

Year 10 Citizenship lessons

Lesson 1: What forms of government exist in the world?

What forms of government exist?

- Government can be **Democratic** or **Non-Democratic**.
- Read the following descriptions and decide under which heading they fall.
- Complete the table:

Democratic	Non-Democratic

Power can be imposed using the military

There is a choice of political parties

The public do not get to elect the government

Any opposition is suppressed; opposition leaders are imprisoned or killed

Elections are held regularly

Representatives are elected by the people to be a voice for them

There is often only one political party

Official groups are set up to monitor the work of democratic governments

The government's powers are not limited

Media is often controlled, ensuring only pro-government information is communicated

Every Type of Government Explained - YouTube

Democracy	Republic	Autocracy
Oligarchy	Anarchy	Constitutional

Watch the video and make notes on each type of government.

Democracies can be a republic - a country with no monarch. *Give an example of a Democratic republic.*

Democracies can be a constitutional monarchy - a country that has a king or queen with limited powers, and is mostly run by an elected government. *Give an example of a constitutional monarchy.*

Non-Democratic governments can be absolute monarchies - they are ruled by a king or queen who inherited the position. *Give an example of an absolute monarchy.*

Non-Democratic governments can be dictatorships - ruled by a single unelected leader who may use force to keep control. *Give an example of a dictatorship.*

Non-Democratic governments can have Totalitarian Rule - a country with a single ruling political party. *Give an example of Totalitarian Rule.*

What do Democratic Parliaments do?

In a democracy, it is the job of Parliament to ensure the government is fair and just. This is called **scrutiny**. Debates provide an open forum for views to be shared. The opposition parties question the actions of the government. **Where does this often take place?**

Select committees are set up to investigate and report on departments or particular issues. They are made up of MPs from all the parties.

In 2009, for example, the **Standards Committee** investigated the scandal surrounding MP's expense claims. This led to some ministers resigning their posts and some MPs not standing for re-election.

- If a government is seen as ineffective, a vote of **no confidence** can be called for.
- If Parliament votes against the government, the government usually has to call a general election or resign.
- Research 2 instances in which there has been a vote of *no confidence* and complete factfiles:
 - Date
 - Political Party / Prime Minister in power
 - Who led the vote of no confidence
 - What happened as a result



- Britain is a representative democracy - we choose representatives (MPs) to run the country on our behalf.
- These MPs will debate key issues in Parliament, including new policies or a change in the law.
- This gives MPs and Lords the opportunity to challenge decisions and voice any concerns - either their own concerns or ones that have been brought to their attention by members of their constituency.
- A debate is chaired by a **Speaker** - their role is to keep order, remain impartial and to call MPs to speak.
- The Speaker calls **MPs** from different parties to argue their point in the debate in turn. The MPs address their speeches to the Speaker.
- At the end of the debate, MPs take a vote to resolve the debate.



Lesson 2: What does local government do?

Local governments make local decisions. The national government is the central government - it makes all decisions that affect the whole country (health, defence, environmental affairs). Some powers are passed to local governments - **give examples**.

This is because local governments are better placed to make appropriate decisions for the local area to meet local people's needs. Local governments are run by councillors, who are elected every four years. Most represent political parties, although some are independent. **Who is your local councillor?**

How does local government work?

Councillors choose a **Leader of the Council**, who is in charge of political matters. A **Mayor** (Lord Mayor in big cities) is chosen each year to be the ceremonial head of the council. They have limited power but are the public face of the council and do official, ceremonial events, such as opening buildings. **Who is the Mayor of St Helens? Find out three interesting facts about him / her.**

Local councils raise half their money through council tax and central government provide the other half.

What do you think the biggest chunk of money is spent on?

Why should I care about local government? - YouTube

Why is local government so important?

1. If you were given the opportunity to meet your local councillor, what would you say to them? Write down a list of questions that you would like to ask them?
2. Do you have any suggestions on how they could improve your local area?
3. Do you have any criticisms of how they have handled local issues?

How can **you** influence government?

TV Exclusive: Marcus Rashford explains why he wants a u-turn over ending free school meals - YouTube

Marcus Rashford campaign wins children right to free school meals during summer holidays - BBC News - YouTube

1. How did Marcus Rashford influence the government?
2. How would you describe the actions of Marcus Rashford?
3. Why is Marcus Rashford an example of a 'Good Citizen'?

Lesson 3: How free should the press be in the UK?

In this country, we say that we have press freedom.

People disagree about whether newspapers have too much or not enough freedom.

Some people would like to see more controls put on the press.

What is your opinion?

Press freedom

This is essential to democracy.

In the UK the government cannot tell the newspapers what they are allowed to print.

This means we can hear a variety of opinions on different issues, rather than just one side.

