**ANSWER KEY**

Government and Citizens Study Guide

1. What are the characteristics of a limited government?

*The government does not have absolute power/authority over citizens. The citizens restrict or have some control over government and have ways to restrict or control the government’s power.*

1. What are the characteristics of an unlimited government?

*The government has no restrictions on power or control. Citizens are subject to the government’s absolute power and control.*

1. In governments with limited power, what rights and involvement do citizens have in their government?

*Citizens have protected rights. Citizens often have freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion, and freedom of press. Citizens are able to participate in the government through voting and other civic responsibilities.*

1. In governments with unlimited power, what rights and involvement do citizens have in their government?

*Citizens do not have protected rights. Citizens have little or no freedom of speech, assembly, religion, or press. Citizens have no voice in their government.*

1. Which countries in the western hemisphere have a democratic government?

Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina.

1. What is a democracy?

A democracy is a type of government where the power of those in authority is limited because the people retain the supreme power. Citizens in a democracy have certain rights that are typically protected by an important document called the constitution.

1. What are the characteristics of an absolute monarchy? A constitutional monarchy? **Absolute monarchies**: unlimited power. No protected rights. No voice in government. **Constitutional monarchies**: does not have unlimited power. A constitution spells out what the ruler can and cannot do. Citizens are encouraged to participate in the government and elect representatives. Citizens have protected rights. **Both:** Same family rules for generations. Person with authority is born into a royal family. Tradition of allegiance through royal family.
2. What is a dictatorship? One ruler or small, powerful group. Unlimited power over the people, often by force. Citizens have no voice in their government. Citizens do not have protected rights.
3. Essay: Under which form of government would you prefer to live: a democracy, monarchy, or dictatorship? Why? Support your opinion by describing the three types of government including who has the power and how that power would affect your rights as a citizen. (Hint: Your answer will always be correct if you can correctly describe the different types of government.)

*Answers will vary*