testing Service® has identified this assessment target as a high impact indicator that describes some of the critical thinking skills students need to be successful in college, career training, and the workforce.

### Process

Introduce the lesson by asking the following questions and discussing as a class:

- What kind of system of government does the United States have?
- How is the US system like the governmental systems of other countries?
- Name some different forms of government and how do their characteristics differ from the US system?

Show the YouTube video from Mr. Raymond's Civics and Social Studies Academy, *Systems of Government* video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YNWVM3liOK0> (8.39).

After viewing the video, lead class discussion and answer the following questions:

- What are some of the pros and cons of a democracy?
- Who holds the most power in a monarchy?
- Name an example of a parliamentary style of government?
- Would you want to live in a theocracy? Why or why not?

Review vocabulary definitions on **Handout A: Vocabulary – Systems of Government**. Be sure to mention the example countries for each system. You may also want to ask students to locate each country on a world map.

After the vocabulary review, give students **Handout B: Systems and Forms of Government**. Complete one item from each section together and then have students complete worksheet through number 12.

### Sample Debriefing Questions

- Other than a democracy, which form or system of government might you choose to live under?
- Are there some disadvantages to democratic rule and if so, what are they?

### **Modifications for Different Levels**

To modify instruction, provide students with samples from social studies texts, and have them work in pairs to list the pros and cons of the different types of governmental systems in the world.

Then have one student brainstorm a scenario, while the other students try to name the type of government the situation describes. Below are some examples.

- A town has no government at all. All citizens may do whatever they believe is in their own best interest.
- This city is controlled by the clergy of the religious center. The clergy makes all of the decisions and the citizens follow these orders.
- In the country of Equality, the citizens vote on and elect new members to serve on the ruling council every three years. Those members elect a leader from their ranks to serve as the supreme ruler, who serves as long as the ruling council feels he or she is doing as they wish.

### **Assessments/ Extensions**

Throughout the lesson, be sure to monitor and check for student understanding for each new concept or vocabulary term. Allowing students to work in pairs helps to build confidence and share knowledge. There are several resources available on the internet, as well in the GED® preparation materials, which will give students more practice with GED® type questions that deal with the civics and government sections of the test. Provide students with **Handout C: Who Rules?** as an extension activity for students to apply their knowledge.

Provide students with **Handout D: Informal Assessment: A or B?** as an informal assessment. Discuss the students' answers and their reasons for each.



## Vocabulary List

### Systems of Government

1) **Federal** – Power is shared by powerful central government and states or provinces are given considerable self- rule usually through their own legislatures

\* United States, Australia, Federal Republic of Germany

2) **Unitary** – One central government controls weaker states. Power is not shared between states, countries or provinces.

\*China, United Kingdom

3) **Confederal** – Weak or loose organization of states agrees to follow a powerful central government. Nations can choose to follow or not follow the lead of the weak central government.

\* The Commonwealth of Independent States(CIS) formerly known as the Soviet Union, Switzerland's canton system, Confederate States of America (1861-1865)

4) **Parliamentary** – A system of government where power lies with the legislative body and the leader of the country is part of the legislature and remains in power as long as his/her party remains.

\*Denmark, Sweden, Japan

### Types of Government

5) **Autocracy** – A form of government where one person has unlimited power. There are two main types of autocracy – a monarchy or a dictatorship.

*\*North Korea, United Arab Emirates*

6) **Absolute Monarchy** – A form of autocracy where a person becomes the sole leader of a country by being born into a family of rulers.

\*Saudi Arabia, Brunei, Vatican City

7) **Monarchy** – Headed by a king or queen who inherits the position, rules for life, and holds power that can range anywhere between limited to absolute.

\* United Kingdom, Belize, Sweden

8) **Dictatorship** – One leader has absolute control over citizen's lives. There is no citizen representation.

\*Zimbabwe, Uzbekistan

9) **Oligarchy** – A form of government in which a small group has total control and power.

\*China, Venezuela

10) **Democracy** – The government is elected by the people. People either vote on issues directly (**direct democracy**) or they elect representatives who make government decisions for them (**representative democracy**). In a democracy, people enjoy certain basic rights.

\*United States, Iceland, India

11) **Theocracy** – A form of government in which God or a deity is recognized as the supreme civil ruler.

\*Iran, Afghanistan

12) **Anarchy** – The absence of any form of government.

\* Somalia

## Systems and Forms of Government

From the word list below, select the correct form or system of government for each situation.

Federal	Unitary	Confederal	Parliamentary
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1) Countries like the United States have a strong powerful central government with states or provinces that also have representational self-rule.

\_\_\_\_\_

2) The citizens in this system of government vote and elect members of the legislative body, but that body itself elects the ruler or leader of the country.

