
Role of Government

Chapter 1

California State Standards: 12.1.1 12.3.4 12.7.7 12.9.3

A. Gov't & Public Good

- **What is government?**
 - **Government** is an institution with the power to make and enforce rules for a group of people
 - **Gov't** - ins'tution w/ pwr 2 make & enforce rules for a grp o' ppl
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- Why can a gov't set rules?
 - Who must obey those rules?
 - What do laws do?
 - Gov'ts have *authority* to set rules for all those living in a *state*.
 - Gov'ts establish rules by making *laws*, which regulate life, authorize enforcement & set punishments
 - Law & public policy deal w/ pblk prblm & R enforceable
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B. Origins of Government

- Where does a gov't get its authority to rule?
 - Formerly, monarchs received their authority from God.
 - Legitimacy is the rightful authority of a gov't over its citizens
 - Hobbes = Social Contract
 - Locke = Natr'l Rights
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C. Functions of Gov't

- What are the four functions of gov't?
- What are some examples of each

1. Maintain Order – safety & security of people & property
2. Provide Services – better lives of *citizens*
3. Resolve Conflicts – compromise; reach common goals
4. Promote Values – basic principles

The Public Good

- What is “public good”?
- How do you know if a policy is for the public good?
- Public good = public interest / benefit
- Should school be mandatory? Death penalty? Gun control?
- Does a law or policy benefit a large number of people or narrow interests?

II. Forms of Government

- Where do gov'ts get their authority to rule?

A. Sources of Authority

1. Monarchy = royal family / God
 2. Constitutional Monarchy = limited by written laws
 3. Republics = people
 4. Dictatorships = guns
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- Are there other sources of authority?
- Can a gov't have more than one source of authority?

B. Other sources

1. Theocracy = priest class / God
2. Technocracy = scientific & manager'l experts auth. Based on efficiency.
3. Bureaucracy = hierarchy of mangn't
4. Kleptocracy = greed

c. Power Among levels of gov't

- Compare & contrast the 3 systems of gov't.

1. **Unitary System** – Central gov't holds pwr; local gov't follows orders
 2. **Federal System** – pwr shared at all levels
 3. **Confederal System** – pwr held by members; central gov't carries out members' policies
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■ How is power structured within gov't?

D. Power within levels of gov't

1. Presidential System:
 - a. Legis. Branch & Exec. Branch separate & independent
2. Parliamentary System:
 - a. Exec. chosen by legislators & controlled by them

III. Foundations of Democracy

- Why do we prefer democracy?
 - A. Benefits of Democracy
 1. Personal choice
 2. Individual dignity
 3. Respect for law
 4. Minority rights
 5. Promote public good
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B. Forms of Democracy

- Compare & contrast 2 types of democracy.

1. Direct Democracy

- a. **All citizens participate**

- b. **Town hall meetings**

- c. **Referendums**

2. Representative Democracy

- Cite examples of each.
