

Study Island

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1. A key term in United States government is "democracy." Which of these best describes a democracy?

- A. a nation in which power belongs to the people
 - B. a nation ruled by a king or queen
 - C. a nation in which one person has power
 - D. a group of states with separate governments
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2. One of the goals of the U.S. government system is to create a fair society in which people are treated equally. What word best describes this goal?

- A. influence
 - B. justice
 - C. citizenship
 - D. morality
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3. In democratic governments like the United States, people believe that everyone should obey the law, even leaders. Which democratic principle **best** relates to this idea?

- A. rule of law
 - B. federalism
 - C. patriotism
 - D. liberty
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4. Many countries in the world have democratic governments. These governments often have a constitution. Which of the **best** following describes the purpose of a constitution?

- A. Constitutions state that the citizens cannot rebel against the government.
- B. Constitutions place governmental power in the hands of one person.
- C. Constitutions put limits on government power and protect citizens.
- D. Constitutions are voted on by the people and can be changed at any time.

| Country | Who has power? |
|-------------------|---|
| The United States | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• President is the head of state and the head of government.• Officials are elected by the people |
| Canada | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Head of government is different from head of state• Prime minister must have the support of the parliament |
| Cuba | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Power is in the hands of one person• Government is run by the military |
| Mexico | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Power is divided between national and local governments• Local governments have power, but also obey national government |

5. The United States has a representative democracy. Which of the following **best** describes a representative democracy?

- A. People elect officials to represent them.
- B. People only vote on certain issues.
- C. People vote directly on every issue.
- D. People are not allowed to vote at all.

6. Which of the following countries is an example of a military dictatorship?

- A. Cuba
 - B. The United States
 - C. Canada
 - D. Mexico
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7. A dictatorship is a form of government which is very different from a democracy. Which of the following describes a dictatorship?

- A. Power is in the hands of the people.
 - B. Separate states share power.
 - C. Power belongs to a king or queen.
 - D. Only one person has power.
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8. The Constitution uses the word "justice" to establish the idea of fairness within the law and within people's actions. The government is there to be sure that every person is treated fairly under the law. Why is justice important to citizens today?

- A. Justice means the country is peaceful.
 - B. Justice is about making sure people are healthy.
 - C. Justice is about defending the country.
 - D. Justice means fairness in laws and actions.
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9. One of the purposes of government described in the Constitution is to "provide for the common defense." This means to

- A. make sure everyone is healthy.
 - B. give everyone the same rights.
 - C. keep the country safe from harm.
 - D. bring justice to all people.
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10. Which of the following is a *responsibility* of all citizens in a democracy?

- A. practicing a religion
 - B. being a good speaker
 - C. obeying common laws
 - D. receiving a speedy trial
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11. In 1776, American colonists decided to break free of British control. Which historical document marked the beginning of democratic government in the United States?

- A.** the Emancipation Proclamation
 - B.** the Bill of Rights
 - C.** the Declaration of Independence
 - D.** the U.S. Constitution
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12. The First Amendment in the Bill of Rights states:

"Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble . . . "

Why is freedom of speech important?

- A.** Many different viewpoints are important to democracy.
 - B.** Freedom of speech was important in the old days.
 - C.** People need permission to speak their minds freely.
 - D.** Many people will only listen to opinions they agree with.
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