

Government

Year 1

SECTION

1

# INTRODUCTION AND IMPORTANCE OF STUDYING GOVERNMENT



# GOVERNMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

## Basics of Government

### Introduction

In every home or community, there is always somebody who directs the affairs of the home or the group, making sure they do things in the right order to avoid chaos. Normally, such a person is referred to as a leader. In a general sense, a group of people working as a team to steer the affairs of a state are referred to as the Government. This section centres on the meanings of government. You will be introduced to some of the key concepts and principles of government. You will be learning some of the definitions and the relevance of the various basic concepts and principles of government. You will look at the practical aspects of these various basic concepts and principles, such as democracy, power, authority, legitimacy, inclusion, etc. For example, your teacher could ask you to respond to a question, and you may be unwilling to respond, but because your teacher has power, you will have no option but to respond to the question. The study of the various concepts will teach you how the concept could be used. Though the focus of this subject is Ghana, you will appreciate some of the basic concepts and principles that govern the discussion of the discipline at both local and international levels. In Junior High School, you learned about citizenship and civic education which exposed you to some democratic practices. Elections of class and school prefects are examples of democratic practices. It gives you some rights and responsibilities as a citizen. The study of Government will help you to properly understand its importance.

### At the end of this section, you should be able to:

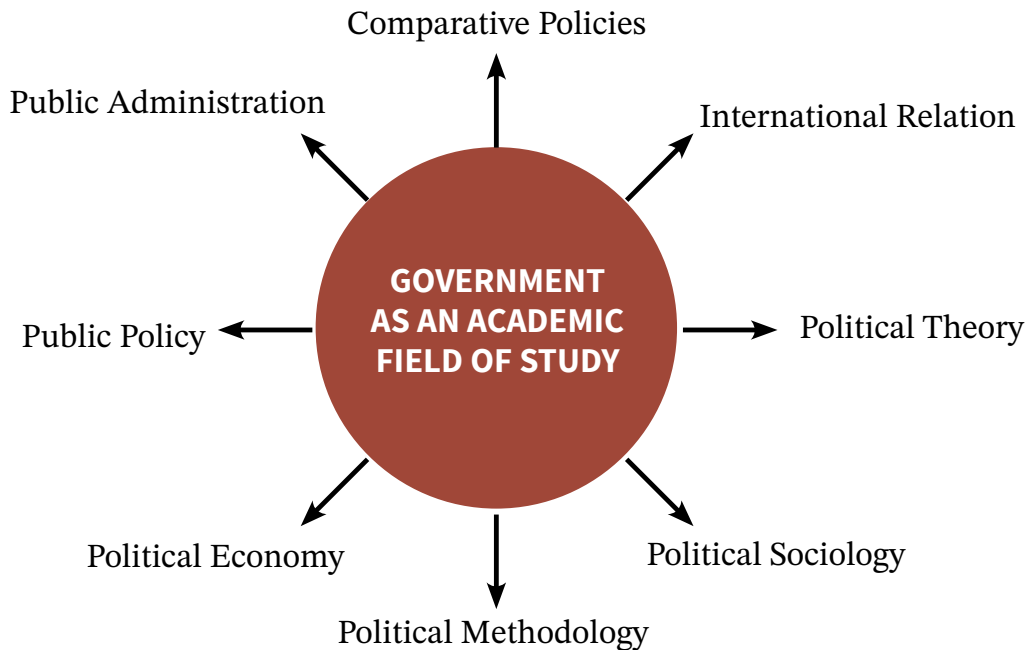
- Identify and analyse the meanings of government.
- Explain the importance of the study of government
- Analyse the basic concepts and principles of government

### Key Idea

- Government has three main meanings; as an academic field of study, as an institution of the state, and as an art.

## AS AN ACADEMIC FIELD OF STUDY

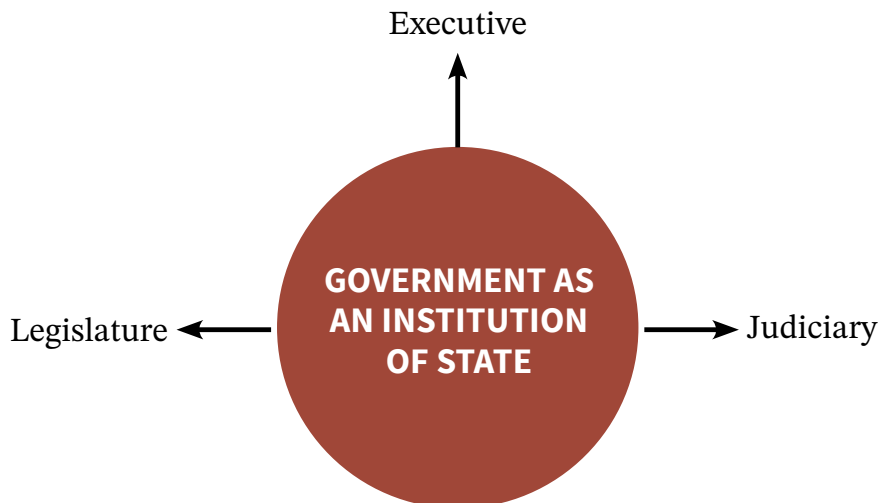
Government as an academic field of study takes place within an educational institution. It focuses on the study of theories and concepts such as power, principles, political institutions, diplomacy, globalisation, etc. The figure below shows the various career opportunities in the study of government.



