

Collegedunia NCERT Notes

NCERT Revision Notes

Chapter 9: From the Rulers to the Ruled: Types of Governments

These **From the Rulers to the Ruled: Types of Governments class 7 social science (part 1) notes** explain government functions, democracy, elections, monarchy, theocracy, dictatorship, oligarchy and why democracy matters for the 2026-27 NCERT textbook.

Contents

- 1 Chapter at a Glance
- 2 What Government Does
- 3 Democracy and Representation
- 4 Types of Democratic Government
- 5 History and Early Republics
- 6 Other Forms of Government

7 Why Democracy Matters

8 Exam Practice Workbook

9 Quick Reference Summary

1 Chapter at a Glance

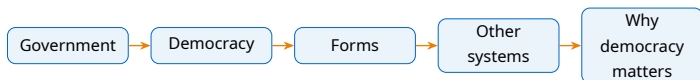
This chapter moves from the ruler's power to the people's role. It explains why governments exist and how different forms of government work.

1.1 Big Questions in Simple Words

Read this block for the idea, evidence and exam use in one place.

- Government maintains order, security, public services and welfare.
- Democracy means rule of the people.
- Governments differ by source of authority, formation, structure and goals.
- India follows representative and parliamentary democracy.
- Other forms include monarchy, theocracy, dictatorship and oligarchy.

Chapter 9 Route



Chapter Core

The central contrast is simple: some governments place power with people, while others place it with one ruler, a few rulers or religious authority.

Memory Hook

*Use **A-F-S-G**: authority, formation, structure and goals. These four words compare any government.*

1.2 Key Terms

Read this block for the idea, evidence and exam use in one place.

- Representative means a person chosen to act for a group.
- Accountability means the government is answerable to people.
- Universal adult franchise means every adult citizen can vote.
- Separation of powers means organs of government work independently.
- Oligarchy means rule by a small powerful

group.

Term	Meaning	Example
Legislature	Makes laws	Parliament in India
Executive	Implements laws	Prime minister and ministers
Judiciary	Settles disputes	Independent courts
Constitution	Basic rules of a country	Sets limits and rights

Definition Trick

For any term, write meaning plus example. This gives a complete short answer.

NCERT Questions Anchor.

Use this section for Q1 on government types and Q2 on India's form of government.

2 What Government Does

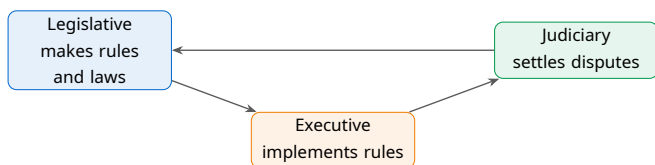
The first part of the chapter revises the role of government. It also explains three core functions through the school committee example.

2.1 Functions in Daily Life

Read this block for the idea, evidence and exam use in one place.

- Government maintains law and order in society.
- It protects peace, stability and national security.
- It manages relations with other countries.
- It delivers education, healthcare and infrastructure.
- It works for welfare and improvement of people's lives.

Three Functions of Government



A democracy protects citizens best when these powers do not collapse into one hand

Daily Life Link

A road, a school, a hospital, a police station and a border post all show government work in daily life.

2.2 Legislative Executive and Judicial Work

Read this block for the idea, evidence and exam use in one place.

- The legislative function creates rules.
- The executive function implements rules and runs administration.
- The judicial function checks whether rules are followed.
- A healthy democracy keeps these powers balanced.
- If all powers join in one hand, citizens can lose protection.

Action	Function	Best example
Make rules	Legislative function	Law-making body
Apply rules	Executive function	Administration
Check rules	Judicial function	Courts
Protect rights	Independent judiciary	Fairness before law

Organ Confusion

*Do not write that the executive makes all laws.
In NCERT terms, the executive implements laws.*

NCERT Concept Anchor.

Use this section before answering why an independent judiciary matters.

3 Democracy and Representation

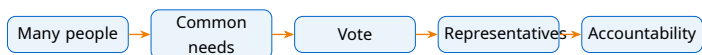
Democracy in this chapter is explained through a school committee. The example shows why representation is needed.

3.1 School Committee Example

Read this block for the idea, evidence and exam use in one place.

- Every student joining the committee sounds fair but is hard to manage.
- The head teacher choosing everyone leaves many voices unheard.
- Students electing representatives gives each grade a voice.
- This example shows representation and accountability.
- A country needs similar methods on a much larger scale.

