


**SS.7.C.3.2**

Compare parliamentary, federal, confederal, and unitary systems of government.

**SS.7.C.3.2 Benchmark Clarification 2:** Students will compare the organizational structures of systems of government.

System of Government	Organizational Structure
Parliamentary	<p style="text-align: center;">Legislative Body &amp; Leader (Prime Minister)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↑</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The People</p> <p>Citizens vote for the political party they like best. The party that receives the majority of the votes comes to power in the legislature, and the legislature elects the leader.</p>
Federal	<p style="text-align: center;">Central Government ↔ States</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↑</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The People</p> <p>Power is shared and divided between the central government and the states. Citizens elect officials at all levels of government.</p>
Confederal	<p style="text-align: center;">State      State      State</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↑            ↑            ↑</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The People   The People   The People</p> <p>Independent states have their own powers. There is no central government. Citizens elect officials of their own state for the <b>legislative</b>, <b>executive</b>, and <b>judicial</b> branches.</p>
Unitary	<p style="text-align: center;">The People</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The People            The People</p> <p>The central government has all of the power. The people do not participate in the selection of leaders. The central government makes all decisions for the country.</p>

**executive** - the power of government to enforce laws, make sure laws are followed  
**judicial** - the power of government to interpret laws  
**legislative** - the power of government to make laws