**Y8 History Lesson 2 WC 13.7.20 RRA – What are the different types of government?**

**Starter – Watch the video and fill in the blanks below:**

1. When no-one is in charge and people do what they want, it is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. When a king or queen is in charge, it is called a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. When the king or queen dies, their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ replace them.
3. When one person is completely in charge, it is called a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. When only a few leaders control the government, it is called an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
5. When religious leaders make everyone follow religious laws, it is called a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
6. When everyone votes on all the laws, it is called a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ democracy.
7. When everyone votes to decide who should represent them, it is called a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ democracy.

**Main Task**

Read the summaries of each government type below. For each one, write down and explain either a strength or weakness (pick one). You should aim to write two sentences for each government type on lined paper.. The first one has been done for you:

Example:

**Anarchy** – In an anarchy, there are no laws and no one is in charge. People can do whatever they want, including kill other people and steal their food without getting punished. People do not usually work together, and you would likely have to be clever but also cruel to survive – since there are no laws to protect you.

***E.g. One ~~strength~~/weakness of an anarchy is that there is no-one to make sure we live in a fair society. This means that most people would live in danger most of the time, and there would be no community spirit that brings people together.***

Rating: 1/10

**Theocracy** – The word ‘theocracy’ comes from the Greek, and literally means ‘rule of god’. A theocracy can have many different people in charge, but they all follow the same set of religious rules. Usually, this means people who don’t follow the laws are punished quite harshly, as they are seen to be going against God.

1. **One strength/weakness (pick one) of theocracy is:**

**This means that…**

Rating: / 10

**Monarchy** – A monarchy is when a king or queen is in charge, and their children rule after them. There are two different types of monarchy. The first is called an absolute monarchy, where the monarch (king or queen) has the absolute power to make whatever laws they want. The second type is called a constitutional monarchy, where a monarch has some power, but has to get the agreement of other people before they make any laws.

1. **One strength/weakness (pick one) of absolute/constitutional monarchy (pick one) is…**

**This means that…**

Rating: / 10

**Dictatorship** – A dictatorship is when one person is completely in charge. It is a bit like an absolute monarchy, except the job doesn’t have to run in the family. In a dictatorship, one person makes all the laws, and decides who gets the most important jobs in running the country. Dictators normally use terror and propaganda to make everyone support them, and if anyone criticises a dictator, they are punished very harshly.

1. **One strength/weakness (pick one) of a dictatorship is…**

**This means that…**

Rating: / 10

**Direct Democracy** – A direct democracy is when everyone gets a direct say in how a country is run. This means that for any new law to be introduced, the majority of people would have to agree to it. Asking the whole country a question in this way is called a **referendum**. This can be difficult to organise in countries with many people, as everyone would have to vote on everything before anything got done.

1. **One strength/weakness (pick one) of direct democracy is…**

**This means that…**

Rating: / 10

**Representative Democracy** – A representative democracy is similar to a direct democracy as everyone gets a vote. However, instead of everyone voting for every law, they choose (elect) a much smaller number of people to do this for them (represent them). These people are **politicians**, and together decide what laws should be introduced or changed. Although they are chosen by the people, they do not have to ask them about every law they pass.

1. **One strength/weakness (pick one) of representative democracy is…**

**This means that…**

Rating: / 10

**Challenge – On a separate piece of paper, answer the questions below:**

1. **Looking at your ratings, which type of government do you think would be the worst? Write a paragraph explaining your answer, using specific examples to compare different types of government.**
2. **If you had to create your own type of government, what would it be like? Create a poster on A4 paper including:**

* **Who would be in charge (e.g. one person or a group of people?)**
* **What rules everyone would have to follow (the constitution).**
* **Why your type of government would be the best one.**
* **Images that illustrate the points you make.**

**Hint: If you’re struggling for ideas, you could mix and match some of the ideas you think would work well that you have learnt about today!**

**Plenary – Write down your best definition of the words below:**

Theocracy

Monarchy

Direct Democracy

Anarchy

Representative Democracy