



Quick Quiz

Fill in the blanks below.



Learning to read

1. Usually there is a strong correlation between the standard of living and the _____.
2. _____ has the highest literacy rate in the Middle East.
3. Since the middle of the 1970s _____ has been in political turmoil, and the literacy rate is only 28 percent.
4. Wars in the past two decades in _____ have caused problems in both the economy and education.
5. With help from UNICEF, the Gaza Strip has a literacy rate of _____.

Government/Civics Understandings

Chapter 17

READ: IMPORTANT INFORMATION

SS7CG4 *The student will compare and contrast various forms of government.*

For detailed information and activities for this standard, see pages 27-30.

SS7CG5 *The student will explain the structures of the national governments of Southwest Asia (Middle East).*

a. Compare the parliamentary democracy of the State of Israel, the monarchy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the theocracy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, distinguishing the form of leadership and the role of the citizen in terms of voting rights and personal freedoms.

Different Countries, Different Governments

The countries of the Middle East have different forms of government. Keep reading to discover how the governments of Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Iran work.

Parliamentary Democracy of Israel

Following World War II, the United Nations partitioned the area of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states. The Jewish state was Israel. Although it has been a country for a brief time, Israel has managed to assemble an effective government.



Israel has a unitary system of government where the central government in Jerusalem handles most government functions. The Israeli chief of state is the president, who has little real power. The head of government is the prime minister. There are 120 seats in the Knesset, the legislative branch. The Supreme Court is the head of the judicial branch.

Upon reaching 18, both men and women can vote. Israel has no written constitution. Though there have been ongoing efforts to draft a constitution, Israel relies on a system of basic laws and rights. The planned constitution will guarantee basic rights and liberties. Israel has a better than average record on matters of personal freedom. Some areas to improve are discrimination on all levels against Arab-Israelis, discrimination and domestic violence against women, and unequal education opportunities for Arabs and Israelis.



Quick Quiz

Fill in the blanks with the correct answer.

Answers only!

1. The head of government in Israel is the _____.
2. Israel has a _____ system of government because the central government handles most functions.
3. Israel has no constitution, but relies on basic laws and _____.
4. Israeli citizens can vote when they reach the age of _____.
5. The Israeli government is a parliamentary _____.

(see 1st page)

Theocracy: The Government of Iran

The government of Iran is a theocracy, viewing all government matters through the eyes of its primary religion, Islam.

Once they reach 18, both men and women can vote in the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran). The Assembly of Experts appoints the Supreme Leader, a religious position that lasts a lifetime unless the Assembly decides he is no longer fit for office. The Supreme Leader has more power than the president, who is elected by popular vote for a four-year term of office.

The legislative branch is an elected National Assembly of 290 members who also serve four years. The Supreme Court and the four-member High Council of the Judiciary supervise enforcement of all laws and establish legal policies.



Word Definition

theocracy: a government controlled by religious leaders

The constitution guarantees certain personal freedoms and equal rights, regardless of ethnic group or tribe. While some freedoms are similar to democratic ones, others illustrate the theocracy of the government, such as the right to choose employment as long as it isn't contrary with Islam, and freedom of the press except when it is damaging to the principles of Islam.



The threads of Islam are woven throughout the government. If a person disagrees with the government, he or she could be arrested for treason. Women have far fewer rights than men, and their peaceful demonstrations for equality have been met with violence.



Quick Quiz

Decide if the statements below are facts (F) or opinions (O).

Fact or Opinion -
Not true / false

- ___ 1. The Supreme Leader is the religious leader of Iran and has more power than the president.
- ___ 2. It must be hard to live in a theocracy.
- ___ 3. Both men and women can vote in Iran.
- ___ 4. Iran has a constitution.
- ___ 5. It's fine that men have more rights than women in Iran.



The Monarchy of Saudi Arabia

The Arabic writing on the Saudi Arabian flag translates, "There is no god but God, and Muhammad is the messenger of God." The government of Saudi Arabia is a monarchy, and the king is both chief government and religious official. There is no constitution as Islamic law governs Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia has no legislature or political parties. Men aged 21 and older can vote.



Word Definition

monarchy: government headed by a king or queen

A group called Human Rights Watch views the Saudi justice system as highly secretive and wants it open to the public. Observers hope planned reforms in Saudi Arabia will improve civil liberties. Human rights and personal freedoms are often denied in Saudi Arabia. Examples include unfair trials and extreme physical punishments. Because Saudi Arabia values its position in the world economy, its government is working to correct some of these injustices.



Hard-To-Believe-But-True!

In Saudi Arabia, a group of religious police called the mutaween roam the streets to make sure that Saudi citizens follow strict codes of behavior and dress outlined by Islamic law.



Quick Review

Read the statements below and decide if they describe the government of Israel, Iran, or Saudi Arabia. Write the name of the country, and then D for democracy, T for theocracy, or M for monarchy beside each statement.



Unitary system of government. _____

①

Men 21 and older can vote. _____

②

No legislature or political parties. _____

③

The Supreme Leader is a religious position lasting a lifetime. _____

④

Unfair trials and extreme punishments. _____

⑤

The right to choose employment if it doesn't conflict with Islam. _____

⑥

There is no constitution; instead there are basic laws and rights. _____

⑦

Both men and women can vote once they reach 18 years of age. _____

⑧

and _____

Keep going!

Economic Understandings

Chapter 18

READ: IMPORTANT INFORMATION

SS7E5a and b are covered on pages 37-39.