**Fig 1.1:** General sub-fields of government as an academic field of study

## AS AN INSTITUTION OF THE STATE

The government, as an institution, discusses the machinery of the state. It deals with how state activities are organised by a set of established institutions to run its affairs. As an institution of the state, the government has three organs; the *Legislature*, *Executive*, and *Judiciary* working together to ensure that state resources are put to good use and the needed protection given to citizens. Figure 1.2 illustrates the various organs of government that comprise the institution of the state.



**Fig 1.2** The various organs of government

## GOVERNMENT AS AN ART

Government as an art focuses on the mechanisms, rules, and procedures government institutions use in carrying out their day-to-day activities. This is to ensure the smooth running of the affairs of the state. This includes the formulation and implementation of policies by the executive, the making of laws by the legislature, and the interpretation of laws by the judiciary.

### Activity 1.1

1. Using the internet, and other sources, give the three meanings of government.
2. Interview the assembly or unit committee member in your locality to educate you on the main features of the three meanings of government. Write the responses for discussion in class. Use the following as your interview guide:
  - a. How is the leadership structure of the town?
  - b. How do leaders collaborate in their day-to-day activities?
  - c. How do they involve the citizens of the town in decision making?
  - d. Which roles do the leaders play in the community?

Provide an outline of the responses from the assembly member and present that in class later.

3. Use your findings in the activity above to establish the connections between the three meanings of government.

Meanings of Government	Institution(s)/ Functions
Government as an institution of the state.	
Government as an academic field of study.	
Government as an art or process.	

4. Use your findings from the activity above to identify additional institutions or mechanisms that are involved in the governance of communities.

## IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY OF GOVERNMENT

### Importance of Government as an Academic Discipline

#### 1. Promotes understanding of how government works

The study of government in school gives an understanding of government structure and processes of governance. It helps the individual with the understanding of government policies, how they are formulated, and the purpose of the policy. Understanding government policies helps citizens to criticise government decisions and actions constructively. This makes government responsible and accountable to the people. The knowledge of government encourages political participation and inclusive governance which form the basis of legitimate government and democracy.

#### 2. Develops insights into the strengths and weaknesses of government practice

The study of government gives an in-depth understanding of government institutions, powers, and functions. The insight gained in the study of the discipline helps identify the weaknesses and strengths of a government. This understanding is important to shaping responsible and accountable governance.

#### 3. Provides a path for career opportunities

As a government student, you learn to become a critical thinker and an active responsible citizen. The study of government equips the individual with analytical skills, an understanding of political systems, and knowledge of public policies. These skills, upon completion of school, make one pursue careers in politics, public administration, diplomacy, law, teaching, public and civil service.



#### 4. Aids in understanding the rights and responsibilities of citizens

The lack of knowledge and understanding of one's rights may lead to their infringement or denial without the individual noticing their rights have been violated. One can enjoy and exercise his/her rights effectively and advocate for them when they are aware of them. As a result, the study of government helps educate and create awareness about the rights and responsibilities of citizens. Among the many rights that can be infringed are the right to vote, education, quality health care, etc. Responsible and patriotic citizenry aid in peaceful and rapid development

#### 5. Encourages participation in political activities

The study of government provides an understanding of the political processes and administration of the state. This understanding helps citizens develop the desire to engage in political activities and processes such as taking part in public elections by voting or aspiring for political positions. The knowledge of government also induces patriotism by taking part fully in civic responsibilities such as communal labour and aiding law enforcement agencies like the police to arrest criminals.

### Importance of Government as an Institution of the State

#### 1. Security - defence and criminal justice

The government provides security to its citizens through various law enforcement agencies including military, police service, and intelligence services. The military safeguards the integrity of the state by protecting its territorial boundaries in the sea by the navy, the territorial air space by the air force, and that of the land by the army. The police, on the other hand, ensure the internal safety in the country and of the citizens.

#### 2. Welfare provision

The government of Ghana must ensure equity and accessibility to essential social services. To achieve this, the 'Saglemi' affordable housing project was launched along the Accra-Aflao Road to provide affordable housing for Ghanaians. Additionally, the National Health Insurance Scheme enables vulnerable citizens to access quality health care for free or at a subsidised rate.

#### 3. Economic development

The government initiates policies geared towards investment in infrastructure such as roads, bridges, ports, markets, and schools to promote economic activities such as trade for sustainable development. Ghana's economy being agrarian in nature can be developed through the construction of good roads connecting major towns and cities. This enables easy transportation of farm produce from the farm to the big markets. As a result, the economy is expanded and jobs are created.

## 4. Making of laws

Laws are made in Ghana by the legislature through the people's representatives. The existence of laws is crucial for maintaining order. It ensures fairness and protects the rights and safety of citizens in a state. It regulates the behaviour of citizens and state institutions. It establishes standards for how people within a state conduct themselves. This provides the basis for justice.

## Importance of Government as an Art

### 1. Political Inclusion:

Understanding the way institutions of state work may enable citizens to participate in political activities and exercise their rights. As a process, it involves the ability to plan, execute and evaluate policies to make informed decisions. Understanding these government processes encourages active citizenship by empowering individuals to hold their representatives accountable. This enables them to participate in shaping public policies that affect their lives.

