

Governments organize their institutions to serve the fundamental purposes for which government is established. Participation in the political process reflects the degree to which governmental power is limited.

The two most common ways to organize institutions of the central government

A federal system of government (United States and Mexico)

Powers are shared between levels of government; powers are separated and shared among the branches of the national government.

A unitary system of government (Great Britain)

All governmental power is vested in the central government, which may choose to delegate some of its authority; this type of government often has a parliamentary system. The legislative branch holds both legislative and executive powers. The executive is chosen by the legislature.

The student will demonstrate knowledge of how governments in Mexico, Great Britain, and the People's Republic of China compare with government in the United States by

- a) describing the distribution of governmental power
- b) explaining the relationship between the legislative and executive branches
- c) comparing the extent of participation in the political process.