

Settle & Do

Analyse the artefact

“Democracy is the worst form of government — except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time.”

— Winston S. Churchill

Read the questions below and jot down short ideas in each box. Be ready to share one idea.

1. Why might Churchill describe democracy as the “worst form of government”?

2. How might this quote apply differently in countries where democracy looks very different to the UK?

3. Can a system be fair even when it doesn't always feel efficient or perfect?

4. Does every democracy give people the same amount of voice and choice?

Activity 1 — Reality Check Quiz

United Kingdom

- Power shared between Parliament (elected by citizens) and the Prime Minister (leader of the winning party)
- Regular free elections
- Peaceful protests
- Open media, and freedom of speech
- Independent courts and a free press challenge unfair decisions

Weaknesses

- Some feel their vote doesn't count
- Low turnout, especially amongst young voters
- Distrust in politicians.

**People can speak out and change leaders —
but not everyone feels listened to**

United States

- Power split between the President, Congress, and Supreme Court
- Frequent elections at local and national levels
- Protest rights protected by law
- The Constitution limits government power; free press and courts act independently.

Weaknesses

- Political division
- Unequal voter access
- Influence of money

**Freedom is strong —
but unity and fairness can be hard to keep**

India

- The elected Prime Minister and Parliament lead a federal system across 28 states.
- Over 900 million voters
- Lively protests
- Active media, and large elections.
- Independent election commission and judiciary.

Weaknesses

- Corruption
- Religious tension
- Pressure on journalists

**A huge democracy — but sometimes freedom
depends on where you live**

Russia

- The President dominates
- Parliament and opposition have limited independence
- Elections exist but are tightly controlled
- Opponents face threats or bans
- The media and courts are mostly under state control

Weaknesses

- Few real choices
- Censorship
- Punishment for protest

People vote — but the outcome rarely changes

China

- The Communist Party runs the entire country; leaders chosen within the Party.
- No national elections; local ones exist but choices are limited.
- No independent courts or press; strict censorship and surveillance.

Weaknesses

- Limited freedom
- Punishment for dissent

**Order and progress come at the cost of
personal freedom**

North Korea

- Kim Jong-un and the ruling Party hold total control over every part of life
- No free elections
- No free speech and no protest
- No checks on power
- Loyalty to the leader is mandatory

Weaknesses

- Fear
- Propaganda
- Human rights abuses

**Complete control brings stability —
but no voice or choice**

Statement	Country/ Countries	Category	Why do you think so? (Evidence / clue)
The same party or leader has ruled for more than ten years.			
Elections happen, but opposition parties face limits or intimidation			
Leaders can be voted out by citizens in free, fair elections.			
One person or small group controls most decisions.			
Citizens can criticise the government openly.			
Peaceful protest is allowed, even when it causes disruption.			
Journalists and activists can investigate those in power.			
The media is partly or fully controlled by the government.			
Courts are independent and can limit government power.			
Elections take place, but results are often decided in advance.			
Information about the government is shared openly with the public.			
Citizens can challenge unfair decisions without fear.			
The ruling party decides who can stand for election.			

Reflection Sheet

Take a few minutes to think about today's lesson.

Answer the questions below - there are no right or wrong answers, just your honest thoughts.

1. What does real freedom look like in a democracy?

(Think back to the quiz — what surprised you about how much freedom people actually have in different countries?)

2. Why might people give up freedom for control — and what could they lose by doing that?

(Can you think of an example from the quiz or dilemmas?)

3. How well does the UK's democracy represent its people? Use examples from today.

(What strengths and weaknesses did you notice? What would make it fairer?)

Pick ONE option from below and answer the questions in the space provided:

Option A - Me & My Voice	Option B - Global Lessons
<p>When do people truly have a say — and when do they lose it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freedom in a democracy looks like... The moment it started to slip in one of the examples was... One way I can use my voice fairly is... 	<p>What can thriving or struggling democracies teach us?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From the quiz/dilemmas, one strong sign of democracy was... One warning sign of control was... A safeguard every country should protect is...

Choose your question: (Write the letter here)

Your answer:

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