### 2. The workings of Government:

Understanding the strengths and weaknesses of government mechanisms, rules, and procedures may encourage beneficial reforms. Understanding the operations of state machinery and government procedures is crucial for identifying areas in need of reform. Recognising strengths helps build on effective processes, while acknowledging weaknesses allows for targeted improvements.

### Activity 1.2

1. You decided to offer general arts as a course in senior high school after your Basic School Certificate Examination. Government is one of your elective subjects. Convince a friend to study government. Use the following to guide your discussion:

#### Discussion guide:

- Economic importance of government
- Social importance
- Political importance
- Family values and heritage

*Note: Do well to write down your ideas and explanations and share with the class or a friend.*

2. Meet Amina, a young mother living in a small community. Amina's community has been experiencing severe drought leading to crop failures and water scarcity. The community members are struggling to access basic

necessities like food, water, and healthcare. One day, the government announces a new initiative to build a dam to provide water for irrigation and drinking. They also promise to establish a healthcare centre and provide subsidies for farmers to purchase drought-resistant seeds. Amina's life is directly impacted by these government initiatives.

From the scenario, complete the table below with the government initiatives that solved the problems in Amina's community. Discuss your write up with your friends.

Problems of Amina's Community	Government Initiatives
Crop failure	
Shortage of water	
Lack of healthcare facilities	
Shortage of food	

From the table, summarise the importance of government in at least three lines and compare notes with your friends.

3. Adzoa, a dedicated member of her community, dreams of improving the lives of her fellow residents. She begins by studying government structures and policies, analysing local issues, and identifying areas for improvement. Adzoa engages in public forums and discussions, joins advocacy groups and community organisations.

Through her studies, Adzoa gains a deeper understanding of effective political participation, holding elected officials accountable, and advocating for policies that benefit her community. She uses her knowledge to organise a successful campaign for better public transportation, collaborates with local officials to establish community programmes, and educates her fellow citizens about their rights and responsibilities.

As a result, the community experiences improved access to public services, increased public participation in decision-making, and more transparent and responsive governance.

Consider the above scenario to explain how the study of government can improve the lives of citizens in your area. Discuss your findings with a study mate.



# THE CONCEPT OF STATE

A state can be defined as a politically organised body of people occupying a specific geographical territory with an established government, free from external control, and possessing the cohesive power to command obedience from its citizens and others. In this context, a state does not refer to regions or provinces within a country, such as the states in Nigeria's federal system like Lagos, Abuja, or Delta. Examples of states in this discussion include countries like Ghana, Togo, Nigeria, Zambia, China, and Poland.

## Features of the state

- **Geographical boundary:** The geographical boundary of a state refers to its physical limits, encompassing land, water, and airspace. In Ghana, the country's borders are defined by neighbouring countries such as Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, and Togo.
- **Population:** Population denotes the total number of people living within a state's boundaries. The population of a state is not definite but rather estimated. This is because humans are born daily and there are also daily deaths. Ghana has a diverse population consisting of various ethnic groups and cultures.
- **Government:** The government of a state is responsible for making and enforcing laws, providing public services, and representing the interests of its citizens. Ghana operates under a democratic system with three branches; executive, legislative, and judiciary.
- **Sovereignty:** Sovereignty is the supreme authority of a state to govern itself without interference from external forces. It can also be seen as the overriding or perpetual power that the State possessed to make any decision for the betterment of its citizens without any hindrance. The unlimited power comprises both internal and external influence including the capacity to make and enforce laws within the territory. It becomes the State's duty to ensure the security of its citizens by protecting its territorial boundaries against external attack and influence. Ghana gained its sovereignty from colonial rule in 1957, becoming the first country in Sub-Saharan Africa to attain this milestone and is recognised as an independent nation.



**Fig 1.3:** The characteristics of a state

### Activity 1.3

1. From the notes and other related materials, identify the main features of the concept of state. Discuss these features with your peers.
2. Visit the library to read related materials on the concept of State. Use your findings to explain the significance of each of the main features of the state. You may be asked to present your findings to the whole class.
3. Based on your knowledge of the concept of state, explain how it applies in international relations.



## THE CONCEPT OF DEVELOPMENT

Development is a varied concept involving all aspects of human life. It includes economic, social, political, and cultural achievements aimed at improving the well-being and quality of life for individuals and communities.

Development is defined differently by different writers. According to Robert Chambers, development refers to 'good change'. He emphasises the importance of participatory development, where local communities are actively involved in decision-making processes. There are narrow and broader versions of the concept. The figure below shows a developed and undeveloped road infrastructure.



**Fig 1.4:** Undeveloped road



**Fig 1.5:** Developed road

## Narrow (Traditional) view of development

The narrow view of development includes rapid industrialisation, urbanisation, and economic growth. This traditional aspect is seen largely in economic terms of producing more goods and services and raising income, e.g. high gross domestic product (GDP). It involves investment in infrastructure such as roads or building skyscrapers, expansion in manufacturing, and the troubling problems of inequality and poverty.

