

An Introduction to Democracy

(10.1) Students relate the moral and ethical principles in ancient Greek and Roman philosophy, in Judaism, and in Christianity to the development of Western political thought.

Warm up

What is government?

(i.e. a government's role in society?)

Do you think government is necessary?

Why or why not?

Stranded on a deserted island...

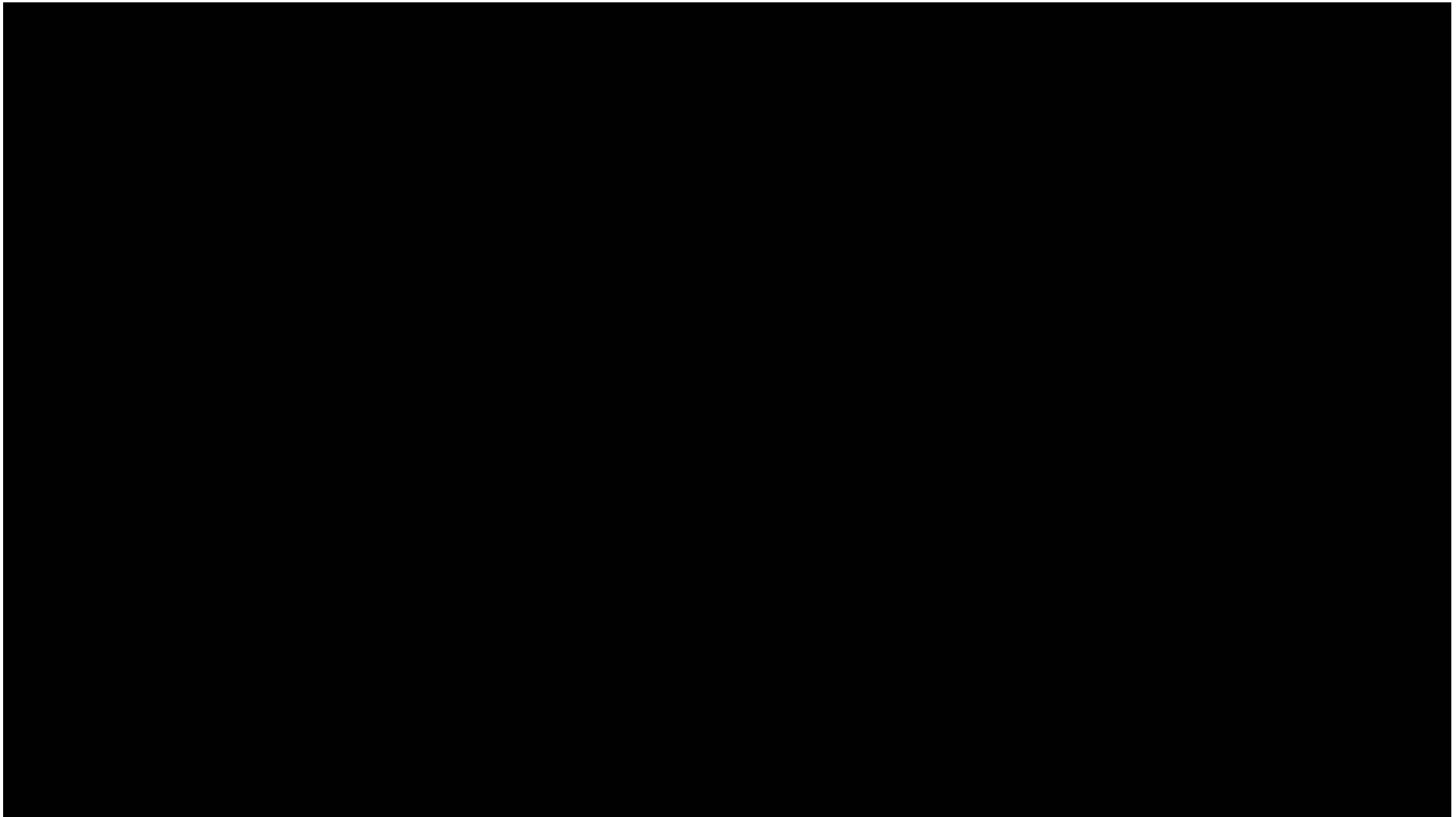


Deserted Island - Scenario 1

You fall asleep on a flight from Los Angeles to Sydney, Australia. You wake up on the beach of an island. The plane is in pieces scattered across the beach. There are 9 other survivors near you. You have enough materials to survive. The island contains numerous coconut trees, berries, and sea life (fish, crab, etc.).