\_\_\_\_\_

3) Though not common, this governmental system contains a weak organization of states and a weaker central government.

\_\_\_\_\_

4) The leaders of the countries with this system are part of the legislature and only remain in power as long as the party they represent is in power.

\_\_\_\_\_

5) States or provinces under this form do not have power of their own instead having one central government that controls everything.

\_\_\_\_\_

From the word list below, select the correct form or system of government for each situation.

Autocracy	Absolute Monarchy	Dictatorship	Monarchy
Oligarchy	Democracy	Theocracy	Anarchy

6) Which form of government is utilized in North America and India?

\_\_\_\_\_

7) The citizens of these countries are generally strongly religious and the ruling leader is also often the religious leader of the county.

\_\_\_\_\_

8) No one is in control under this governmental system.

\_\_\_\_\_

9) A small group of people have all the power under this system.

\_\_\_\_\_

10) A king or a queen inherits their position as ruler from birth but their powers can range from very strong to quite weak.

\_\_\_\_\_

11) Monarchies and Dictatorships where one person has the power are two types of this form of government.

\_\_\_\_\_

12) A system of government when citizens have no representation and everything aspect of life is controlled by one leader.

\_\_\_\_\_

### **Answer Key: Systems and Forms of Government**

1) Countries like the United States have a strong powerful central government with states or provinces that also have representational self-rule.

#### **Federal**

2) The citizens in this system of government vote and elect members of the legislative body, but that body itself elects the ruler or leader of the country.

#### **Parliamentary**

3) Though not common, this governmental system contains a weak organization of states and a weaker central government.

#### **Confederal**

4) The leaders of the countries with this system are part of the legislature and only remain in power as long as the party they represent is in power.

#### **Parliamentary**

5) States or provinces under this form do not have power of their own instead having one central government that controls everything.

#### **Unitary**

6) Which form of government is utilized in North America and India?

#### **Democracy**

7) The citizens of these countries are generally strongly religious and the ruling leader is also often the religious leader of the county.

#### **Theocracy**

8) No one is in control under this governmental system.

#### **Anarchy**

9) A small group of people have all the power under this system.

#### **Oligarchy**

10) A king or a queen inherits their position as ruler from birth but their powers can range from very strong to quite weak.

#### **Monarchy**

11) Monarchies and Dictatorships where one person has the power are two types of this form of government.

#### **Autocracy**

12) A system of government when citizens have no representation and every aspect of life is controlled by one leader.

#### **Dictatorship**



## Who Rules? Worksheet

iCivics Website <https://www.icivics.org>

### Who Rules?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**A. Identify That Government!** Identify the form(s) of government that each country has or had.

#### Switzerland

Citizens elect representatives to sit in two different lawmaking assemblies. But citizens also vote several times a year to decide on laws. Citizens can vote to propose their own laws or undo laws passed by their representatives. All citizens may vote directly on these laws.



Forms of government:

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

#### South Africa

From 1948-1994, official policy in South Africa gave white people all the political power. Even though the majority of South Africans were black, non-whites could not influence government. White South Africans elected representatives to sit in a lawmaking body.



Forms of government:

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

#### North Korea

One man leads North Korea and controls its government. He also controls its ruling political party. The ruling party chooses candidates for an Assembly, and citizens vote. The candidates do not have opponents, so citizens have no choices.



Form of government:

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia is led by a king who appoints a Council of Ministers to help govern. There are no elections. Saudi Arabia's Basic Law says the country's constitution is the Islamic holy book the Qur'an and other religious traditions.



Forms of government:

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

#### Denmark

The people of Denmark elect representatives to sit in Parliament, a lawmaking body. The Queen of Denmark heads the country, but she only has a small role in government. The government is led by a Prime Minister, who is appointed from among the elected representatives.



Forms of government:

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

#### Brazil

Brazil is led by a president who is elected by the citizens. Citizens in Brazil elect a new president every four years. Citizens also elect representatives to serve in two different legislative bodies.



Form of government:

\_\_\_\_\_

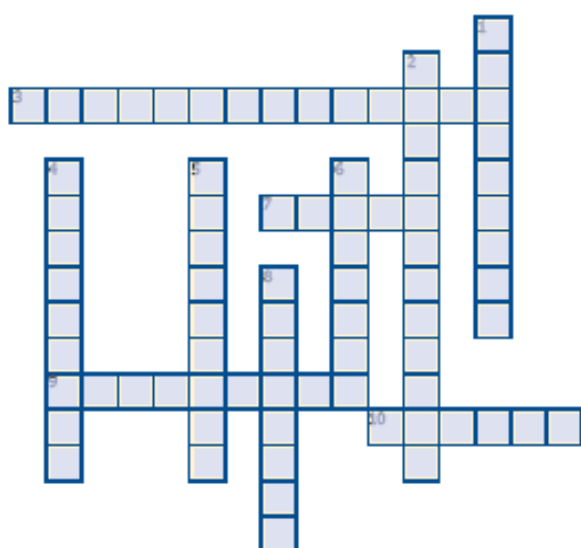
## Who Rules?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**B. True or False?** Use what you learned in the reading and in Exercise A to fill in the chart below.