Representation Logic



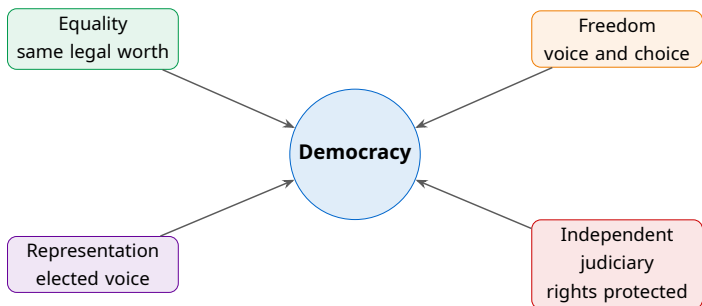
Representation

Representation means people choose someone to speak and decide on their behalf.

3.2 Principles of Democracy

Read this block for the idea, evidence and exam use in one place.

- Equality means equal treatment and equal access to public facilities.
- Freedom means citizens can make choices and express opinions.
- Representative participation works through elections.
- Fundamental rights protect citizens from misuse of power.
- Independent judiciary protects rights and the rule of law.



Principles List

For democracy, remember equality, freedom, representation, voting rights and independent judiciary.

NCERT Questions Anchor.

Use this section for Q2, Q3 and Q4 on democracy, representation and independent judiciary.

4 Types of Democratic Government

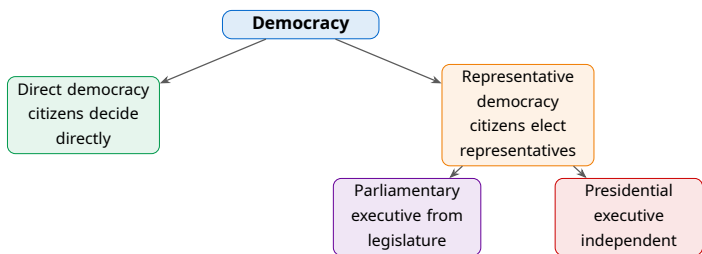
Democracies share core values, but they do not all work in the same way. The chapter compares direct, representative, parliamentary and presidential forms.

4.1 Direct and Representative Democracy

Read this block for the idea, evidence and exam use in one place.

- Direct democracy lets citizens participate directly in decisions.
- It is difficult in a large country.
- Representative democracy lets people elect representatives.

- India is a representative democracy.
- Regular elections let people change their representatives.



Why India Uses Representation

India has a very large population. Direct decision-making by everyone on every issue would be hard to run.

4.2 Parliamentary and Presidential Systems

Read this block for the idea, evidence and exam use in one place.

- In parliamentary democracy, the executive comes from the legislature.
- India follows the parliamentary model.
- In presidential democracy, the executive works separately from the legislature.
- The USA is an example of a presidential model.
- Both forms can still be democratic.

Country	Form	Recall cue
India	Parliamentary	Prime minister and ministers depend on Lok Sabha confidence
USA	Presidential	President works independently of legislature
South Korea	Presidential	President is part of the executive
Australia	Parliamentary	Prime minister and council of ministers

Same Word Error

*Do not assume all democracies are identical.
NCERT clearly says democracies have different structures.*

NCERT Table Anchor.

Use this section for comparing parliamentary and presidential democracy.

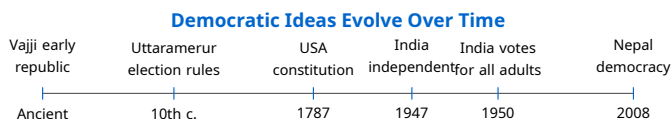
5 History and Early Republics

The chapter gives a short historical window. It shows that elected and collective decision-making ideas are not new.

5.1 Early Republics in India

Read this block for the idea, evidence and exam use in one place.

- A republic has an elected head of state, not a hereditary monarch.
- Vajji had collective decision-making among clans.
- Leaders were chosen by merit rather than birth.
- Representatives met to solve issues for people's welfare.
- Uttaramerur inscriptions describe local election rules in Tamil Nadu.



History Link

NCERT uses early republics to show that public voice and local election rules have deep historical roots.

5.2 Limits of Old Republics

Read this block for the idea, evidence and exam use in one place.

- Ancient systems were not the same as modern democracies.
- Some Greek areas allowed only free men to vote.
- Women, workers and enslaved people were often excluded.
- Democratic ideals expanded slowly over time.
- India gave universal adult franchise from the beginning of the republic.