## Broader (Modern) view of development

The broader view of development also looks at the non-economic dimensions. It calls for putting citizens at the front and centre. This is called human development. It deals with improving individual well-being, to benefit from the greater freedom that development will bring. The necessary qualities under the modern version of development include institutional development and governance, principles of inclusion, freedom, equity, transparency, and legitimacy. Other indicators of the modern view are individuals being treated with dignity and respect. The broader view of development consists of socioeconomic progress, cultural conditions, political development, and advances in science and technology

### Activity 1.4

A District Chief Executive (DCE) wants to develop a district. Two advisors with different views on development were invited. The first advised that they focus on attracting a large corporation to set up a factory that will create jobs for the people and increase tax revenue. The second advised him that, while a factory would be great, they should also invest in education, healthcare and infrastructure. This will enhance the overall quality of life for the citizens and make the town more attractive to businesses and talents at the end. Use this scenario for the following activities:

1. Explain the concept of development to a friend.
2. Complete the tables below. Take note of the information and use it to identify the differences and similarities of narrow and broader meanings of development.

### Differences

Narrow view of development	Broader view of development
Focuses primarily on economic growth and increasing GDP.	Encompasses a holistic approach, including social, cultural, and environmental aspects.
Emphasises industrialisation, technological advancements, and market expansion.	Prioritises human well-being, quality of life, and sustainable development

### Similarities

Narrow view of development	Broader view of development	Similarities
It focuses on economic growth and progress.	It seeks overall positive change and progress.	Both aim at improving conditions for individuals and communities.
It emphasises economic growth as a key indicator.	It considers economic growth as one aspect of development.	
It recognises the need for sustainable economic practices.	It emphasises sustainable development across various sectors.	
It focuses on economic indicators of quality of life.	It includes social, cultural, and environmental factors.	
Values human development through economic means.	Encompasses a wide range of human capabilities and well-being.	

- a. Discuss the effects of adopting either the narrow or the broader view of development with a study mate.
- b. If you were the DCE, which view would you prefer and why? Provide reasons and discuss them with peers.



# THE CONCEPTS OF POWER, AUTHORITY AND LEGITIMACY

## POWER

The concept of power involves the ability to compel someone to do something against their will. For example, while studying for exams is important, students might not do it on their own unless they are required to attend mandatory study sessions by their teachers.

### Sources of power

The following are some of the sources of power:

- **Wealth:** Refers to a state of economic power or individual financial capability. A person's financial strength enables them to influence others.
- **Knowledge:** It is considered a source of power because it equips individuals with the understanding needed to address the issues they encounter. A knowledgeable person is capable of making well-informed decisions and solving problems independently.
- **Force:** Refers to the ability to control people through coercion or physical strength. It is typically employed by domineering leaders to achieve their goals. This is often observed in military governments, where weapons are used to seize political power and control citizens. In such situations, fundamental human rights are frequently abused, with unlawful arrests and detentions common due to the suspension of the constitution. Decrees are used to regulate state institutions and citizens under these conditions.
- **Position of Authority:** This refers to the social positions individuals hold within a state, which command respect. This form of power is used to create and enforce laws, as well as to develop and implement policies that impact the lives of people within the state. Examples of such individuals include ministers of state, judges, pastors, and teachers.

### Types of power

- **Economic power** refers to an individual, organisation, or country that possesses enough wealth, resources (natural and human), or superior technology that enables them to influence others.
- **Political power** is the capacity of an individual or a group, entrusted with the authority to govern a country, to influence thoughts, actions, and mind sets. There are two primary types of political power: legitimate and illegitimate.
- **Physical power** is derived from material or physical advantage, individually. It can come from strength or skill, such as the power of a wrestler or boxer. It can

also come from having weapons, which can be the ultimate power of groups and governments.

Physical power also comes from things that are not designed to hurt people, e.g. buildings, machines, etc.

- **Military power** is the capacity of a country to use its armed forces to accomplish specific objectives. This power is largely derived from the strength and training of its troops, the size of its military, its intelligence-gathering capabilities, and the availability of modern technology and logistics. Military power is primarily used to defend the country from external threats by protecting its borders.

## AUTHORITY

The concept of authority refers to the legitimate use of power. This refers to the formal or legal right to make and enforce laws and policies which the citizens obey.

### Types of Authority

The following are the types of authority:

- **Traditional authority:** It is a form of authority that is concerned with the customs and traditions of a group of people. It is mostly associated with monarchy (the rule by Kings, Queens, and Emperors). Monarchy, as a form of government, is mostly used in tribal societies, monarchies, chiefdoms, etc. where the right to rule is hereditary.
- **Legal authority:** This is the right of a leader to make legal decisions, enforce laws, or issue directives within his jurisdiction of administration. It is mostly drawn from various sources such as constitutions, statutes, regulations, judicial decisions, and customary law. Legal authority is important for maintaining order and ensuring compliance with laws and regulations within a society.
- **Charismatic authority:** This is when a leader gains legitimate power and influence through their charisma and persuasive abilities. Followers are drawn to the leader's appealing personality, vision, and captivating messages. An example is Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, who won a landslide victory in the 1951 general election in Ghana. His inspiring messages, such as 'self-government now', resonated with the majority of Ghanaians at the time.
- **Legitimacy:** Refers to the acceptability and recognition of a ruler or government to govern. A government is considered legitimate if it comes to power through constitutional means or generally accepted procedures. For example, elected governments are seen as legitimate, whereas military governments are often viewed as illegitimate. However, legitimacy can also be gained through popular government policies. It involves the justification of authority.

### Activity 1.5

Consider this scenario. Kojo has been elected as your school prefect. He is a good speaker and can maintain law and order in the school. He is also respected by all students and teachers. Based on the above scenario;

1. Write the source and type of Kojo's power. Compare your idea with a study mate.
2. Examine the relationship between Kojo's authority and power.
3. Based on the scenario, explain the importance of the concept of power, authority and legitimacy. Your teacher may ask you to present your answers in class.

