## Government (A)

### Word Form Chart

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<th>NOUN</th>
<th>VERB</th>
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Definitions and Examples

1. mayor [the head of a city government]
   We elect a mayor every four years in this city.
   The mayor is the top person in our town government.

2. visa [an official document which permits a person to enter a foreign country]
   Americans do not need a visa to visit Canada, but they need one to enter Japan.
   She went to the French embassy to apply for a visa for her trip to Paris.

3. sympathize [to understand and share a person's feelings or ideas, especially when he or she has a problem]
   We sympathized with him when he lost his job.
   I do not have any sympathy for that political party; I do not like their ideas about the environment.
   I usually discuss my problems with my older brother; he is more sympathetic than my father.

4. run for [to compete for a political position]
   He is running for mayor in the next election.
   A: How many people are running for president?
   B: One from each of the four major parties.

5. run against [to compete against someone in an election]
   She ran against four opponents and won.

6. refuse [to insist on not doing something]
   The child refused to eat the vegetables.
   The current mayor has refused to run again, so his party must find another candidate.

7. distribute [to give to a variety of people]
   The teacher distributed the test papers to the students.
   Before the election, the government distributes information about where to vote.
8. abolish [to cancel a law or system]
   Most of the citizens want income tax abolished.
   The government is considering abolishing the compulsory education law.

9. regulate [to restrict or limit by laws]
   Most governments carefully regulate immigration.
   The school has regulations against students smoking.

10. communism [a political and economic system in which property is not privately owned and is available to all as needed]
    In a communist society, the farmers do not own their own land.
    The Communist party in the United States does not have much power
    because it does not have many members.

11. socialism [a political system in which production and distribution are in the hands of the people or the government]
    Communists feel that socialism is an imperfect form of communism.
    Moscow is the capital of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (the Soviet Union).

12. advocate [to think something is good and publicly support it]
    The Communists advocate the abolition of private ownership of land.
    People running for president often advocate lowering taxes.

13. state [a] [a nation or a division of a nation]
    The United States consists of 50 states.
    Under a Communist or Socialist government, most or all land belongs to the state.
    Socialists believe that the economy should be state controlled.
    (b) [3-2: condition]
    His business is in a terrible state; he is losing thousands of dollars a week.

14. right [a] [a power given by law or tradition]
    In a democracy, the citizens have the right to vote for their political leaders.
    Americans consider their right to free speech to be very important.
    (b) [assumed: the opposite of left]
    She made a quick turn to the right.
    (c) [assumed: correct]
    His answer to the question was right.
15. **conservative** [opposed to major changes; wanting to maintain existing conditions and views; traditional]

His opinions are very conservative; he does not want the situation to change very much.

The **Conservatives** are a major political party in England. Some societies are more conservative than others.

16. **liberal** [a] [believing in progress and change]

The liberal parties are advocating greatly increased government spending on education. He is a liberal who strongly supports strengthening the labor unions.

(b) [generous]

That company is very liberal with its salaries.

17. **dignity** [the characteristic of worthy and honorable behavior]

He handled the problem with dignity. He did not raise his voice or show his displeasure. People expect judges and people in high political positions to be dignified in their actions.

18. **approach** [a] [to go toward something or someone]

The day of the election is approaching. The politician approached the group of people and began to talk to them.

(b) [a way of looking at an issue or problem]

The liberal approach to social problems is usually quite different from the conservative one. Many people disagree with the government's approach to the country's economic problems.

19. **measure** [a] [an action taken by a government or group concerning some issue]

The government has announced new measures to protect the citizens from crime. They will have to take measures to avoid an increase in the rate of inflation. One possible measure would be to establish price controls.

(b) [2-5: to find the size or amount of a thing]

She measured the length and width of the table.

20. **drastic** [extreme; sudden]

Many people felt that the measures taken by the government were too drastic. Stable governments try not to make drastic social changes.
21. drop [a] [to let something fall]
   He dropped his books on the floor by accident.
   (b) [to fall or decrease]
   The temperature dropped drastically during the storm.

22. reform [to make a large political or social change; to improve]
   While he was running for president, he promised to reform the tax laws.
   Many people are demanding educational reforms.

23. step aside [to permit someone else to take your place]
   The candidate promised to step aside as the leader of his party if he did not win the election.
   Many people feel that it is time for the older leaders to step aside.

24. take over {separable} [to take control of something]
   The winner of the election will take over the position at the beginning of next month.
   The prisoners attempted to take over the prison, but the guards quickly regained control. It was the second time in a month that they had tried to take it over.
Unit 1

Introductory Exercises

A. Match each word with its definition.

   1. to compete against someone in an election  a. abolish
   2. to restrict or limit by law               b. advocate
   3. the head of a city government            c. approach
   4. to take control of something             d. communism
   5. a way of looking at an issue             e. conservative
   6. to let something fall                    f. dignity
   7. extreme; sudden                         g. distribute
   8. to insist on not doing something         h. drastic
   9. to cancel a system                       i. drop
  10. to compete for a political position      j. liberal
  11. an official document which permits a person to enter a foreign country k. mayor
  12. to give to a variety of people           l. measure
  13. to think something is good and publicly support it m. reform
  14. a power given by law                    n. refuse
  15. opposed to major changes               o. regulate
  16. a nation or a division of a nation       p. right
  17. believing in progress and change         q. run against
  18. to permit someone else to take your place r. run for
                                               s. socialist
                                               t. state
                                               u. step aside
                                               v. sympathize
                                               w. take over
                                               x. visa