It provides information so that we are able to make informed judgements about issues.

It keeps an eye on the government to make sure that it is not misleading the public.

It exposes corruption in government / business.

It uncovers injustice where the people have been treated unfairly by the government, the law or powerful people and companies.

Which of these functions of a free press is the most important?



The collage shows four newspaper front pages:

- The Observer:** "The nation unites against tradition" and "The Observer".
- Scottish Daily Mail:** "What it's REALLY like to catch corona by the first British victim", "Infections rise to 87", "Two new cases in Scotland", "NHS swamped with calls", "Panic-buying clears shelves", "Airline set to collapse", "Sick-pay promise to workers", "VIRUS TIGHTENS GRIP ON THE UK", "No No Seven! Latest Bond movie put back to November".
- The Sun:** "2 FREE TICKETS", "TV HOST'S TRAGIC SUICIDE", "WOUNDED", "CPS knew Caroline had self-harmed", "So why take fragile star to court?", "TERRIFIED".
- The Guardian:** "slimming suppers FAST", "VIRUS PANIC HITS SCHOOLS", "Health advice confuses as virus sweeps across Europe", "Hurry to be James Harry? Prince to back in Britain".

Below the collage is a dark grey box with a white dashed-line rectangle. To the left of the rectangle is the text: "What problems might a completely free press create?"

What happens when the press is not free?

Countries that deny basic human rights often deny people press freedom as well.

People who speak out or write in newspapers criticising the government of their country can be arrested and imprisoned.

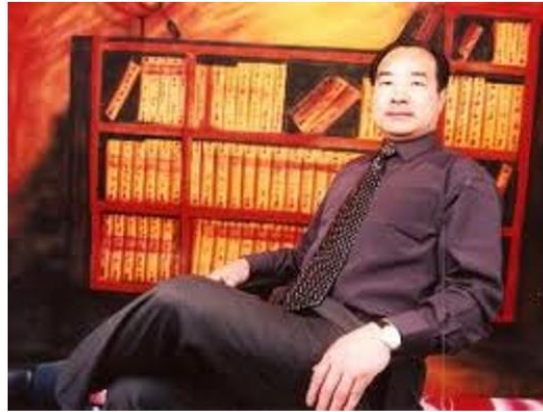
This is because governments do not want their citizens to find out or question what they are doing.

Research the 3 case studies and complete a factfile for each:

- Name
- Research
- Consequences

Example 1

- Yang Tongyan
- Opposed the Chinese government's treatment of protestors at Tiananmen Square in 1989
- 2006 - sentenced to 12 years imprisonment
- 2012 - visiting relatives said he was receiving poor treatment for a number of medical conditions (tuberculosis, arthritis, diabetes)
- He died in November 2017, having spent over 20 years in prison



Example 2

- Anabel Hernandez
- Mexican journalist
- Reports on corruption and abuse of power in politics.
- Recognised by UNICEF for uncovering slave labour networks
- Received numerous death threats for investigating the relationship between organised crime and high level government, police, military and other officials.
- Now lives and works protected by bodyguards.
- "A journalist who has to walk with bodyguards is an embarrassment for any nation. I constantly fear for my health and the health of my family, but the fear only drives me and lets me know that I'm on the right path."





Example 3

- Iryna Khalip - Belarusian journalist
- Criticised the dictatorial government of President Lukashenko
- Been harassed, beaten and imprisoned
- In 1997, whilst reporting at a rally that opposed Belarus unifying with Russia, she was clubbed by riot police and dragged by her hair, and her father, who was with her at the rally, was beaten into unconsciousness.
- A number of her fellow journalists have been murdered
- Has received numerous death threats, has been imprisoned many times, and the authorities even tried to take her son from her

Public interest?

People have a right to privacy...

...but sometimes there is a public interest in revealing what people do in private.

Public interest is when it is important to know something about someone because they are public figures or because what they do affects other people.

So do we have the right to know about who a celebrity is dating, or where a politician is holidaying, or if a sports star gets drunk at a party?

DISCUSS THIS

The Hacking Scandal

In 2012, the employees of a number of newspapers, particularly the ***News of the World***, were accused of illegally hacking into the voicemails of mobile phones in order to find newsworthy stories.

This included celebrities, members of the royal family, politicians and the families of victims of crime and tragedy.

There were also accusations of journalists bribing the police for tip offs about stories.

The News of the World was eventually closed and several senior staff members were charged with offences.

A public inquiry, led by **Lord Justice Leveson**, was set up to look at press abuses and ways of controlling the press.

This inquiry revealed many examples of situations where the press had intruded into people's private lives, causing distress.

If you bring in any laws or big penalties to control the press, then powerful politicians and businessmen will use them to stop newspapers revealing information about them we need to know.

Do you agree with this statement?