GED® Preparation Lesson Plan

Module: Social Studies

Lesson Title: Systems and Forms of Government

Standards: GED® Preparation (Adult General Education)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Studies Practices 2014 Assessment Targets High Impact Indicator</th>
<th>Social Studies Content Area 2014 GED® Assessment Targets</th>
<th>Related Indicators from Other Content Areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Describe people, places, environments, processes, and events and the connections between and among them. (SSP.2.b)</td>
<td>Types of modern and historical governments. (CG1.a)</td>
<td>Reasoning through Language Arts: Draw conclusions or make generalizations that require synthesis of multiple main ideas. (R.2.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Principles that have contributed to development of American constitutional Democracy. (CG1.b)</td>
<td>Mathematical Reasoning: Identify the information required to evaluate a line of reasoning. (MP.5.c)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Science: Identify and refine hypotheses for scientific investigations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Objectives of the Lesson

Students will:
- Describe pertinent elements in the text, including: people, places, environments, processes, and events
- Identify and explain relationships among multiple elements
- Identify and analyze different types and systems of government

Materials
- Prep Activity, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YNWVM3IIOK0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YNWVM3IIOK0) Mr. Raymond’s Civics and Social Studies Academy, Systems of Government video (8.39 minutes)
- Computer and speakers (projector for showing video to full class)
- Handout A: Vocabulary List – Systems of Government
- Handout B: Systems and Forms of Government
- Handout C: Who Rules? Worksheet
- Handout D: Informal Assessment: A or B?
Instructional Plan

Overview
The GED® Social Studies test focuses on the fundamentals of social studies reasoning including a deep conceptual understanding of social studies content, procedural skill and fluency, and the ability to apply these fundamentals in realistic situations. Describing people, places, environments, processes, and events and the connections between and among them, is one of the identified skills that are key to reasoning in both textual and quantitative social science contexts. This lesson draws from the content domain of civics and government, which comprises approximately 50% of the social studies content and reflects what is most relevant and useful for an adult population. The GED Testing Service® has identified this assessment target as a high impact indicator that describes some of the critical thinking skills students need to be successful in college, career training, and the workforce.

Process
Introduce the lesson by asking the following questions and discussing as a class:

- What kind of system of government does the United States have?
- How is the US system like the governmental systems of other countries?
- Name some different forms of government and how do their characteristics differ from the US system?

Show the YouTube video from Mr. Raymond’s Civics and Social Studies Academy, Systems of Government video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YNWVM3liOK0 (8.39).

After viewing the video, lead class discussion and answer the following questions:

- What are some of the pros and cons of a democracy?
- Who holds the most power in a monarchy?
- Name an example of a parliamentary style of government?
- Would you want to live in a theocracy? Why or why not?

Review vocabulary definitions on Handout A: Vocabulary – Systems of Government. Be sure to mention the example countries for each system. You may also want to ask students to locate each country on a world map.

After the vocabulary review, give students Handout B: Systems and Forms of Government. Complete one item from each section together and then have students complete worksheet through number 12.

Sample Debriefing Questions

- Other than a democracy, which form or system of government might you choose to live under?
- Are there some disadvantages to democratic rule and if so, what are they?
Modifications for Different Levels

To modify instruction, provide students with samples from social studies texts, and have them work in pairs to list the pros and cons of the different types of governmental systems in the world.

Then have one student brainstorm a scenario, while the other students try to name the type of government the situation describes. Below are some examples.

- A town has no government at all. All citizens may do whatever they believe is in their own best interest.
- This city is controlled by the clergy of the religious center. The clergy makes all of the decisions and the citizens follow these orders.
- In the country of Equality, the citizens vote on and elect new members to serve on the ruling council every three years. Those members elect a leader from their ranks to serve as the supreme ruler, who serves as long as the ruling council feels he or she is doing as they wish.

Assessments/ Extensions

Throughout the lesson, be sure to monitor and check for student understanding for each new concept or vocabulary term. Allowing students to work in pairs helps to build confidence and share knowledge. There are several resources available on the internet, as well in the GED® preparation materials, which will give students more practice with GED® type questions that deal with the civics and government sections of the test. Provide students with Handout C: Who Rules? as an extension activity for students to apply their knowledge.

