

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: The Playground Presidency: Kinetic Kindergartners Compare Control

Young citizens weigh the merits of shared rules versus bossy borders as they resolve complex schoolyard leadership dilemmas through comparative analysis.

1. If our classroom allows every student to vote on which snack to eat, but the classroom next door has one 'King' who picks for everyone, how are the two rooms different?

Answer: A) One uses teamwork, the other has a single boss.

Comparative government at this level focuses on the source of power: collective decision-making versus individual authority.

2. In a place where one leader makes all the rules and no one can say 'no,' this is most like a(n) _____ system.

Answer: B) Authoritarian

Authoritarian systems are defined by centralized control and limited feedback from citizens, similar to a 'no-protest' rule.

3. True or False: In a 'Federal' system (like a school with different rules for each grade), the main office and the teachers share the power to make rules.

Answer: A) True

Federalism is the division of power between a central authority and smaller regional units, like a school administration and individual classrooms.

4. Imagine a school where the Principal is also a teacher who was picked by all the other teachers. Which government style is this most like?

Answer: B) A Parliamentary System

In parliamentary systems, the executive leader (Prime Minister) is often a member of and chosen by the legislative branch.

5. If a country has a Queen who only attends parties and waves but does not make laws, she is a _____ leader.

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Answer: B) Ceremonial

Many modern governments have figureheads who hold symbolic roles rather than legislative or executive power.

6. True or False: In a 'Unitary' system, every single part in the whole country must follow the exact same rules made by one central office.

Answer: A) True

Unitary systems centralize authority, meaning local rules are usually determined by the national government.

7. Why might people in a Democracy be happier than people in an Authoritarian country?

Answer: A) They get to help choose the rules they follow.

Self-determination and political participation are key benefits of democratic governance compared to authoritarianism.

8. A system where the leader is chosen because they were born into a special family is called a _____.

Answer: B) Monarchy

Monarchies are hereditary systems where power is passed down through a family lineage.

9. Think about our classroom. If the teacher lets us pick our own seats, but the Principal says we all must wear blue shirts, this is a mix of power. What is this like?

Answer: B) A Federal system

Shared jurisdiction between a 'central' authority (Principal/National) and 'local' authority (Teacher/State) defines federalism.

10. True or False: In a democracy, once a leader is picked, they can change any rule they want without asking anyone else.

Answer: B) False

Democracies include checks, balances, and laws that limit a leader's power, distinguishing them from absolute rulers.