



LESSON PLAN

Systems of government

Learning outcome 3.3

Compare two or more systems of government, taking particular note of the ways in which the state interacts with its citizens, and citizens can shape their state

Students will learn to

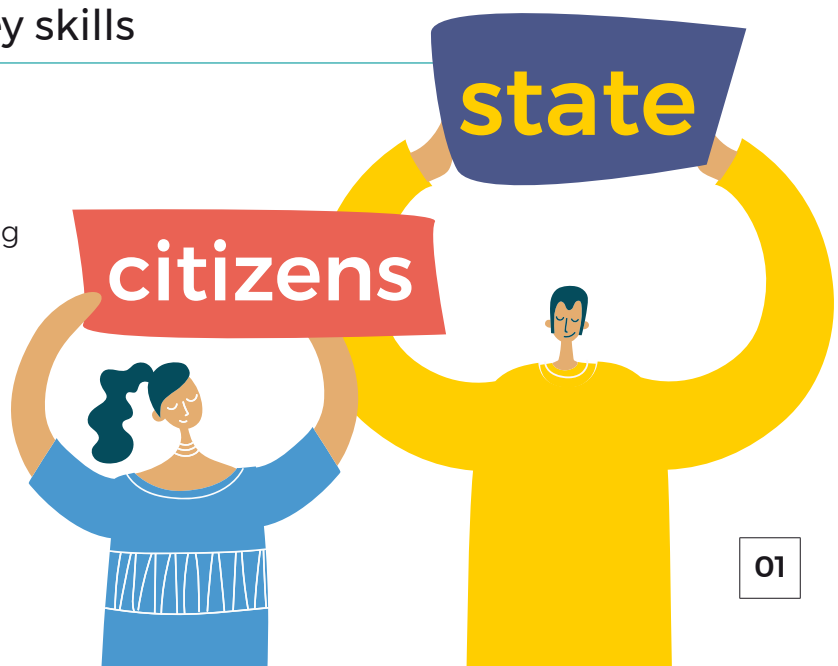
- ▶ Identify different systems of government
- ▶ Understand the differences between each system

Materials

- ▶ Slide show
- ▶ Sticky notes
- ▶ Factsheets – one for each group
- ▶ Worksheet 1: Comparing systems of government – one for each student
- ▶ Worksheet 2: Crossword – one for each pair of students

Assessment for learning/Key skills

- ▶ Peer teaching
- ▶ Blue-sky thinking
- ▶ Managing information and thinking
- ▶ Being creative
- ▶ Communicating



1 **Recap**

SLIDE 3

Recap on previous learning about how schools are run. Invite students to put the keywords on slide 3 into sentences to show their meaning.

2 **Show video**

SLIDE 4

Show the **Types of Government** video.

3 **Peer teaching preparation**

SLIDE 5

Divide the class into groups and give each group a factsheet (see pages 4-6) with information on a system of government.

Allow each group 5-10 minutes to familiarise themselves with this system and prepare to give a short presentation to the class. Ask them to consider the four points on the factsheets. If possible, allow further online research.

4 **Peer teaching presentations**

SLIDE 6

Ask each group to make their presentation.

Fill in a summary of their responses on slide 6.

5 **Open a discussion**

Give each student a copy of the worksheet **Comparing Systems of Government** (see page 7) and ask them to complete it.

Allow students to consider a comparison between the systems of government.

6 Blue-sky thinking

SLIDE 7

Divide the class in pairs.

Ask them to discuss the issue:

How different would my life be if the system of government in Ireland were not a democracy?

Invite them to write their thoughts on sticky notes and stick them on the classroom wall.

Give all students time to read all the responses.

Hold a class discussion.

7 Crossword

Give each pair of students a copy of the **crossword** (see page 8) and ask them to complete it.

Solution

ACROSS: 4. India / 6. Greece / 7. Hitler / 8. Monarch / 10. Communist

DOWN: 1. Oligarchy / 2. Lincoln / 3. Japan / 5. Democracy / 9. Junta

→ Extension activities

SLIDE 8

Interactive map

Ask students to explore the Types of Government map on mapsofworld.com. This will allow them to gain insight into the systems of government in the world today.

www.mapsofworld.com/thematic-maps/types-of-governments.html

Media report

Ask each student to find a media report on a part of the world where there are tensions as people demand a different type of government.



Constitutional monarchy



In a monarchy, a king or queen is head of state. The British monarchy is known as a constitutional monarchy. This means that, while the sovereign is head of state, the ability to make and pass legislation resides with an elected parliament.

Consider the following points:

1. Who has the power in this system?

2. Are the needs of the people met?

3. Give one advantage to this system.

4. Give one disadvantage to the system.



Dictatorship



In a dictatorship, one leader has absolute control. Many dictators are elected but when they receive power they then pass laws to give themselves ultimate control. All parts of government follow the orders of the dictator rather than the will of the people. Hitler and Mussolini were dictators during World War 2. There are few dictatorships in the modern world.

Consider the following points:

1. Who has the power in this system?

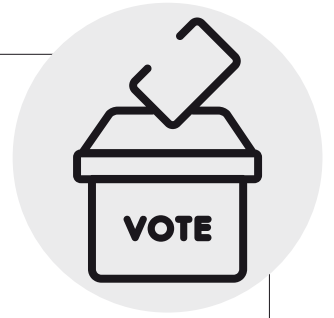
2. Are the needs of the people met?

3. Give one advantage to this system.

4. Give one disadvantage to the system.



Democracy



Democracy is a form of government which originated in ancient Greece.

Demos means people and **kratos** means power. Ireland is a parliamentary democracy. The National Parliament (Oireachtas) consists of the President and two Houses: Dáil Éireann (the House of Representatives) and Seanad Éireann (the Senate) whose functions and powers come from the Constitution of Ireland enacted by the people on 1 July 1937. The Houses of the Oireachtas are situated at Leinster House, Dublin.

Consider the following points:

1. Who has the power in this system?

2. Are the needs of the people met?

3. Give one advantage to this system.

4. Give one disadvantage to the system.



Worksheet 1

Comparing systems of government



Constitutional
monarchy



Dictatorship



Representative
democracy

	Constitutional monarchy	Dictatorship	Representative democracy
Power →			
People's interests →			
Advantage →			
Disadvantage →			



Worksheet 2

Crossword

Across

4. The world's largest democracy
6. In ancient times, democracy began here
7. Dictator during World War 2
8. A royal family holds power
10. The party in control in Cuba

Down

1. Form of government in China
2. American president who made a famous speech about democracy
3. Asian monarchy
5. Where citizens elect their leaders
9. Where the army takes control