## THE CONCEPTS OF SOCIALISM AND CAPITALISM

### Socialism

Socialism is a system where the means of production, planning, and distribution of goods and services are collectively or government-owned. The aim is to ensure equitable and fair distribution of resources. Countries that may be considered socialist include the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Cuba, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The theory of socialism was propounded by Karl Marx who argued that the system brings about social justice by creating a classless society.

However, some of these countries have introduced elements of capitalism in more recent times to boost economic performance. Conversely, some capitalist countries have socialist aspects such as public ownership of essential services.



**Fig 1.6:** Principle of collectivism

## Features of Socialism

- **Ownership of the economy is largely in the hands of the state:** The means of production and distribution are in the hands of the state. The state establishes major enterprises such as banks, factories, hospitals, schools, that create job opportunities for the citizens. The state also produces goods and services at affordable prices to the citizens. According to Karl Marx, the system where private individuals are allowed to own companies and businesses will lead to exploitation of the working class. He referred to the business owners as bourgeoisie and the working class (labour) as proletariat.
- **Not profit-oriented:** The production of goods and services are not based on profit but for the common interest of the state. This goes a long way to ensure a more equitable and sustainable society. Again, it prevents exploitation of the citizenry by private individuals.
- **Governmental regulation of the economy:** Under socialism, the state makes rules and regulations to regulate and control the economic activities of state enterprises and the citizens. The aim of this is to protect consumers and workers, prevent unnecessary competition and market failure, and stabilise the economy.
- **Extensive social welfare provision:** Under socialism, the state focus is always on the provision of comprehensive social welfare programmes such as job opportunities, health care, financial assistance, free education for all, housing support, etc. These initiatives are aimed at promoting the well-being of the citizenry.

## Capitalism

Capitalism is a system where the production and distribution of goods and services are in the hands of individuals and private entities. It is associated with less state or government intervention.

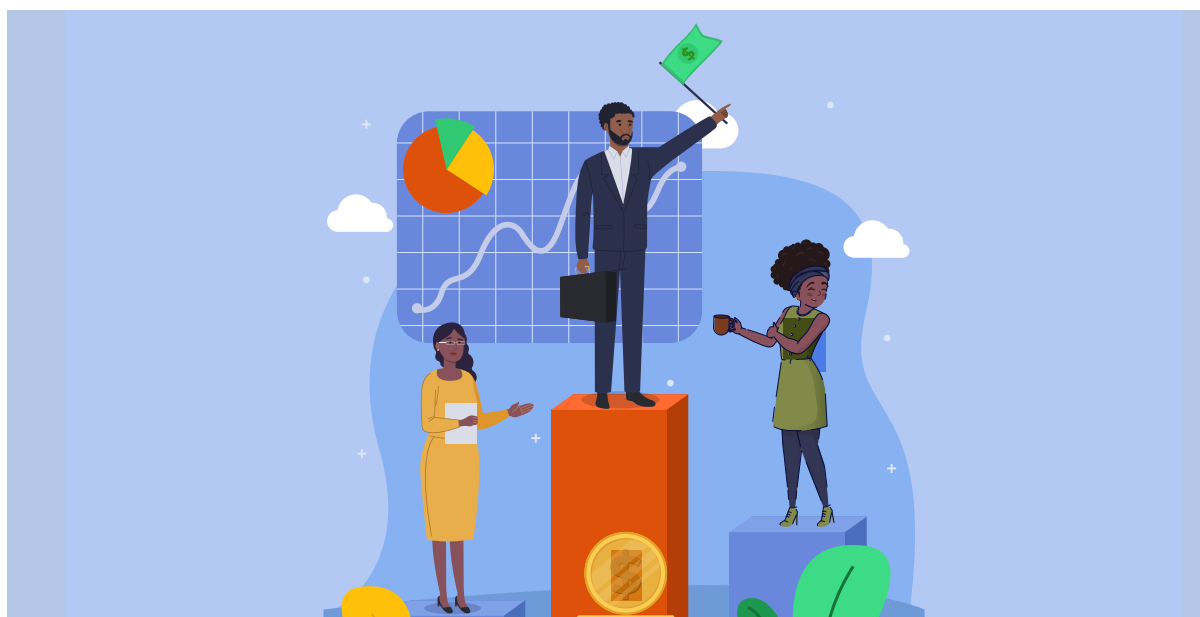


Fig 1.7: Diagram of a capitalist economy

## Features of Capitalism

- **Ownership of the economy is in the hands of private individuals:** The means of production and distribution of goods and services are in the hands of private individuals. They establish major enterprises such as banks, factories, hospitals, and schools that create job opportunities for the citizens. The capitalist motive is to make a profit.
- **Focus on profit:** The focus on making profit is seen as a means of developing the economy to the benefit of all, and as the measure of efficiency. The major motive of a capitalist economy is to maximise profit to sustain their businesses, which enables them to pay taxes to the state for developmental projects.
- **Allocation of resources is dictated by market mechanisms (demand and supply).** Resources in the economy are limited so it is necessary to choose what goods and services are in the market by motioning price and taste. The products that are demanded more by the citizens are produced to meet the quantity demanded and bring balance.

