**TYPES OF GOVERNMENTS – this is not a comprehensive list**

1. Proportional democracy - If n% of the electorate support a particular political party, then roughly n% of seats will be won by that party. Great Britain example
2. Representative democracy - citizens normally elect someone to represent them in making decisions at the different levels of government. US, Canada examples
3. Direct democracy - every single law, bill, or issue of justice is voted on by all the people. Citizens have more power than in a representative democracy. Switzerland example
4. Theocratic government –a form of government in which a religious institution is the source from which all authority derives.  Afghanistan, Iran examples
5. Oligarchy - a small group of people having control of a country, organization, or institution. Russia, China examples

**CONSTITUTIONS**

A constitution has been defined as a body of rules established to regulate the system of government within a state.

* Who is head of state? Who is head of government? Are they the same (as in the United States). What are the powers of each? How are both chosen?
* Legislative structure: Do you want one house two houses? Is there any kind of veto? How are legislators elected?
* Judicial structure: Is the highest appeals court also a constitutional court, or is there a separate constitutional court?
* Federal structure: Do you want the federal government to handle all issues down to the county level or a federal government in which states or provinces have independent powers?
* Electoral structure: How are candidates elected? How often? Which officials are elected and which appointed?
* Party structure: One party? Two parties? Or multiple parties? Some countries (like the United States) allow multiple parties, but have an electoral structure that encourages two dominant parties.
* What rights are guaranteed? Negative rights (the government may not)? Positive rights (the government must)? How are rights enforced?