Provide students with Handout D: Informal Assessment: A or B? as an informal assessment. Discuss the students’ answers and their reasons for each.
Vocabulary List

Systems of Government

1) **Federal** – Power is shared by powerful central government and states or provinces are given considerable self-rule usually through their own legislatures

* United States, Australia, Federal Republic of Germany

2) **Unitary** – One central government controls weaker states. Power is not shared between states, countries or provinces.

* China, United Kingdom

3) **Confederal** – Weak or loose organization of states agrees to follow a powerful central government. Nations can choose to follow or not follow the lead of the weak central government.

* The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) formerly known as the Soviet Union, Switzerland’s canton system, Confederate States of America (1861-1865)

4) **Parliamentary** – A system of government where power lies with the legislative body and the leader of the country is part of the legislature and remains in power as long as his/her party remains.

* Denmark, Sweden, Japan

 Types of Government

5) **Autocracy** – A form of government where one person has unlimited power. There are two main types of autocracy – a monarchy or a dictatorship.

* North Korea, United Arab Emirates

6) **Absolute Monarchy** – A form of autocracy where a person becomes the sole leader of a country by being born into a family of rulers.

* Saudi Arabia, Brunei, Vatican City
7) **Monarchy** – Headed by a king or queen who inherits the position, rules for life, and holds power that can range anywhere between limited to absolute.

* United Kingdom, Belize, Sweden

8) **Dictatorship** – One leader has absolute control over citizen’s lives. There is no citizen representation.

* Zimbabwe, Uzbekistan

9) **Oligarchy** – A form of government in which a small group has total control and power.

* China, Venezuela

10) **Democracy** – The government is elected by the people. People either vote on issues directly (*direct democracy*) or they elect representatives who make government decisions for them (*representative democracy*). In a democracy, people enjoy certain basic rights.

* United States, Iceland, India

11) **Theocracy** – A form of government in which God or a deity is recognized as the supreme civil ruler.

* Iran, Afghanistan

12) **Anarchy** – The absence of any form of government.

* Somalia
Systems and Forms of Government

From the word list below, select the correct form or system of government for each situation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Federal</th>
<th>Unitary</th>
<th>Confederal</th>
<th>Parliamentary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1) Countries like the United States have a strong powerful central government with states or provinces that also have representational self-rule.

___________________

2) The citizens in this system of government vote and elect members of the legislative body, but that body itself elects the ruler or leader of the country.

___________________

3) Though not common, this governmental system contains a weak organization of states and a weaker central government.

___________________

4) The leaders of the countries with this system are part of the legislature and only remain in power as long as the party they represent is in power.

___________________

5) States or provinces under this form do not have power of their own instead having one central government that controls everything.

___________________
From the word list below, select the correct form or system of government for each situation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Autocracy</th>
<th>Absolute Monarchy</th>
<th>Dictatorship</th>
<th>Monarchy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oligarchy</td>
<td>Democracy</td>
<td>Theocracy</td>
<td>Anarchy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6) Which form of government is utilized in North America and India?

___________________

7) The citizens of these countries are generally strongly religious and the ruling leader is also often the religious leader of the county.

___________________

8) No one is in control under this governmental system.

___________________

9) A small group of people have all the power under this system.

___________________

10) A king or a queen inherits their position as ruler from birth but their powers can range from very strong to quite weak.

___________________

11) Monarchies and Dictatorships where one person has the power are two types of this form of government.

___________________

12) A system of government when citizens have no representation and everything aspect of life is controlled by one leader.

___________________
Answer Key: Systems and Forms of Government

1) Countries like the United States have a strong powerful central government with states or provinces that also have representational self-rule.

Federal

2) The citizens in this system of government vote and elect members of the legislative body, but that body itself elects the ruler or leader of the country.

Parliamentary

3) Though not common, this governmental system contains a weak organization of states and a weaker central government.

Confederal

4) The leaders of the countries with this system are part of the legislature and only remain in power as long as the party they represent is in power.

Parliamentary

5) States or provinces under this form do not have power of their own instead having one central government that controls everything.

Unitary

6) Which form of government is utilized in North America and India?

Democracy

7) The citizens of these countries are generally strongly religious and the ruling leader is also often the religious leader of the county.

Theocracy

8) No one is in control under this governmental system.

Anarchy

9) A small group of people have all the power under this system.