Country	NCERT year cue	Why it matters
India	1950	Universal adult franchise from the beginning
Switzerland	1971	Women received voting right much later
UK	1928	Effective universal adult suffrage
USA	1965	Effective universal adult suffrage

History Answer

When asked about early republics, add one limit. This prevents confusing old republics with modern democracy.

NCERT History Anchor.

Use this section when an answer asks how democratic ideas changed over time.

6 Other Forms of Government

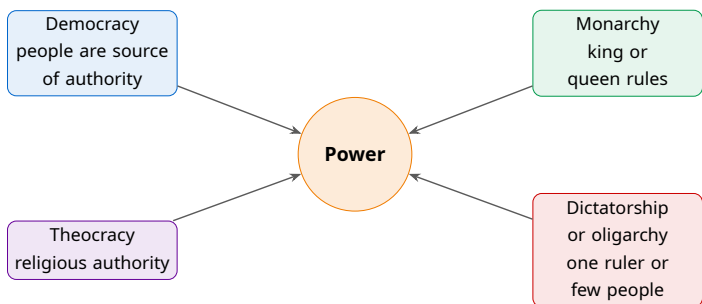
The chapter then compares democracy with systems where power does not rest mainly with the people.

6.1 Monarchy and Constitutional Monarchy

Read this block for the idea, evidence and exam use in one place.

- Monarchy is rule by a king or queen.
- Most monarchies are hereditary.
- An absolute monarch holds complete control.
- Saudi Arabia is given as an absolute monarchy example.
- Britain is a constitutional monarchy with real power in parliament and ministers.

Where Does Government Power Come From?



Monarchy Types

Use A-C: absolute monarchy has concentrated royal power; constitutional monarchy has a monarch limited by constitutional rules.

6.2 Theocracy Dictatorship and Oligarchy

Read this block for the idea, evidence and exam use in one place.

- Theocracy is rule based on religion and religious leaders.
- Iran mixes theocratic and democratic elements in NCERT's example.
- Dictatorship gives absolute power to one person or a small group.
- Oligarchy gives power to a small powerful group.
- A democracy can weaken if a small wealthy group controls decisions.

Form	Source of power	NCERT cue
Theocracy	Religious authority	Iran, Afghanistan, Vatican City
Dictatorship	One ruler or small group with absolute power	Hitler, Idi Amin, North Korea story
Oligarchy	Few powerful people rule	Wealthy or influential groups
Democracy	People choose representatives	India

Example Warning

Use examples carefully. Hitler and Idi Amin are used to show dangers of dictatorship, not as neutral rulers.

NCERT Questions Anchor.

Use this section for Q5 and Q8 on monarchy, dictatorship, theocracy and democracy.

7 Why Democracy Matters

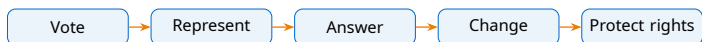
NCERT ends by explaining why democracy is usually seen as a better form of government, while also naming its challenges.

7.1 Strengths of Democracy

Read this block for the idea, evidence and exam use in one place.

- People choose their government through elections.
- The government is accountable to citizens.
- People can change representatives if the government fails.
- Citizens have freedoms in daily life.
- Rights and basic needs become government responsibilities.

Democracy Check



Everyday Freedom

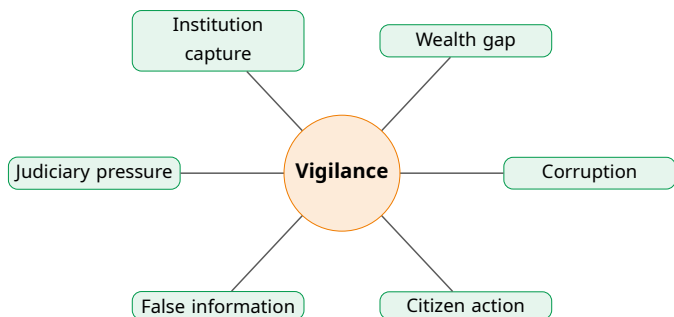
Democracy affects daily life because citizens can speak, dress, believe and express themselves within limits that protect others.

7.2 Challenges to Democracy

Read this block for the idea, evidence and exam use in one place.

- Corruption can weaken public trust.
- Wealth disparity can reduce equal influence.
- Too much control by a few can hurt institutions.
- Weak judiciary can reduce rights protection.
- Manipulated information can mislead citizens.

Democracy Needs Vigilance



Balanced Answer

Write that democracy is better because people have voice and rights, but citizens must stay vigilant.

NCERT Questions Anchor.

Use this section for Q4, Q7 and Q8.

