

CIVICS

A. Reading

Read the text carefully.

DEMOCRACY

One of the types of government and the one in which we are most interested, places complete control in the hands of the people who are governed. We call this type of government a democracy. The people, since they themselves control the government, make their own laws and decide what rights they are to have, what powers the government may exercise, and what services the government is to give them.

Sometimes all the voters in a democracy, if it is a small one, come together in a meeting to make their decisions directly. This is the direct or “town meeting” type of democracy.

It is also called “pure democracy”. The chief advantage of pure democracy is that people rule themselves directly and not through representatives. Unfortunately it is inconvenient or impossible to get a very large number of people together for this type of government. Therefore, we find direct democracy only in small communities

Democracies with large number of people have a representative type of government. The voters elect a few of their fellow citizens to attend meeting and to make decisions for all the people. The officers we elect represent us; they decide what to do about governmental problems. Because they are our representatives, we say that this government is a representative democracy. Today mostly state in the world has a representative legislature.

The representatives and officers we elect are controlled in what they do. We exercise this control primarily through constitutions and elections. A constitution is the fundamental law of government, which may be expressed in a written document or through a country’s laws, customs and institutions. It describes how a government is organized, who the principal officers are to be, who may hold office, and what powers they may exercise. The constitution limits the government and its officials in order to protect the people from unjust use of these powers. Through regular and frequent elections we decide who are to be our representatives. We vote some good persons to be the members of parliament or representative legislature, so the controlling can be done.

(adopted from *Our Democracy at Work*, by: Warren, Leinenweber and Andersen)

Exercise 1

Answer the questions based on the text above.

1. Define the term “democracy”!
2. What is the representatives democracy?
3. What are the advantages of representatives democracy?
4. Give some examples of direct democracy!
5. How do people control their government in a democratic state?
6. What the matter that is ruled in the constitution?
7. Is our state a democratic? Explain your answer!

Exercise 2***Social Problem***

Democracy requires educated citizens. What do you think about this statement? Look in your environment. Do the educated citizens influence our democratic system?

B. Vocabulary**Definitions and Synonyms**

It is sometimes necessary for us to define a particular word or expression in a text in order to understand what the text is about. Now explain in your words the meaning of the following words as used in the text.

- Democracy
- Constitution
- Legislature
- Customs
- Election
- Government
- Representative

Synonyms are very useful to help us understand a text. The synonyms are words that have the same with or similar meaning to another word. To make easier, you can check the meanings in the dictionary.

Look for the synonym of the words below:

1. citizen
2. regulation
3. vote
4. Official
5. fellow



C. Grammar

Perfect Tense

Sometimes we find sentences that have *perfect tense* form. Perfect tense is used to tell that one thing happens before another time or event.

There are three general patterns of perfect tense. Study the patterns bellow carefully!

1. **Present Perfect : S + Have /Has + Past Participle + O**
2. **Past Perfect : S + Had + Past Participle + O**
3. **Future Perfect : S + Will + Have/ Has + Past Participle + O**

Look at the following examples:

1. I have studied English last night.
2. I have done my homework this afternoon, so that I can enjoy watching TV now.
3. She had eaten when her parents came.
4. I had slept when the robber broke into the house.
5. I will have written my letter when he picks me up tonight.
6. I will have finished my study next year.

Exercise

Make sentences using the perfect Tense form with the words bellow.

1. punish
2. discuss
3. bring
4. read
5. develop
6. make
7. sleep
8. protect
9. publish
10. arrive



When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion.