**Governments of Southwest Asia**

**State of Israel:**

**Background Info:**

* In 1948, the United Nations voted to divide the former British colony of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_into two parts.
  + One part became the nation of Israel, a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the Jewish people.
  + The other part was for the Palestinian \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* The governments of the countries in Southwest Asia often reflect \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_beliefs, and Arabic people are often Islamic by faith.
  + The emergence of Israel as a Jewish nation became and still is a major political \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the Middle East.

**Leadership:**

* Prime Minister: holds the most political \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; works closely with the legislature (the Knesset)
* Chief of State**:** President; has little \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_power, mostly a ceremonial role

**How Leaders are Chosen:**

* **President:** largely a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ role and is elected by the Knesset for a seven-year term (one-term limit).
* **Prime Minister**: serves a 5-year term; the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ nominates a member of the Knesset and the other members vote on him/her. (Generally, the prime minister is usually the leader of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ political party in the Knesset.)

**Legislature:**

* Israel’s parliament is called the Knesset.
  + It is a unicameral governing body.
* The Knesset passes all laws, elects the president & prime minister, and supervises the work of the government through its committees.
* Israel does not have a formal constitution in place, but members of the Knesset have been working on one since 2003.

**Parliamentary Democracy:**

* Generally, whichever political party has the most members in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ selects the Prime Minister.
* **This is the major difference between a Presidential Democracy and a Parliamentary Democracy!**
  + Parliamentary Democracy – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ chooses the executive leader
    - In Israel, citizens vote for members of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (parliament), then the elected members choose the Prime Minister.

**Role of the Citizen:**

* Citizens must be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to vote, but voting is not required by law.
* As a democracy, its citizens must participate in voting and elections:
  + They elect members of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + Elections are held in Israel every \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years.

**Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:**

**Background Info**:

* Saudi Arabia is the largest country on the Arabian Peninsula and it has the most \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the region.
* It is one of the few \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ monarchies left in the world today.
  + Members of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ family have ruled Saudi Arabia since 1932.
  + Most government officials are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the king.
  + The king may ask members of his family, Islamic \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and tribal leaders for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on decisions.

**Oligarchy:**

* Saudi Arabia is one of the few absolute monarchies left in the world today.
* The king and his advisors, many of whom are his family members or influential business and religious leaders in the country, make all the laws.
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ leaders also have a great deal of influence in decisions made by the monarchy.
  + There is no written \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ however, the Qur’an acts as the constitution.
  + Saudi Arabia is governed on the basis of Islamic law (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_).

**Leadership**:

* Saudi Arabia is ruled by a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ monarchy, which means the government is led by a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who comes from a family that has ruled the country for several \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + The King of Saudi Arabia has been a member of the al-Saud family since the 1930s.
  + The people of Saudi Arabia \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ choose the king.
  + When a king dies, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ family announces who the next king will be from among their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ family members.

**Legislature:**

* Saudi Arabia’s legislature is called the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Council.
* It can propose legislation to the king, but has no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ powers itself.
  + There are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ members and a chairman that is chosen by the king to serve 4-year terms.
* The king chooses \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the members of the Council, while men in the country vote for the remaining one-third of the members.
  + The Council mostly consists of members of the royal \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Role of the Citizen:**

* In 2004, the Saudi government began allowing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who are 21 and older to vote for half of their local officials.
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ also vote for one-third of the members of the legislature.
  + There are no political \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Saudi Arabia.
* What about the women??

**Islamic Republic of Iran:**

**Background Info:**

* In 1979, the Islamic (or Iranian) Revolution, overthrew the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that had ruled Iran for centuries.
  + The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (king), who had been the monarch, had made Iran into a modern, less \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ society.
* Ayatollah Khomeini, who became Iran’s new leader, set up a religious \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ based on Islamic principles.

**Theocratic Republic:**

* Iran has a unique political system that combines elements of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ democracy with a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* The people vote for members of a group called the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, who then elects the head of state of Iran, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Leader.
* The Supreme Leader is always an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or recognized \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ authority, who follows the Islamic principles of Shari ’a law.

**How Leaders are chosen:**

* **Supreme Leader:** elected by the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (88 elected people who are also charged with supervising the leader’s activities)
* **President**: elected by the Iranian \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and serves a 4-year term

**Legislature:**

* Iran’s legislature is unicameral and is called the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Iran (Parliament).
* There are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_members and they are elected by the people for 4-year terms.
* Parliament drafts legislation, ratifies treaties, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the national budget.

**Role of the Citizen:**

* Citizens must be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_to vote, but voting is not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by law.
* As a democracy, its citizens must participate in voting and elections:
  + They elect the 290 members of the Consultative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the president are held every four years.
  + Election for the Assembly of Experts are held every \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years.