

Politics Induction:

What is the
best way to
share power in
a state?

- DO NOW - Think and discuss - what do you currently understand about any of the key terms below? Can you give any examples from UK, US or global politics, past or present?

-  Key Political Terms

1. government
2. legislature
3. executive
4. judiciary
5. constitution
6. democracy
7. authoritarianism
8. liberal democracy

-  Key Political Terms

- 9. Elected authoritarianism
- 10. Theocracy
- 11. technocracy
- 12. oligarchy
- 13. 'separation of powers'
- 14. 'rule of law'
- 15. citizens' rights
- 16. sovereignty



Imagine the scene....

- You're on a desert island with 20 strangers. You have to decide how to make decisions. There's no internet, police, or laws.
- What would you do?
- Who should make the rules?
- How will decisions be made?
- How will decisions be implemented?
- What if someone breaks a rule?

What have you just learned about the powers governments have and what they do with them?





What is the best way to share power in a state?

- Aims of the induction session:
- To learn what a government is and why it exists
- Explore how power is shared in a country
- Learn basic ideas about constitutions, branches of government, and citizens' rights
- Develop discussion and reasoning skills

What is a government?

- What do you already know?
- Now write down the ideas below.
- Governments run countries.
- They makes decisions about laws, money, and how people live.
- Most governments have different branches (parts), like:
- Legislature - makes laws (legislation)
- Executive - makes policies and implements laws (confusingly, in the UK we call the executive the government!)
- Judiciary - interprets laws and examines whether the actions of authorities are legal



What can you remember? - complete the grid in your notes.

- A. Carries out the laws and runs the country day-to-day
- B. Decides if laws have been broken or are fair
- C. Makes the laws for the country
- D. Judges and court
- E. Parliament (House of Commons and House of Lords)
- F. The Prime Minister and Cabinet
- CHALLENGE - do any of you know the name of the US legislature and the name of the US Executive?

Branch	Job Letter (A-C)	Example Letter (D-E)
1. Legislature		
2. Executive		
3. Judiciary		

What are the different ways in which states can share power across branches of government?

Country A:

One person makes all the rules
No elections
Police can arrest anyone without reason
Newspapers are shut down if they criticise the leader

Country B:

People vote in regular elections
Laws are made by elected representatives
Judges can check if the government is breaking the law
Citizens can protest and speak freely

Country C:

People vote for the leader every 5 years
The leader chooses all judges
Courts are not allowed to block the leader's decisions
There are laws, but they can be changed easily by the leader

Country D:

Courts are fully independent and very powerful
Leaders are not elected – they are chosen by a small group
Most decisions are made by experts, not the public
People have some rights, but protests are banned

Which country seems the fairest? Why?

In which country do citizens have the most rights?

In which country could power be abused easily?

Which system do you think would work best in real life?

What are the different ways in which states can share power across branches of government?

Country A: Authoritarian dictatorship

One person makes all the rules
No elections
Police can arrest anyone without reason
Newspapers are shut down if they criticise the leader

Country B: Liberal Democracy

People vote in regular elections
Laws are made by elected representatives
Judges can check if the government is breaking the law
Citizens can protest and speak freely

Country C: Electoral authoritarianism

People vote for the leader every 5 years
The leader chooses all judges
Courts are not allowed to block the leader's decisions
There are laws, but they can be changed easily by the leader

Country D: Theocracy/technocracy/oligarchy

Courts are fully independent and very powerful
Leaders are not elected – they are chosen by a small group
Most decisions are made by experts, not the public
People have some rights, but protests are banned

All these types of state either have existed in the past, or do exist today.

A - North Korea today. Nazi Germany in the past.

B - the UK today. Most Western states.

C - Russia today. Hungary since 2010.

D - Iran today. Ancient Sparta (Greece).



Reflection questions

- Why do you think power is often divided into different branches instead of being held by one person?
- Should one person be allowed to be in more than one branch of government at the same time?
- What problems could happen if one branch of government becomes too powerful?
- How should members of each branch be chosen? (E.g. Should they be elected, appointed, or something else? Why?)



Summer homework

- On the sixth form summer homework website
- One sheet to complete for UK politics - focus on learning some basic knowledge about our first topic in September - the UK Constitution.
- Time expectation - 60-90 mins depending on reading and writing speed!
- Basic expectation of all politics students - you are following the news both for UK and US.