Deserted island – LOST scene



Deserted Island - Scenario 1

As a group, think about your island community of ten people, then answer the following questions with your group **in complete sentences on your own sheet of paper** (everyone must write)

1. Is it necessary for each member of your group to own land or property? Why or why not?
2. How will resources (water, food, etc.) be distributed?
3. Who will be in charge of distribution?
4. Will you need to choose leaders? If so, how will you choose?
5. What will happen when people disagree with the leaders?
6. What are the three most important laws you will have?

Group Expectations

- Everyone must turn in their own paper with responses
- You should only be talking with your own group
- Stay seated
- Use polite academic language
 - Good: “I disagree with that idea because...”
 - Bad: “That’s stupid”

Government notes

Take notes on a new sheet of paper.

Government is a system by which a group of people (a community, state or nation) are ruled.

The ultimate goal of government is to maintain order.

Types of Government

1. **Monarchy** – Power of One

- A government with a *single* ruler and law maker
- Ruler(s) of a monarchy: **King, Queen, Monarch**
- Power is passed on through **family line**



Types of Government

1. Monarchy – Power of One

Benefits

- easy to make decisions
- clarity of who is in power
- monarch is able to focus on long-term goals

Drawbacks

- no system of keeping the ruler in check (*checks and balances*)
- citizens lack a voice
- monarch can do whatever he/she wants over the people

Types of Government

2. **Aristocracy** – Power of the **Best**

- A government run by **nobility** (the royal ruling class)
- Power is given based on **social status** and **wealth**



Types of Government

2. **Aristocracy** – Power of the **Best**

Benefits

- easy to make decisions
- clarity of who is in power
- aristocrats are able to focus on long-term goals
- aristocrats are likely to be more educated

Drawbacks

- no system of keeping the rulers in check (*checks and balances*)
- citizens lack a voice
- aristocrats can do whatever they want over the people

Types of Government

3. Oligarchy – Power of the Few

- A government ruled by a small group of privileged people
- Power is given based on wealth and ability
- Ruling group controls the military

“ LEAVE THE
THINKING
TO US. ”

-THE OLIGARCHY

Types of Government

3. Oligarchy – Power of the Few

Benefits

- easy to make decisions
- clarity of who is in power
- rulers are able to focus on long-term goals

Drawbacks

- no system of keeping the rulers in check (*checks and balances*)
- citizens lack a voice
- rulers can do whatever they want over the people

Types of Government

Aristocracy v.s. Oligarchy

| Aristocracy | Oligarchy |
|---|---|
| Government of the <i>special ruling class</i> - the nobility | Government of the <i>elite</i> - a small group of rulers who are not a part of a ruling class *negative connotation |

Types of Government

3. **Oligarchy** – Power of the **Few**



Inside North Korea

- National Geographic
(February 2007)
- [http://
www.youtube.com/
watch?
v=mxLBywKrTf4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mxLBywKrTf4)
(00:00 – 15:04)



Inside North Korea (National Geographic, 2007)



What is your view of the North Korean government? Why?

Types of Government

4. **Democracy** – Rule of the **People**

- A government where the **people have the power**
- People use this power by **voting** for issues and leader(s) to represent them



Types of Government

4. **Democracy** – Rule of the **People**

Benefits

- protects the interest of the people
- based on the principle of equality
- system of checks and balances

Drawbacks

- uninformed voters
- government of the rich
- difficult to achieve long-term goals and bring about effective change

Types of Government

4. **Democracy** – Rule of the **People**

2 important principles of **democracy**

Self-government

Individual liberty

Types of Government

Democracy v.s. Direct Democracy

| Democracy | Direct Democracy |
|---|--|
| People elect representatives to make decisions for them. | Citizens vote on nearly every issue in government. People vote <i>directly</i> . |

Deserted Island - Scenario 2

A month after the crash you realize you are not alone. There are a total of 150 survivors who landed in other parts of the island. Now that you have discovered each other, all 150 survivors come together to make a plan for the future of the island.



Deserted Island - Scenario 2

On your own, make the following decisions then answer them in complete sentences on your own sheet of paper:

1. Is it necessary for each member of your group to own land or property? Why or why not?
2. How will resources (water, food, etc.) be distributed?
3. Who will be in charge of distribution?
4. Will you need to choose leaders? If so, how will you choose?
5. What will happen when people disagree with the leaders?
6. What are the three most important laws you will have?

Personal Response (1 paragraph)

1. How did your society change with more people?
2. Did it become more democratic or less democratic? Why?
3. Was it easier to make decisions for ten people or 150 people? Explain your answer.