

SS.7.C.3.2

Compare parliamentary, federal, confederal, and unitary systems of government.

SS.7.C.3.2 Benchmark Clarification 1: Students will define parliamentary, federal, confederal, and unitary systems of government.

All forms of government have the same three powers: **legislative, executive, and judicial**. How those powers are organized in government is where the differences between systems of government can be seen. Some forms of government put all three powers (legislative, executive, and judicial) in one place. Other forms of government divide up the powers among different branches of the government. Comparing and contrasting the similarities and differences among systems of government shows the advantages and disadvantages of each system.

System of Government	Definition
Parliamentary	A system of government where the power is in the legislative body, and the leader of the country is a part of the legislature. Citizens indirectly elect officials through their participation in political parties. (The people choose the political party they like, and then the party chooses its members who will serve as representatives of the people).
Federal	A system of government where the power is shared between the central (national) government and the states. Citizens elect members of the legislative branch, the executive branch, and some members of the judicial branch.
Confederal	A system of government where the power is given to independent states. There is little or no central (national) power. Citizens elect members of the legislative branch, the executive branch, and some members of the judicial branch.
Unitary	A system of government where almost all power is given to the central (national) government. The people do not have a role in a unitary system of government because they do not vote. Leaders of unitary governments come to power either by birth or by force.

executive - the power of government to enforce laws, make sure laws are followed

judicial - the power of government to interpret laws

legislative - the power of government to make laws



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