8 Exam Practice Workbook

This section turns the chapter into answer-ready points. It stays within the 2026-27 NCERT chapter.

8.1 Short Answer Frames

1. **Types of government:** Democracy, monarchy, theocracy, dictatorship and oligarchy are the main types covered.
2. **India's government:** India is a representative and parliamentary democracy because people elect representatives and the executive is accountable to the legislature.
3. **Independent judiciary:** It protects rights, checks laws and keeps the government within constitutional limits.
4. **Democracy better than dictatorship:** People have rights, voice, accountability and regular elections.
5. **Democracy versus monarchy:** In democracy people are the source of authority. In monarchy, a king or queen rules.
6. **Democracy versus dictatorship:** Democracy protects voice, vote and rights. Dictatorship concentrates power and restricts freedom.
7. **Theocracy versus secular democracy:** Theocracy is guided by religious authority.

Democracy gives equal citizenship across beliefs.

Answer Quality

A strong answer compares source of power, method of formation and citizen rights. Do not only list examples.

8.2 Comparison Table for Last Revision

Form	Who holds power	Citizen role	Risk
Democracy	People through representatives	Vote, question, exchange rulers	Corruption or weak institutions
Monarchy	King or queen	Depends on type	Hereditary power
Theocracy	Religious authority	Limited by religious rules	One belief system dominates
Dictatorship	One person or small group	Very little voice	Fear and rights loss
Oligarchy	Small powerful group	Voice may be weak	Wealth or influence capture

Common Error

Do not write that a constitutional monarchy is the same as absolute monarchy. Britain has a monarch, but real power is with elected institutions.

Scoring Line

The safest final line is: democracy matters because it gives people voice, rights and a peaceful way to change rulers.

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8.3 Case-Based Answer Practice

Case	Government type	Reason
Citizens vote for representatives every few years	Democracy	People choose and change rulers
Queen's son becomes the new king	Monarchy	Hereditary transfer of power
Religious leader guides major state decisions	Theocracy	Religious authority shapes governance
One ruler controls law, speech and information	Dictatorship	Power has no real public check
Very wealthy families shape public decisions	Oligarchy	A small powerful group dominates

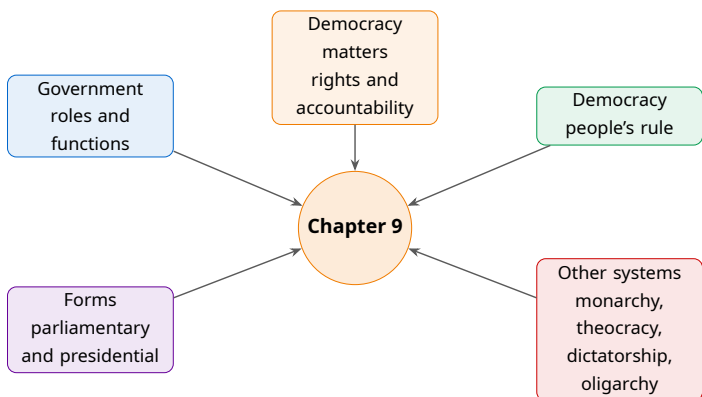
Case Method

For any case, ask three questions: who holds power, how rulers are chosen, and whether citizens can question them.

8.4 NCERT Questions and Activities Tracker

Question	Main idea	Where to revise
Q1	Names of government types	Other Forms of Government
Q2	India's form of government	Democracy and Representation
Q3	Independent judiciary	What Government Does
Q4	Why democracy is better	Why Democracy Matters
Q5	Match practice to government type	Other Forms of Government
Q7	Hurdles in democracy	Challenges to Democracy
Q8	Democracy, monarchy and dictatorship	Comparison table

8.5 Mind Map for Final Revision



Final Memory

Use **G-D-F-O-M**: government, democracy, forms, other systems and matters.

9 Quick Reference Summary

This final page keeps Chapter 9 ready for revision before a class test. Revise the terms, examples and comparison points together.

9.1 One-Page Recall

- **Government:** runs the country and works for order, security, services and welfare.
- **Democracy:** rule of the people through voice, vote and representation.
- **Representative democracy:** people elect representatives to govern.
- **Parliamentary democracy:** executive is accountable to the legislature.
- **Other forms:** monarchy, theocracy, dictatorship and oligarchy.
- **Democracy matters:** people can protect rights and change representatives.

Chapter Formula

*Source of power + method of formation
+ organs of government + goals = type of
government.*

NCERT Final Revision Anchor.

Use this summary for Q1 to Q8. For comparison answers, always cover power, rights and accountability.