### Activity 1.6

1. Explore the internet and other sources for more features of socialism and capitalism. Share with your study mates.
2. Study the tables below. Use the information to draw the differences between capitalism and socialism.

#### Socialism

Advantages	Disadvantages
It reduces the gap between the rich and the poor, by redistributing wealth and providing basic social services, e.g. healthcare and education to all citizens.	It slows down innovation and resource allocation, leading to lack of competition.
It reduces exploitation of workers, resources and the environment by promoting fair labour practices and sustainable development.	There is lack of individual freedoms such as freedom to own private businesses.
It looks at environmental protection and sustainable development over profit-driven exploitation.	It reduces the incentive for innovation and hard work.
It takes care of workers' rights, including fair wages, job security, and collective bargaining.	It limits development of small businesses because government controls the larger portion of the economy.
It invests in high-quality public services, like transportation, education and healthcare which are accessible to all.	Inefficient allocation of resources as decisions are made by only the government.



### Capitalism

Advantages	Disadvantages
It encourages innovation, and investment, leading to increased productivity and economic growth.	It can lead to social inequality. That is a gap between the rich and the poor.
It promotes competition, leading to wider range of goods and service for consumers.	It may lead to the exploitation of workers.
Businesses and factories develop, creating employment opportunities for the citizens.	The pursuit of profit by the business owners may lead to environmental degradation.
The potential for personal riches pushes the individual to work hard.	Capitalists may neglect the welfare of their workers.
Improved standard of living due to rapid economic growth.	Essential services that are deemed non-profitable may be neglected.

## THE CONCEPT OF DEMOCRACY

Democracy means rule by the people (from a combination of the Greek word ‘demos’, meaning people, and ‘kratia’ meaning to rule). Democracy is a form of government in which people have decision-making power, either directly or indirectly. A distinction is made between direct and indirect democracy.

### Direct democracy

Citizens take part personally in deliberations and vote on issues. This form of democracy was practised by the ancient Greek state where all able-bodied men took part in decision-making at the town hall. This develops a sense of collectivism and communal living, including acceptance of responsibility.

### Indirect democracy

Indirect democracy is a form of democracy where citizens elect representatives to make decisions on their behalf within the state. This method has become essential due to growing populations and is known as representative democracy in contemporary contexts. This approach remains democratic as long as voters are informed about the positions of their elected representatives, often through political party manifestos and public debates.



Fig 1.8: Compilation of electoral register



Fig 1.9: Voting process

## FEATURES OF DEMOCRACY

While the core of the meaning of democracy is ‘rule by the people’, it also consists of features of freedom and fairness.

### 1. Periodic elections

Periodic elections ensure a certain level of citizen involvement in decision-making. In a country where democracy is foundational to development and fairness, regular elections must be organised so that citizens can elect their representatives to government. This encourages citizen participation in the political process. Political officeholders elected through democratic means are perceived as legitimate by the electorate.

### 2. Rule of law (due process, equality before the law)

The rule of law is a principle where laws govern a society, rather than the whims of individuals. In this system, the law is applied equally to everyone, regardless of race, social status or economic position. It ensures that due process is followed, allowing people to live with dignity. The rule of law prevents arbitrary use of power and protects the rights and liberties of citizens.

### 3. Freedom of expression and the mass media

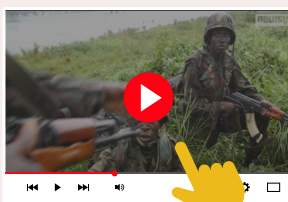
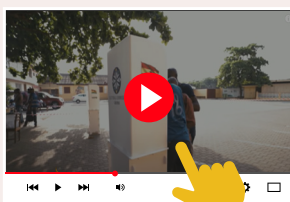
Freedom of expression is a fundamental aspect of democracy, allowing citizens to voice their opinions on government decisions and actions. Public opinion helps the government understand the needs of the people and develop policies to address state issues. Independent mass media play a crucial role in this process, serving as the channel through which public opinion is expressed and disseminating information, thereby linking the government and the people.

### 4. Free association and assembly

In a democratic state, citizens are given a fundamental right to associate freely with each other by willingly joining organisations or groups without any fear of oppression and intimidation. This right enables citizens to form civil society organisations and political parties, which promote political participation and accountable governance.

#### Activity 1.7

Watch the videos in the links:





Now perform the following activities:

1. Based on the video, state and discuss the features of democracy with a friend.
2. Use your observations from the video to draw the differences and similarities between democracy and authoritarian/dictatorial systems.
3. Based on the two videos, prepare a presentation on how democratic governance could be strengthened and improved.

## THE CONCEPT OF FEMINISM

Feminism advocates for women's rights based on gender equality, opposing the notion that women are inferior to men. It promotes the belief in a free and equal society, encompassing social, economic, political, and religious equality between the sexes. Feminism has driven key changes, such as securing women's right to vote and participate in national legislatures. Feminists challenge sex and gender stereotypes and strive to ensure that all occupations and social roles are equally accessible and appropriate for women and men, encouraging men to embrace roles traditionally associated with women.



