**The Need for Government**

A. What is Government?

1. The ruling authority for a community or society

2. It has the power to make laws & to enforce (carry out) laws

3. Without government there would be anarchy –social state in which there is no

authority

B. What are the purposes of Government?

1. Keep Order

a. provide laws,

b. help prevent conflicts,

c. help settle conflicts

2. Provide Security

a. to defend citizens from crime

b. defend against foreign attack

3. Provide Public Services

a. Libraries, schools, hospitals, parks

b. Build & repair streets, bridges, etc.

c. Help the needy

4. Guide the Community

5. Create public policy

6. Budgeting –plan for collecting & spending money

C What different levels of Government exist?

1. National (federal)

2. State

3. Municipal (county & city)

D. What types of Government exist in the world?

1. Direct democracy

2. Indirect democracy (Representative)

3. Constitutional monarchy King + law making body + constitution

E. What are some characteristics of Democratic Government?

1. Competitive elections

2. Multiple Political Parties

3. Every person’s vote carries the same weight

4. Majority rule

a. people abide to what most citizens want, but respect the rights of the minority

b. Secret ballot

c. Right to express views

5. Legal requirements to vote are kept at a minimum

a. age

b. citizenship

c. residency

F. What are the Five Principles of American Democracy?

1. Rule of Law = All people, including those who govern are bound by the law

2. Limited Government = Government may only do those things that the people have given it the power to do

3. Consent of the Governed = American citizens are the source of all governmental power

4. Individual Rights = Rights that people are born with, protected by the government

5. Representative Government =People elect their leaders to make laws and govern on their behalf

G. What is an Authoritarian government ?

1. Unlimited authority & often limit freedoms of speech, assembly & the press

2. Absolute monarchy

3. Unrestricted power

4. Acquire power through inheritance

H. What is a Dictatorship?

1. Exercise complete control

2. Take power by force (usually)

3. Use military & police to remain in power

4. Impose totalitarian rule

a. Government control over all aspects of people’s lives

b. Suppress individual freedom

c. Control the media

d. Use propaganda & violence

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Right to express views

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\*modern examples –North Korea, Cuba, China, Myanmar