1. A monarchy can be like a dictatorship or it can be part of a democracy.	<input type="radio"/> True <input type="radio"/> False	Example or Reason:
2. A dictatorship can also be a democracy.	<input type="radio"/> True <input type="radio"/> False	Example or Reason:
3. A democracy can have both representative and direct characteristics at the same time.	<input type="radio"/> True <input type="radio"/> False	Example or Reason:
4. An oligarchy can include representative democracy.	<input type="radio"/> True <input type="radio"/> False	Example or Reason:
5. A government can be both a monarchy and an anarchy at the same time.	<input type="radio"/> True <input type="radio"/> False	Example or Reason:
6. Theocracy can co-exist with monarchy.	<input type="radio"/> True <input type="radio"/> False	Example or Reason:
7. Theocracy can co-exist with democracy.	<input type="radio"/> True <input type="radio"/> False	Example or Reason:
8. An oligarchy can be like a dictatorship.	<input type="radio"/> True <input type="radio"/> False	Example or Reason:

**C. Vocabulary.** Solve the crossword puzzle using vocabulary from the reading.



### Across

3. Type of democracy where citizens elect leaders to represent them in government
7. A small group that rules a country after taking it over by force
9. One person has all the power
10. Type of democracy where citizens are involved in day-to-day government

### Down

1. Recognizes God as the ultimate authority in government and law
2. One leader has absolute control over citizens' lives
4. Citizens hold the political power
5. A small group of people has all the power
6. People are not subject to any nation or government
8. A king or queen rules the country

## Who Rules? Worksheet Answer Key

iCivics Website <https://www.icivics.org>

**A. Identify That Government!** Identify the form(s) of government that each country has or had.

### Switzerland

Citizens elect representatives to sit in two different lawmaking assemblies. But citizens also vote several times a year to decide on laws. Citizens can vote to propose their own laws or undo laws passed by their representatives. All citizens may vote directly on these laws.



Forms of government:  
Representative democracy  
and  
Direct Democracy

### South Africa

From 1948-1994, official policy in South Africa gave white people all the political power. Even though the majority of South Africans were black, non-whites could not influence government. White South Africans elected representatives to sit in a lawmaking body.



Forms of government:  
Oligarchy  
and  
Representative Democracy

### North Korea

One man leads North Korea and controls its government. He also controls its ruling political party. The ruling party chooses candidates for an Assembly, and citizens vote. The candidates do not have opponents, so citizens have no choices.



Form of government:  
Dictatorship

### Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia is led by a king. The king appoints a Council of Ministers to help govern, but there are no elections. Saudi Arabia's Basic Law states that the country's constitution is the Islamic holy book the Qur'an and other religious traditions.



Forms of government:  
Monarchy  
and  
Theocracy

### Denmark

The people of Denmark elect representatives to sit in Parliament, a lawmaking body. The Queen of Denmark heads the country, but she only has a small role in government. The government is led by a Prime Minister, who is appointed from among the elected representatives.



Forms of government:  
Monarchy  
and  
Representative democracy

### Brazil

Brazil is led by a president who is elected by the citizens. Citizens in Brazil elect a new president every four years. Citizens also elect representatives to serve in two different legislative bodies.

