

Forms of Government- Sample Answers

Forms of Government	Characteristics
autocracy	Autocracy is linked to lower levels of utilization of citizens' interests and intolerance towards opposing economic views. An autocratic state will only improve its standard of living as a result of their leader implementing effective economic growth policies.
democracy	Direct democracy is a form of democracy in which the power to govern is directly in the hands of the people rather than elected representatives. Representative democracy is a form of democracy in which the people elect representatives to make policies and laws for them; sometimes called a republic or representative democracy.
monarchy	Monarchy is a form of government headed by a king or queen who inherits the position, rules for life, and holds power that can range anywhere between limited to absolute.
oligarchy	An oligarchy is a form of government in which a small group (often of wealthy people) that is unaccountable to the people has total control and power.
theocracy	Theocracy is a form of government in which a religious body holds significant power.

What form of government is used in the United States?

Constitutional Republic

Of the forms of government mentioned in the reading, which is most closely aligned with the United States?

Representative Democracy

What characteristics of the United States' form of government distinguish it from other forms?

checks and balances, consent of the governed, democratic practices, due process of law, federalism, individual rights, limited government, representative government, republicanism, rule of law, separation of powers