**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 