Legal Studies Assessment Support Material

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| **Unit standard** | 27835 |
| **Title** | Describe concepts of democracy and government |
| **Level** | 1 | **Credits** | 4 | **Version** | 3 |

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**Ākonga/Learner Guidelines**

Introduction

In this activity, you will describe concepts of democracy and government in relation to three characteristics of New Zealand’s system of government and one other form of government.

Another form of government refers to a form of government, other than New Zealand’s, such as – theocracy, oligarchy, dictatorship, another form of democracy.

The concepts of democracy and government may include but are not limited to – rule of law, checks and balances, separation of powers, rights and their limitations, civil liberties.

A characteristic is a key feature of a form of government and may include but is not limited to – suffrage, elections, human rights, media, executive power, rule of law and judicial processes, treatment of minorities.

**Award of Grades**

* For award with ***Achieved***, you must be able to describe two concepts of democracy and government, in relation to three characteristics for each of New Zealand’s system of government and another form of government.
* For award with ***Merit***, you must describe two concepts of democracy and government by selecting and applying relevant supporting detail that may include but is not limited to any one of:
	+ particular facts and legislation;
	+ past or present events or processes from New Zealand and overseas;
	+ case law;
	+ news media reports.
* For award with ***Excellence***, the description of two concepts of democracy and government is demonstrated by:
	+ comparing two concepts of democracy and each form of government;
	+ selecting and applying a range of relevant supporting detail;
	+ drawing clear conclusions.

**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, media, executive power, rule of law and judicial processes, treatment of minorities.

1. For two concepts of democracy and government, 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 | Relevant characteristics | Specific example |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**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**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Concept of law | Relevant characteristics | Specific example |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**Task Three**

Compare two concepts of democracy and government (the New Zealand and Iranian forms), selecting and applying a range of relevant supporting detail and drawing clear conclusions.

**Resource requirements**

There are no specific resources required for this assessment.