SS7E5a. Compare how traditional, command, and market economies answer the economic questions of (1) what to produce, (2) how to produce, and (3) for whom to produce.

SS7E5b. Explain how most countries have a mixed economy located on a continuum between pure market and pure command.

SS7E5 The student will analyze different economic systems.

c. Compare and contrast the economic systems in Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey.

The Economy of Israel

Israel has faced a double challenge in building a mixed market economy: national security and immigration. Since its creation, Israel has been in conflict with its neighbors and has faced high expenses to build and maintain its armed forces. Foreign economic aid, especially from the United States, supplements Israel's budget. Enormous waves of immigrants from around the world have been a financial burden, but they have also brought valuable skills to the country. The Israeli government plays an important role in economic planning. For example, the government has been heavily involved in agriculture to make sure Israel can feed its citizens.



Word Definition
diversified: having a variety of parts

Israel has the most diversified economy in the Middle East including mining, manufacturing high-tech equipment to export, cutting and polishing diamonds, and agriculture. Since Israel is a popular tourist destination, a high percentage of workers are in service industries. Even though Israel has a small amount of farmland, it grows most of its own food. Since water is in short supply, and irrigation uses so much of it, there is an ongoing discussion as to whether or not it would be better to conserve some of this water by importing more food.



Lemon orchard in Israel
 Photo by David Shankbone



Quick Quiz

Answers only.

Using the words from the word bank, complete the following sentences.

- Two challenges in Israel's economy are _____ and _____.
- Because of many tourists, Israel has a large _____.
- Israel has a _____ because it has many important industries.
- Israel has a _____ because the government and private enterprise both have roles in it. (para)
- Israel is trying to decide if it should import more food to conserve _____.



national security
 service industry
 diversified economy
 water
 mixed economy
 immigration

Saudi Arabia

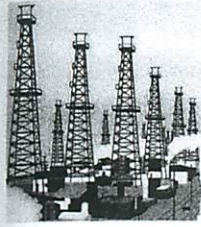
When Saudi Arabia became a nation in 1932, its economy was almost entirely traditional and consisted of selling dates or trading goats, camels, and textiles. But everything changed when oil was discovered in the 1930s!



Oil brought enormous wealth to the Saudi royal family and transformed the entire economy to a mostly command economy. The Saudi Arabian economy has been oil-based ever since with the government controlling most of the industry. Income from oil accounts for 75 percent of the country's budget.



Word Definition
private enterprise:
 people running their own businesses



In the 1980s, realizing that oil wouldn't last forever, Saudi Arabia saw the need to diversify its economy. The government is encouraging private enterprise in areas such as power generation and natural gas exploration. As private enterprise grows, Saudi Arabia is moving to a mixed market economy, with 40 percent of its revenue coming from private businesses. Like most countries, Saudi Arabia has a mixed economy. Since about one-third of the Saudi work force comes from other countries, Saudi Arabia is working to educate and train its own large youth population in necessary skills.



Quick Quiz

The timeline is all mixed up. Number these events in the correct order.

See me when you get here.

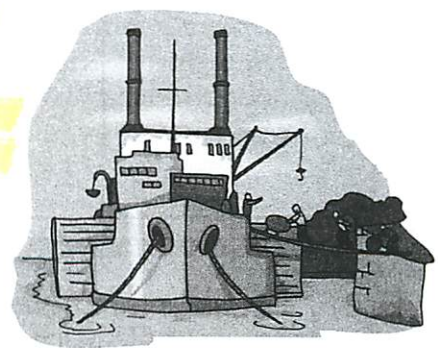
PAST

- A Saudi Arabia realizes oil won't last forever. ✓
- B Oil is discovered in Saudi Arabia. ✓
- C Saudi Arabia has a traditional economy. ✓
- D Saudi Arabia is working to educate its youth in necessary skills. ✓

FUTURE

Turkey

Reforms made in Turkey since the 1980s have moved it toward a mixed market economy. Historically, Turkey had a command economy. When Turkey was established as a republic in 1923, its ruler Mustafa Kemal believed the government should control and build the economy. The government invested in the country's infrastructure: dams, electricity grids, port facilities, railways, and roads. Turkey also developed important steel and weapons production industries. The state still has a major role in industry, banking, transportation, and communication, but private enterprise is growing in agriculture, textiles, and manufacturing. Kemal brought about the modernization of Turkey.



Geographically, Turkey lies partly in Europe and partly in Asia. Turkey is considered a developing nation and remains poor when compared to most European countries. Because most of its trade is with Western Europe, Turkey is trying to join the European Union (EU). The EU is a powerful group of European countries united for economic cooperation and strength. Joining the EU would provide necessary funding and loans for development and other benefits.



Quick Quiz

Answers only

Match the following items by placing the correct letter by the number.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| _____ 1. The government controls the total economy | A. Mixed economy |
| _____ 2. In Turkey, agriculture, textiles, and manufacturing are examples of this | B. Mustafa Kemal |
| _____ 3. First ruler of Turkey as a republic | C. European Union |
| _____ 4. Private enterprise combined with government-controlled resources | D. Private enterprise |
| _____ 5. Could help Turkey with funding and loans | E. Command economy |



Essential Skills

Copy the chart.

Complete the chart below comparing the economies of Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey.

Country	Type of Economy	What the Government Controls	Examples of Private Enterprise
Israel		X	X
Saudi Arabia			
Turkey			



Background Check

The city of Istanbul, Turkey sits on two continents—Europe and Asia! Istanbul used to be known as the ancient city of Constantinople.