Oligarchy

10) A king or a queen inherits their position as ruler from birth but their powers can range from very strong to quite weak.

Monarchy

11) Monarchies and Dictatorships where one person has the power are two types of this form of government.

Autocracy

12) A system of government when citizens have no representation and every aspect of life is controlled by one leader.

Dictatorship
Who Rules? Worksheet

iCivics Website  https://www.icivics.org

Who Rules?

A. Identify That Government! Identify the form(s) of government that each country has or had.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Switzerland</th>
<th>South Africa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citizens elect representatives to sit in two different lawmaking assemblies. But citizens also vote several times a year to decide on laws. Citizens can vote to propose their own laws or undo laws passed by their representatives. All citizens may vote directly on these laws.</td>
<td>From 1948-1994, official policy in South Africa gave white people all the political power. Even though the majority of South Africans were black, non-whites could not influence government. White South Africans elected representatives to sit in a lawmaking body.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forms of government:</td>
<td>Forms of government:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and</td>
<td>and</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>North Korea</th>
<th>Saudi Arabia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One man leads North Korea and controls its government. He also controls its ruling political party. The ruling party chooses candidates for an Assembly, and citizens vote. The candidates do not have opponents, so citizens have no choices.</td>
<td>Saudi Arabia is led by a king who appoints a Council of Ministers to help govern. There are no elections. Saudi Arabia’s Basic Law says the country’s constitution is the Islamic holy book the Qur’an and other religious traditions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Form of government:</td>
<td>Forms of government:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and</td>
<td>and</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Denmark</th>
<th>Brazil</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The people of Denmark elect representatives to sit in Parliament, a lawmaking body. The Queen of Denmark heads the country, but she only has a small role in government. The government is led by a Prime Minister, who is appointed from among the elected representatives.</td>
<td>Brazil is led by a president who is elected by the citizens. Citizens in Brazil elect a new president every four years. Citizens also elect representatives to serve in two different legislative bodies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forms of government:</td>
<td>Form of government:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and</td>
<td>and</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Who Rules?

**B. True or False?** Use what you learned in the reading and in Exercise A to fill in the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. A monarchy can be like a dictatorship or it can be part of a democracy.</th>
<th>True</th>
<th>False</th>
<th>Example or Reason:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. A dictatorship can also be a democracy.</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>False</td>
<td>Example or Reason:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. A democracy can have both representative and direct characteristics at the same time.</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>False</td>
<td>Example or Reason:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. An oligarchy can include representative democracy.</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>False</td>
<td>Example or Reason:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. A government can be both a monarchy and an anarchy at the same time.</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>False</td>
<td>Example or Reason:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Theocracy can co-exist with monarchy.</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>False</td>
<td>Example or Reason:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Theocracy can co-exist with democracy.</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>False</td>
<td>Example or Reason:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. An oligarchy can be like a dictatorship.</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>False</td>
<td>Example or Reason:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### C. Vocabulary.

Solve the crossword puzzle using vocabulary from the reading.

**Across**

3. Type of democracy where citizens elect leaders to represent them in government  
7. A small group that rules a country after taking it over by force  
9. One person has all the power  
10. Type of democracy where citizens are involved in day-to-day government

**Down**

1. Recognizes God as the ultimate authority in government and law  
2. One leader has absolute control over citizens’ lives  
4. Citizens hold the political power  
5. A small group of people has all the power  
6. People are not subject to any nation or government  
8. A king or queen rules the country

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**Activity — Side B**
Who Rules? Worksheet Answer Key

iCivics Website  [https://www.icivics.org](https://www.icivics.org)

**A. Identify That Government!** Identify the form(s) of government that each country has or had.

**Switzerland**
Citizens elect representatives to sit in two different lawmaking assemblies. But citizens also vote several times a year to decide on laws. Citizens can vote to propose their own laws or undo laws passed by their representatives. All citizens may vote directly on these laws.

Forms of government:
- Representative democracy
- Direct Democracy

**South Africa**
From 1948-1994, official policy in South Africa gave white people all the political power. Even though the majority of South Africans were black, non-whites could not influence government. White South Africans elected representatives to sit in a lawmaking body.

Forms of government:
- Oligarchy
- Representative Democracy

**North Korea**
One man leads North Korea and controls its government. He also controls its ruling political party. The ruling party chooses candidates for an Assembly, and citizens vote. The candidates do not have opponents, so citizens have no choices.

