

NZQA Assessment Support Material

Unit standard	27835				
Title	Demonstrate understanding of concepts of democracy and government				
Level	1	Credits	4	Version	2

Student guidelines

Introduction

During your Legal Studies programme you will learn about the concepts of democracy and government.

You will complete a number of activities in class which will develop your knowledge and understanding of:

- the characteristics of New Zealand's system of government and one other form of government. A characteristic is a key feature of a form of government and may include but is not limited to: suffrage, elections, human rights, media freedom, executive power, rule of law and judicial processes, treatment of minorities.
- relevant supporting detail such as: people and/or institutions involved; particular facts, events or processes; particular legislation; case law, media reports.
- a range of similarities and/or differences between each form of government.

AWARD OF GRADES

- For award with **Achieved**, you must be able to describe three characteristics for each of New Zealand's system of government and another form of government.
- For award with **Merit**, you must demonstrate clear understanding by including relevant supporting detail. Supporting detail may include but is not limited to any one of:
 - people and/or institutions involved;
 - particular facts, events or processes;
 - particular legislation;
 - case law, media reports.



AWARD OF GRADES - CONTINUATION



- For award with **Excellence**, the description demonstrates thorough understanding of concepts of democracy and government by including a range of similarities and/or differences between each form of government.

CONDITIONS OF ASSESSMENT

Assessors will set the conditions of assessment as appropriate.

Assessment activity

This assessment activity has three tasks.

Task One – New Zealand context

Concepts of democracy and government include: rule of law, checks and balances, separation of powers, rights and their limitations, civil liberties.

Characteristics of democracy may include: suffrage, elections, human rights, unrestrained media, constraints on executive power, rule of law and an independent judiciary.

1. For three of the concepts of democracy, explain the concept in terms of its relevant characteristic(s).
2. Identify a specific example from New Zealand that relates to each concept.

It may help to use this table to construct your answer.

Concept of democracy	Relevant characteristics	Specific example
1.		
2.		
3.		

Task Two – Iranian context

Read the passage and describe how concepts and characteristics of democracy were applied (or not) by the Iranian government by giving at least **one** real example.

The Supreme Leader

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini founded the position of Supreme Leader, with the purpose of placing this figure at the apex of the political structure in Iran. The current Supreme Leader is Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was appointed after the death of Ayatollah Khomeini in 1989. The Supreme Leader's top position is reflected in the fact that it is he, not the elected president, who appoints key state figures: the head of the judiciary; the Council of Guardians' six clerical members; and the supreme commanders of the country's armed forces. He also leads Friday prayers and is the head of radio and television.



It may help to use this table to construct your answer.

Concept of democracy	Relevant characteristics	Specific example

Task 3

Using supporting detail, such as: people and/or institutions; facts, events or processes; legislation; case law; and media reports describe at least **three** differences and/or similarities between:

- New Zealand's system of government
- Iran's system of government

Resource requirements

There are no specific resources required for this assessment.