

## The Big Questions (Page 185).

### 1. What are the different types of government?

**Ans.** The different types of government include:

- **Democracy** (rule by the people) (Direct and Representative)
- **Monarchy** (rule by a king or queen) (Absolute and Constitutional)
- **Theocracy** (rule based on religion)
- **Dictatorship** (rule by one leader or group with total power)
- **Oligarchy** (rule by a few wealthy or powerful people)

### 2. Where do governments get their power from?

**Ans.** Governments get their power from different sources depending on the type:

- In **democracies**, power comes from the **people** through elections.
- In **monarchies**, power is inherited through **royal families**.
- In a **theocracy**, power comes from **religious authority**.
- In **dictatorships** and oligarchies, power is often taken and held by **force or influence**, not by public consent.

### 3. How does a country's government interact with the people?

**Ans.** A government interacts with its people by:

- Making and enforcing **laws**.
- Providing **services** like education, healthcare, and transport.
- Allowing people to **vote** and choose their representatives (in a democracy).
- Protecting the **rights and freedoms** of citizens.

In democratic countries, this interaction is regular and based on participation and accountability.

### 4. Why does democracy matter?

**Ans.** Democracy matters because:

- It gives **equal rights** and **freedom** to all citizens.
- It allows people to **choose their leaders** and hold them **accountable**.
- It protects **fundamental rights** like freedom of speech, religion, and equality before law.
- It aims to work for the **well-being of all**, not just a few powerful groups.

Democracy helps build a fair and just society.

## LET'S EXPLORE (Page 186)

### 1. Do you remember this picture from your Grade 6 textbook?

**Ans.** Yes, this picture shows the Indian Parliament which we studied in Grade 6 while learning about the structure and roles of the government.

**2. The government also has many other roles. Try to list them.**

**Ans.** Apart from maintaining law and order, the government performs several important roles:

- **Ensuring peace and security** in the country.
- **Managing foreign relations** with other countries.
- **Defending the nation** from external threats (national defence).
- **Providing essential services** such as education, healthcare, water supply, and infrastructure.
- **Regulating the economy** and managing financial policies.
- **Creating employment** and promoting development.
- **Upholding justice** through the judiciary.
- **Working for the welfare of all citizens**, especially the underprivileged.

LET'S EXPLORE (Page 188)

**1. Which of the three methods do you think is most effective? Why?**

**Ans.** The **third method** — where students choose their representatives through **voting** — is the most effective.

**Reason:** This method is democratic because it gives **everyone a fair chance** to choose a representative who understands their needs. It ensures that all grades or groups have a voice in decision-making. It also makes the committee more **accountable** to the students who elected them.

LET'S EXPLORE (Page 196)

**1. Fill the blank columns under Country A and Country B in table 9.1 given on the previous page by taking two different countries of your choice.**

**Ans.** Let's take **United Kingdom (UK)** as Country A and France as Country B.

Country	Executive	Legislature	Judiciary
<b>United Kingdom (A)</b>	Prime Minister and Council of Ministers	Parliament (House of Commons & House of Lords)	Independent from executive and legislature
<b>France (B)</b>	President and Prime Minister	National Assembly and Senate	Independent from executive and legislature

**2. Analyse the table and discuss amongst yourselves the similarities and differences in all the examples.**

**Ans.**

**Similarities:**

- All countries have **three branches**: Executive, Legislature, and Judiciary.
- In both the UK and France, the **judiciary is independent**, ensuring separation of powers.
- Both countries have a **bicameral legislature** (two houses).

**Differences:**

- In the UK, the **Prime Minister is the head of government** (parliamentary democracy).
- In France, the **President is more powerful** and directly elected (semi-presidential democracy).
- The UK has a **constitutional monarchy**, while France is a **republic**.

**LET'S EXPLORE (Page 196)**

**1. After studying the above examples, list the core principles of a democratic government, do the activity given below:**

**Ans.** The core principles of a democratic government are:

- **Equality:** Every citizen is treated equally before the law.
- **Freedom:** Citizens have the right to express their opinions and make choices.
- **Universal Adult Franchise:** All adults have the right to vote.
- **Representative Participation:** Citizens elect representatives to make decisions on their behalf.
- **Accountability:** The government is answerable to the people.
- **Rule of Law:** Everyone, including leaders, must follow the law.
- **Independent Judiciary:** The judiciary ensures fairness and protects fundamental rights.