Form of government:
- Dictatorship

**Saudi Arabia**
Saudi Arabia is led by a king. The king appoints a Council of Ministers to help govern, but there are no elections. Saudi Arabia’s Basic Law states that the country’s constitution is the Islamic holy book the Qur’an and other religious traditions.

Forms of government:
- Monarchy
- Theocracy

**Denmark**
The people of Denmark elect representatives to sit in Parliament, a lawmaking body. The Queen of Denmark heads the country, but she only has a small role in government. The government is led by a Prime Minister, who is appointed from among the elected representatives.

Forms of government:
- Monarchy
- Representative democracy

**Brazil**
Brazil is led by a president who is elected by the citizens. Citizens in Brazil elect a new president every four years. Citizens also elect representatives to serve in two different legislative bodies.

Form of government:
- Representative democracy

Worksheet p.1
B. True or False? Use what you learned in the reading and Exercise A to fill in the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>True</th>
<th>False</th>
<th>Example or Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. A monarchy can be like a dictatorship or it can be part of a democracy.</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>Example or Reason: Denmark: Monarch is part of a democracy; Saudi Arabia: Monarch has complete control.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. A dictatorship can also be a democracy.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>Example or Reason: You can’t have a democracy if citizens have no control, which they do not in a dictatorship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. A democracy can have both representative and direct characteristics at the same time.</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>Example or Reason: Switzerland had representative and direct characteristics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. An oligarchy can include representative democracy.</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>Example or Reason: South Africa was an oligarchy but had some representative democracy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. A government can be both a monarchy and an anarchy at the same time.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>Example or Reason: A monarchy has someone in control. Nobody is in control with anarchy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Theocracy can co-exist with monarchy.</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>Example or Reason: Saudi Arabia is a monarchy and a theocracy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Theocracy can co-exist with democracy.</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>Example or Reason: Iran is a theocracy where citizens vote for government leaders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. An oligarchy can be like a dictatorship.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>Example or Reason: A military junta like the one in Myanmar can function like a dictatorship.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C. Vocabulary. Solve the crossword puzzle using vocabulary from the reading.

```
ACROSS
3. Type of democracy where citizens elect leaders to represent them in government
7. A small group that rules a country after taking it over by force
9. One person has all the power
10. Type of democracy where citizens are involved in day-to-day government

DOWN
1. Recognizes God as the ultimate authority in government and law
2. One leader has absolute control over citizens’ lives
4. Citizens hold the political power
5. A small group of people has all the power
6. People are not subject to any nation or government
8. A king or queen rules the country

Worksheet p.2
```
Informal Assessment: A or B?

**Directions:** Read each statement aloud, or project and uncover each statement individually. Have the class answer “A” or “B” as a chorus. Listen for a mix of answers, indicating confusion. Use each question as a chance to quickly review concepts before moving on.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. One person is in charge.</td>
<td>Autocracy</td>
<td>Democracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Citizens often have no rights.</td>
<td>Democracy</td>
<td>Dictatorship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Can exist with other forms of government</td>
<td>Dictatorship</td>
<td>Theocracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Led by a king or queen</td>
<td>Monarchy</td>
<td>Oligarchy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Nobody is in charge</td>
<td>Monarchy</td>
<td>Anarchy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Those in charge are military members who took over by force</td>
<td>Junta</td>
<td>Democracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Leader often shares power with other parts of government</td>
<td>Monarchy</td>
<td>Dictatorship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Democracy where citizens elect others to serve in government</td>
<td>Direct</td>
<td>Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Citizens vote to elect their leaders.</td>
<td>Democracy</td>
<td>Autocracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. A small group rules the country</td>
<td>Oligarchy</td>
<td>Democracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. People do not answer to any leader or government</td>
<td>Oligarchy</td>
<td>Anarchy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. God and religious law are the government’s authority</td>
<td>Theocracy</td>
<td>Anarchy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. The group with power can be based on race or social class</td>
<td>Monarchy</td>
<td>Oligarchy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Democracy where citizens participate in lawmaking themselves</td>
<td>Direct</td>
<td>Representative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Answer Key: Informal Assessment: A or B?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<th>B</th>
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