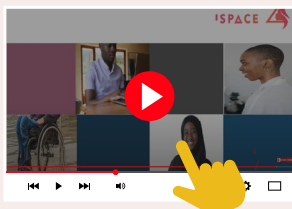
**Fig 1.10:** Men and women in engineering



**Fig 1.11:** Man and woman working on the farm

### Activity 1.8

Watch the video below



Use your observations from the video to perform the following activities:

1. State the main features of feminism, and social and political changes for which it has been responsible. Share your findings with your friends.
2. Identify modern issues related to gender inequality. Your teacher may ask you to share your responses in class.
3. Discuss your own experience of some roles that are assigned at home or in the community based on gender biases with your friends.
4. What could have been your action or suggestion to a friend who was denied the opportunity to enter some professional fields based on gender?

Write down all your responses and make sure you present them in class.



# THE CONCEPTS OF THE RULE OF LAW AND SEPARATION OF POWERS

## Rule of law

The rule of law is the principle that the laws of a state apply equally to everyone, regardless of their position or status, and are enforced impartially. This is known as equality before the law. Another essential aspect of the rule of law is due process, which means that procedures should be clear, transparent, and applied consistently. The rule of law is supported by an independent judiciary, with judges who are not affiliated with any political party and who make decisions based solely on the law. A. V. Dicey propounded this theory, emphasising three main principles: equality before the law, the supremacy of the law, and respect for fundamental human rights.

## Separation of powers

This means the branches of government (executive, legislature and judiciary) are distinct from each other in terms of personnel and functions. The separation of powers aims to ensure that no branch of government has excessive power and that the judiciary is not swayed by party political considerations. Separation of powers is not always absolute. For example, in parliamentary systems, such as that of the UK, the leader of the executive (prime minister) is the leader of the party that holds a majority in the legislature. Thus, while parliament and government are distinct, there is some overlap. This is in contrast to presidential systems where the president may be from a different political party to the one that has a majority in the legislature. Another example is where judges are appointed, at least in part, on the basis of their known political views in the USA.

### Activity 1.9

Visit any resource person (governance expert, judge, and political scientist) for first-hand information on rule of law and the separation of powers. Make notes from the visit and perform the following activities:

1. Based on the knowledge gained from the resource person, identify the main features of the rule of law and separation of powers and discuss them with a friend.
2. Using your prepared notes, explain the importance of the rule of law and separation of powers to ensure sustainable democracy and citizens' rights. Share your thoughts with a friend.
3. Observe how the rule of law and separation of powers work in Ghana with your study mate.
4. Explore the internet and other related materials for information on the challenges of the rule of law and separation of powers. Suggest ways to address them.

# THE PRINCIPLE OF INCLUSION

## Inclusion

Inclusion means the interests, aspirations and views of all individuals and groups living in the state are taken into consideration in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes for the well-being of society. Thus, no members of the society are excluded.

Implementation of policies for inclusion requires a recognition that some groups in society have been excluded historically and may not be fully included today. These groups include women, ethnic minorities, and people with disabilities. Formulation of effective inclusion policies usually requires the active participation of members of excluded groups so that their experiences are fully understood and their views on what needs to be done are properly considered. It is also important that all sections of society, including historically excluded groups, have effective representation so their voices are heard continuously. A third important aspect of inclusion is equity. That is, ensuring that all groups in society are equal in the eyes of the law and enjoy fair and impartial treatment.

Governments may also believe that part of their role is to promote inclusive views and practices within society. To address inequalities, they may implement measures such as positive discrimination.



**Fig 1.12:** Disability friendly public facility



**Fig 1.13:** Disability inclusive teaching and learning

### Activity 1.10

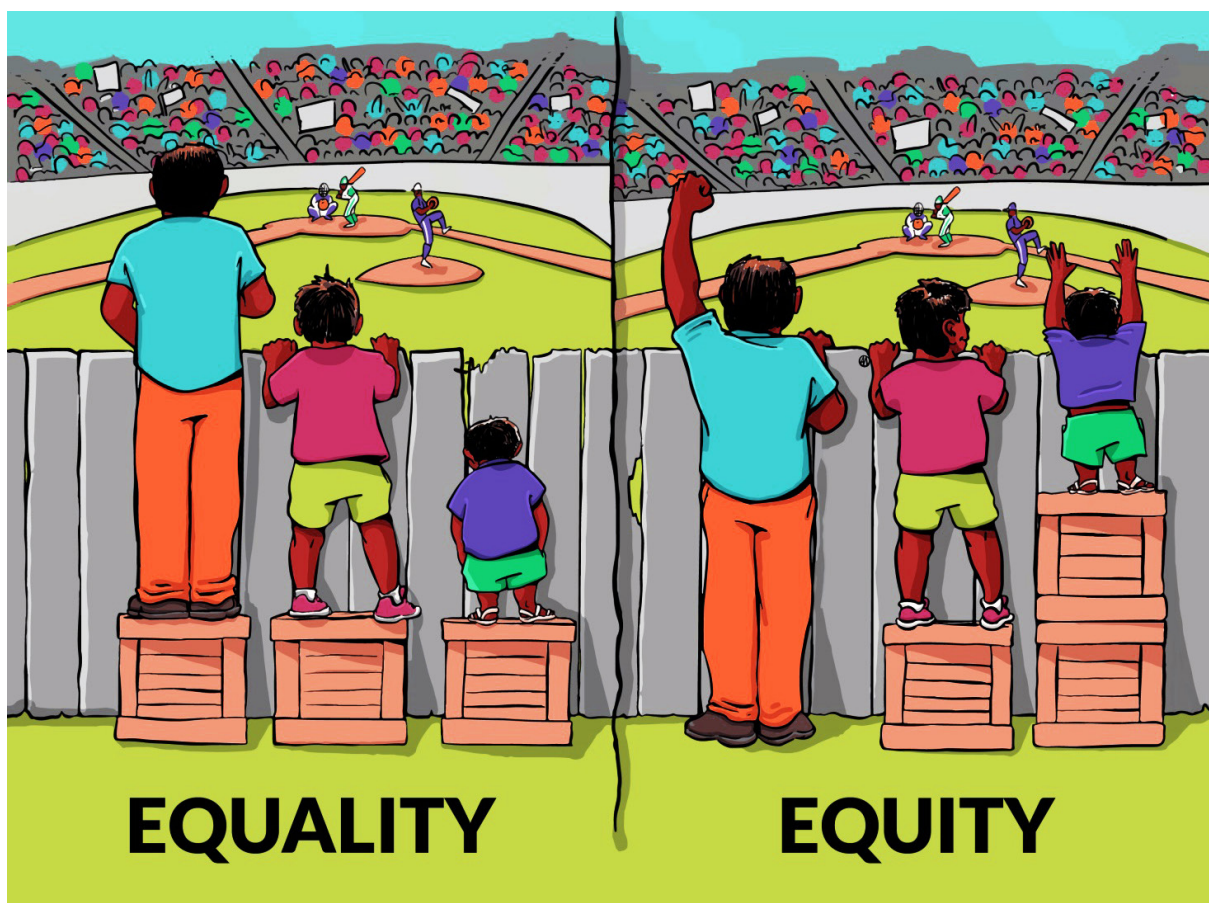
1. Study the pictures above and write your observations. Discuss the meaning of inclusion with a friend.
2. Research into the problems that inclusion policies in Ghana seek to address and the main features of inclusion. Discuss your findings with your study mates.
3. Identify issues of social inclusion in your community and make suggestions on how they can be addressed.