**2. You have to form a Student Committee in your school. Make a plan and execute it in a democratic manner, ensuring that:**

- **Functions of the committee are well defined**
- **The election process of the committee members is democratic**

**Ans.** Plan to Form a Student Committee:

- **Define the Functions of the Committee:**
  - i. Organize cultural, sports, and academic events.
  - ii. Represent student issues to school authorities.
  - iii. Promote cleanliness and discipline in school.
  - iv. Help implement school rules fairly and respectfully.
- **Democratic Election Process:**
  - i. **Nomination:** Interested students from each class can nominate themselves.
  - ii. **Campaigning:** Nominees can explain their ideas and plans to classmates.
  - iii. **Voting:** Secret ballot voting will be conducted for fairness.
  - iv. **Counting and Declaration:** Votes will be counted transparently and winners announced.
  - v. **Representation:** Each class will elect one member to ensure equal participation.
  - vi. **Oath & Responsibilities:** Elected members will take an oath and start working on assigned roles.

This plan ensures equal opportunity, student voice, and transparent governance, just like in a true democracy.

**THINK ABOUT IT (Page 199)**

**1. What might happen if the king considered himself to have divine powers? How would he rule over the people?**

- The king may believe he is above the law and not answerable to anyone.
- He might make **unfair or biased decisions** without consulting advisors or the people.
- The king could **ignore the needs and rights** of the common people.
- There may be **no justice or equality** under his rule.
- People may be **afraid to speak up or protest** against wrong decisions.
- The king may use his power to benefit only himself or a few close allies.
- Over time, this could lead to **public anger, dissatisfaction, and rebellion**.

- It would result in a **lack of freedom** and **loss of people's trust** in the ruler.

### LET'S EXPLORE (Page 204)

#### 1. Does Shane's country look like a democracy?

**Ans.** No, Shane's country does **not** look like a democracy. It appears to be a **dictatorship**, where people have **no freedom** to make personal choices, and the government controls every aspect of life.

#### 2. How do you think Shane's everyday life would be?

**Ans.** Shane's everyday life would likely be:

- **Strictly controlled** by the government.
- Lacking **freedom of speech, dress, and internet access**.
- Filled with **fear**, as he is watched constantly.
- **Obedient to orders**, even when he disagrees with them.
- Isolated from the **outside world**, without knowing what's happening globally.

#### 3. Would you like to live in such a country? Explain why.

**Ans.** No, I would not like to live in such a country because:

- There is **no freedom to express opinions** or make personal choices.
- **Every action is monitored**, creating fear and stress.
- People cannot access information or connect with the world.
- It does not allow individuals to live a life of **dignity and independence**.
- **Democracy** offers a better life where citizens have **rights, freedom, and respect**.

### LET'S EXPLORE (Page 205)

**1. Look carefully at the picture in Fig. 9.13 on the previous page. It depicts an elected body in the USA in the late 19th century. The people shown in the cartoon are all elected members. What do you observe? What do you see at the top left-hand corner of the cartoon? Who do you think is making decisions in this elected body?**

- The cartoon shows that **although the members are elected**, they seem to be **under the influence of rich businessmen or powerful groups**.
- At the **top left-hand corner**, we can see **large, shadowy figures** representing wealthy people or corporations sitting above the elected members.
- This suggests that **real decisions are being made by the rich and powerful**, not by the elected representatives themselves.
- It shows a situation where **money and influence control politics**, not the will of the people.

#### 2. Can a democracy turn into an oligarchy? What can people do to keep democracy strong?

**Ans.** Yes, a democracy can **turn into an oligarchy** if a **small group of rich or powerful people** start controlling decisions and ignore the needs of the people.

To keep democracy strong, people can:

- **Stay informed** and aware of their rights.
- **Participate actively** in elections and public discussions.
- **Hold leaders accountable** through protests, petitions, and free media.

- **Raise their voice** against injustice or misuse of power.
- **Support transparency** and fair decision-making processes.

### LET'S EXPLORE (Page 206)

You have learnt the basic characteristics of various forms of governments. Do a small role play of the various forms in your classroom:

#### 1. Enact democracy

**Ans.** In the role play, students were allowed to **nominate themselves, campaign**, and vote to choose their leaders. The elected students then took decisions after discussing with others.

➡ This showed how **everyone had a voice**, and decisions were made with **majority support**.

#### 2. Enact monarchy

**Ans.** One student was **declared the king/queen** without any voting. They made **all the decisions alone**, and others had to **follow orders**.

➡ This form highlighted **centralized power** and **no say for others** in decision-making.

#### 3. Enact dictatorship

**Ans.** One student took control forcefully and **gave strict orders** without listening to anyone. Punishments were given for disobedience, and **no discussions** were allowed.

➡ This showed a **fear-based rule** where **freedom was taken away**.

#### 4. What do you find to be the most suitable form of government?

**Ans.** Democracy is the most suitable form of government because:

- Everyone gets a **chance to participate**.
- Leaders are **elected** and held **accountable**.
- Decisions are made through **discussion and consent**.
- It ensures **freedom, equality, and justice** for all.

## Questions and activities (207-208)

### 1. Write names of the various types of government that you have learnt in the chapter.

**Ans.** The different types of government?

- **Democracy** (rule by the people) (Direct and Representative)
- **Monarchy** (rule by a king or queen) (Absolute and Constitutional)
- **Theocracy** (rule based on religion)
- **Dictatorship** (rule by one leader or group with total power)
- **Oligarchy** (rule by a few wealthy or powerful people)

### 2. Which type of Government does India have? And why is that called that type?

**Ans.** India has a **parliamentary democratic government**.

It is called so because:

- The people elect their representatives.

- The executive (Prime Minister and Council of Ministers) is part of the legislature (Parliament).
- The government is accountable to the people.

**3. You read that an independent judiciary is present in all types of democracies. State any three reasons why you think it is important for the judiciary to be independent.**

**Ans.**

- To **protect the rights** of all citizens fairly.
- To ensure that the **law is applied equally** to everyone, including the government.
- To act as a **check on the misuse of power** by the executive or legislature.

**4. Do you think democratic government is better than other forms of government? Why?**

**Ans.** Yes, democratic government is better because:

- It ensures **equality, freedom, and justice** for all.
- People have the **right to choose their leaders**.
- The government is **accountable** to the people.
- Citizens can **express their opinions** freely.

**5. These are some practices in a few different countries. Can you match the practice with the type of government?**

S. No	Practice in the country	Type of Government
I	All citizens are treated equally before law	Dictatorship
II	The government refers to the religious leader for every decision	Monarchy
III	After the queen's death, her son became the new king	Democracy
IV	The ruler is not bound to follow any Constitution. He makes all decisions.	Theocracy

**Ans.**

S. No	Practice in the country	Type of Government
I	All citizens are treated equally before law	<b>Democracy</b>
II	The government refers to the religious leader for every decision	<b>Theocracy</b>
III	After the queen's death, her son became the new king	<b>Monarchy</b>
IV	The ruler is not bound to follow any Constitution. He makes all decisions.	<b>Dictatorship</b>

**6. Below is a list of countries. Find out the types of government these countries have:**

S. No	Country	Type of Government
1	Bhutan	
2	Nepal	
3	Bangladesh	
4	South Africa	
5	Brazil	

Ans.

S. No	Country	Type of Government
1	Bhutan	Constitutional Monarchy
2	Nepal	Federal Parliamentary Republic
3	Bangladesh	Parliamentary Democracy
4	South Africa	Parliamentary Democracy
5	Brazil	Presidential Democracy

7. What are possible hurdles in a democracy in achieving its values and ideals? How can they be overcome?

Ans.

Hurdles:

- **Corruption** in political systems.
- **Wealth inequality** and poor access to resources.
- **Concentration of power** in a few hands.
- **Manipulation of media and public opinion.**

Solutions:

- Active **participation of citizens** in governance.
- **Free and fair elections.**
- **Strong and independent institutions** like judiciary and election commission.
- Promoting **transparency and education.**

8. Democracy is different from monarchy and dictatorship. Explain.

Ans.

- In **democracy**, the government is **elected by the people** and is accountable to them.
- In a **monarchy**, power is **inherited** and held by a king or queen.
- In a **dictatorship**, **one person or a small group** holds absolute power without public consent.
- **Democracy allows freedom and participation**, while monarchy and dictatorship limit citizens' rights.