B. Answer each question with a word from the word form chart.

1. What can you do if you do not want to do something?        u. sympathize
2. What do you feel for your friend when a member of his family dies? a. abolish
3. What do you usually need in order to enter a foreign country? c. approach
4. Who is the top person in a city or town government?        d. communism
5. What should the government do to a system that is bad?      e. conservative
6. What do we call a person who is against change?            f. dignity
7. What is another word meaning "law" or "rule"?               g. distribute
8. What is a major improvement made by a government?          h. drastic
9. What should a person do if he can no longer do his job satisfactorily? i. drop
10. What does a newly elected government do after an election? j. liberal
11. Name two political systems.                                k. mayor
12. What do politicians do to actions which they like?         l. measure
13. What does the Red Cross do with food during a disaster?    m. reform
14. What characteristic should a public official have?         n. refuse
15. What is the effect of a government run against change?     o. regulate
16. What is a government run for?                               p. right
17. What country is a socialist one?                           q. run against
18. What is the state of a country that is against change?     r. run for
19. What do you do if you do not want to do something?        s. socialist
20. What do you feel for your friend when a member of his family dies? t. state
21. What do you usually need in order to enter a foreign country? u. step aside
22. Who is the top person in a city or town government?        v. sympathize
23. What should the government do to a system that is bad?      w. take over
24. What do we call a person who is against change?            x. visa
25. What is another word meaning "law" or "rule"?               a. abolish
26. What is a major improvement made by a government?          b. advocate
27. What should a person do if he can no longer do his job satisfactorily? c. approach
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48. What characteristic should a public official have?         x. visa
Study Exercises

C. Write T if the sentence is true and F if it is false.

1. Conservative people like drastic changes.
2. If you have a right to do something, the law permits you to do it.
3. In a Socialist system the state makes many political and economic decisions.
4. The government should abolish good things.
5. Communism supports the owning of property by individuals.
6. Small children are usually dignified.
7. To solve a problem, first you need a good approach to the problem.
8. In a democracy candidates run for office against each other.
9. A friend does not need your sympathy if something bad has just happened to him.
10. Socialism is more similar to communism than democracy is.
11. Some countries are divided into states.
12. People usually refuse to do things that they love to do.
13. The government should reform systems that work well.
14. When you advocate something, you do not tell anyone else about it.

D. Complete the analogies with a word or phrase from the word form chart.

1. president : nation :: _____________ : city
2. ticket : plane :: _____________ : country
3. change : law :: _____________ : system
4. celebrate : birth :: _____________ : death
5. apply : school :: _____________ : political position
6. quit : job :: _____________ : political position

E. Read the passage and answer the true or false questions that follow.

In comparison to the political situations in Europe and Latin America, politics in the United States is often considered to be quite boring. While in any American election there are usually at least two candidates running against each other, a common complaint is that the candidates’ positions on the issues are often very similar.

The American system is basically a two-party one, with the two major parties being the Democrats and the Republicans. In addition, many other smaller parties exist, including the Socialist party and the Communist party. However, the approaches to
political and economic issues which are advocated by many of these smaller parties are not viewed sympathetically by the majority of the voters. Thus, most American voters typically choose between the Republican and Democratic candidates who are running for each position.

But what is the choice between a Democratic candidate and a Republican one? In theory, Republicans are more conservative than Democrats, who tend to be comparatively liberal. However, within both parties, there are both conservative and liberal groups.

The result is that the position of a liberal Republican concerning a certain issue may be exactly the same as that of a conservative Democrat.

Although this type of politics can be called boring, it does provide stability for the American government. When a new president takes over and reforms are begun, they tend to involve gradual changes and not drastic ones. And although one candidate may suggest quite different measures to attack a problem, he or she will rarely refuse to cooperate with whoever wins the election once that person takes over.

1. How many candidates run against each other in a typical United States election?

2. Why are many of the smaller parties not well supported in the United States?

3. Which of the two major parties is more conservative?

4. How do changes normally occur after elections in the United States? Why?

Follow-up

F. Dictation: Write the sentences that your teacher reads aloud.

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 
G. Answer the following questions.

1. Who is the mayor of your city or town?
2. Name some rights that citizens in your country have. Do women have the same rights as men?
3. Is your country divided into states? How many?
4. Can you visit any other countries without a visa? Which ones?
5. Does your country have more than one political party? If so, which ones are more liberal? More conservative?
6. Name some things regulated by the national and local governments in your country.
7. Describe an important problem faced by your country. What measures is the government taking to solve this problem?
8. Has your country had any major reforms in the last ten years? Explain.
9. Does your country have a Communist party? A Socialist party? What percentage of the citizens sympathize with each of these parties?
10. Name something that you would abolish if you had the chance.

H. Explain the system of political parties in your country. What does each party advocate?