## THE PRINCIPLES OF EQUALITY, EQUITY AND CONSENSUS BUILDING

*Equality* denotes providing equal opportunity for all people. It is the absence of restrictions or removal of barriers for the advancement of all people. Equality does not consider the needs of one individual when it comes to the distribution of resources.

*Equity* on the other hand recognises that people have different circumstances and may need specific resources or opportunities to achieve an equal outcome. People with disabilities, for example, have specific circumstances and needs and cannot have equal opportunities by treating them in the same way as the rest of the population. Similar considerations apply to other specific groups. Put simply, equality is the goal and equity is the process or mechanism to achieve equality.



**Fig 1.15:** Equality versus Equity

*Consensus building* refers to collaborative decision-making to address an identified problem. It takes place when all diverse interests have been explored and agreement reached. Consensus building can be an important tool in achieving equality and equity.



### Activity 1.11

1. Study the images above. Make a note of your observations and conclusions.

Notes on the picture that demonstrates equality	Notes on the picture that demonstrates equity
What conclusion can you make from the images?	

2. Visit your school or any library near you. Read materials on consensus building and make notes. Discuss the meaning of consensus building with your friends.
3. You are part of a task force in your community. Your mission is to develop strategies to tackle the pressing issues of inequality and inequity in the community. During your meeting, the chairperson outlines several key challenges that the task force must address:
  - a. Economic disparities
  - b. Educational inequality
  - c. Healthcare inequality
  - d. Political and social inequality
  - e. Infrastructure disparities

The task force identified a number of consensus building strategies to solve the issues mentioned above as follows:

- a. Engage various stakeholders to discuss the root causes of economic disparities.
  - b. Formulate policies that address wage gaps, job creation, and equitable tax structures.
  - c. Facilitate dialogues between educators, policymakers, parents, and students to identify key issues in educational inequality.
  - d. Reach a consensus on the equitable allocation of educational resources, including funding, technology, and teacher training.
  - e. Develop a consensus on priority areas for improving healthcare access and quality such as mental health services and rural healthcare.
  - f. Involve healthcare providers, patients, and policymakers in discussions to understand healthcare disparities.
4. Based on the scenario, complete the table below.

Challenges of Equality and Equity	Policies that address the problem
1. Economic Disparities 2. Educational Inequality 3. Healthcare Inequality 4. Political and Social Inequality 5. Infrastructure Disparities.	

# Review Questions

1. What are the primary functions of government in modern societies?
2. What are the challenges faced by states in maintaining sovereignty and legitimacy in the contemporary world?
3. Distinguish between power, authority, and legitimacy in political theory.
4. What factors contribute to the legitimacy of a government in the eyes of its citizens?
5. Compare and contrast the economic principles and values underlying socialism and capitalism.
6. How do the principles of separation of powers and rule of law contribute to the functioning of democratic governance?
7. How do policies promoting equality and equity address systemic inequalities and discrimination?
8. Discuss the role of government in addressing sanitation issues in Ghana.

## Extended Reading

- The substance of politics (Appadorai. A 2020)
- Government for Senior High Schools (Baah Achemfuor 2016)
- The 1992 Republican Constitution of Ghana

## References

1. Ball T., Dagger R. & O'Neill D. I. (2019). Political ideologies and the democratic ideal. Routledge.
2. Whitham B., & Heywood, A. (2023). Global Politics. Bloomsbury Publishing.
3. Heywood, A. (2019). Politics (5th edn.). Macmillan.
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6. Civics Today: Citizenship, Economics & You. McGraw-Hill Education.

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