

SS.7.C.3.2 Low Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

Question	Which government system gives states the most power?	The correct answer should identify the system of government where states have the most power.
A	confederal	Correct – This is the correct answer because a confederal system of government is where power is distributed among a group of states.
B	federal	Incorrect – In a federal system, power is shared between the states and a national government. States have some power, but not as much as they have in a confederation.
C	parliamentary	Incorrect – In a parliamentary system, all power lies with a legislative body and the leader of the country is part of the legislature. States have only as much power as the national legislature wants them to have.
D	unitary	Incorrect – In a unitary system, all power lies with a central government. The states have no power under this system.



SS.7.C.3.2 Moderate Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

Question	<p>The table below shows a comparison of two different systems of government.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMPARISON OF FEDERAL AND UNITARY SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #d3d3d3;">Federal System</th> <th style="background-color: #d3d3d3;">Unitary System</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Canada and the United States</td> <td style="text-align: center;">France and the United Kingdom</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">?</td> <td style="text-align: center;">?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Which information completes the table?</p>	Federal System	Unitary System	Canada and the United States	France and the United Kingdom	?	?	<p>Compare and contrast two systems of government.</p> <p>The correct answer should replace the question marks.</p>
Federal System	Unitary System							
Canada and the United States	France and the United Kingdom							
?	?							
A	power shared / power delegated	Correct – In a federal system, power is shared between a central government and the states. In a unitary system, the central government holds all power except the power that it delegates to the states.						
B	rule by a democracy / rule by a monarchy	Incorrect – In a democracy, the people rule. Democracy does not rule.						
C	role of government expanded / role of government limited	Incorrect – Systems of government describe how power is distributed. The role of government is neither expanded nor limited because of its system of government.						
D	power divided among the branches / power held by one branch	Incorrect – A unitary system may have separate branches of power such as an independent court system.						



SS.7.C.3.2 High Level of Complexity Sample Item Explanation

Question	<p>The newspaper headline below describes a historical event.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>What long term impact does this headline reflect?</p>		<p>A prime minister is the elected main (or “primary”/”prime”) legislator and head of state in a parliamentary system of government.</p> <p>The correct response should describe an appropriate cause of the effect described in the newspaper headline.</p>
A	protection of equal property rights	Incorrect – Property rights include the opportunity to own land and be compensated for property that the government takes for public use. Heads of state deal with a much larger range of policy issues than property rights. Equal property rights issues alone would not result in the election of a British prime minister.	
B	expansion of the right to privacy	Incorrect – Privacy is the right to be left alone. Heads of state deal with a much larger range of policy issues than privacy rights. Privacy rights issues alone would not result in the election of a British prime minister.	
C	protection of due process rights	Incorrect – Due process rights guarantee fair legal procedures. Heads of state deal with a much larger range of policy issues than due process rights. Due process issues alone would not result in the election of a British prime minister.	
D	expansion of the right to vote	Correct – The expansion of the right to vote could lead to the election of a female British prime minister. As the right to vote expands to women and other minority groups, members of those groups will use their right to vote by electing women and other minority groups, and more women and minority groups will run for, and win, public office.	