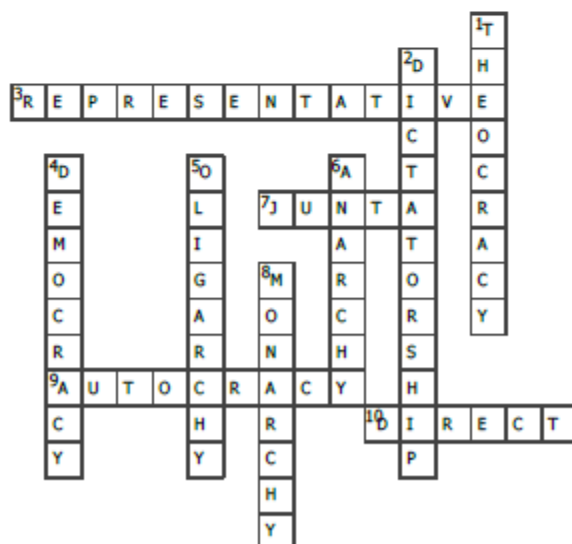


Form of government:  
Representative democracy

**B. True or False?** Use what you learned in the reading and Exercise A to fill in the chart below.

1. A monarchy can be like a dictatorship or it can be part of a democracy.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> True <input type="radio"/> False	Example or Reason: <i>Denmark: Monarch is part of a democracy; Saudia Arabia: Monarch has complete control.</i>
2. A dictatorship can also be a democracy.	<input type="radio"/> True <input checked="" type="radio"/> False	Example or Reason: <i>You can't have a democracy if citizens have no control, which they do not in a dictatorship.</i>
3. A democracy can have both representative and direct characteristics at the same time.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> True <input type="radio"/> False	Example or Reason: <i>Switzerland had representative and direct characteristics.</i>
4. An oligarchy can include representative democracy.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> True <input type="radio"/> False	Example or Reason: <i>South Africa was an oligarchy but had some representative democracy.</i>
5. A government can be both a monarchy and an anarchy at the same time.	<input type="radio"/> True <input checked="" type="radio"/> False	Example or Reason: <i>A monarchy has someone in control. Nobody is in control with anarchy.</i>
6. Theocracy can co-exist with monarchy.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> True <input type="radio"/> False	Example or Reason: <i>Saudia Arabia is a monarchy and a theocracy.</i>
7. Theocracy can co-exist with democracy.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> True <input type="radio"/> False	Example or Reason: <i>Iran is a theocracy where citizens vote for government leaders.</i>
8. An oligarchy can be like a dictatorship.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> True <input type="radio"/> False	Example or Reason: <i>A military junta like the one in Myanmar can function like a dictatorship.</i>

**C. Vocabulary.** Solve the crossword puzzle using vocabulary from the reading.



**icivics**

**Across**

- Type of democracy where citizens elect leaders to represent them in government
- A small group that rules a country after taking it over by force
- One person has all the power
- Type of democracy where citizens are involved in day-to-day government

**Down**

- Recognizes God as the ultimate authority in government and law
- One leader has absolute control over citizens' lives
- Citizens hold the political power
- A small group of people has all the power
- People are not subject to any nation or government
- A king or queen rules the country

Worksheet p.2

## Informal Assessment: A or B?

**Directions:** Read each statement aloud, or project and uncover each statement individually. Have the class answer "A" or "B" as a chorus. Listen for a mix of answers, indicating confusion. Use each question as a chance to quickly review concepts before moving on.

	A	B
1. One person is in charge.	Autocracy	Democracy
2. Citizens often have no rights.	Democracy	Dictatorship
3. Can exist with other forms of government	Dictatorship	Theocracy
4. Led by a king or queen	Monarchy	Oligarchy
5. Nobody is in charge	Monarchy	Anarchy
6. Those in charge are military members who took over by force	Junta	Democracy
7. Leader often shares power with other parts of government	Monarchy	Dictatorship
8. Democracy where citizens elect others to serve in government	Direct	Representative
9. Citizens vote to elect their leaders.	Democracy	Autocracy
10. A small group rules the country	Oligarchy	Democracy
11. People do not answer to any leader or government	Oligarchy	Anarchy
12. God and religious law are the government's authority	Theocracy	Anarchy
13. The group with power can be based on race or social class	Monarchy	Oligarchy
14. Democracy where citizens participate in lawmaking themselves	Direct	Representative



**Answer Key: Informal Assessment: A or B?**

	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
1. One person is in charge.	<u>Autocracy</u>	Democracy
2. Citizens often have no rights.	Democracy	<u>Dictatorship</u>
3. Can exist with other forms of government	Dictatorship	<u>Theocracy</u>
4. Led by a king or queen	<u>Monarchy</u>	Oligarchy
5. Nobody is in charge	Monarchy	<u>Anarchy</u>
6. Those in charge are military members who took over by force	<u>Junta</u>	Democracy
7. Leader often shares power with other parts of government	<u>Monarchy</u>	Dictatorship
8. Democracy where citizens elect others to serve in government	Direct	<u>Representative</u>
9. Citizens vote to elect their leaders.	<u>Democracy</u>	Autocracy
10. A small group rules the country	<u>Oligarchy</u>	Democracy
11. People do not answer to any leader or government	Oligarchy	<u>Anarchy</u>
12. God and religious law are the government's authority	<u>Theocracy</u>	Anarchy
13. The group with power can be based on race or social class	Monarchy	<u>Oligarchy</u>
14. Democracy where citizens participate in lawmaking themselves	<u>Direct</u>	Representative