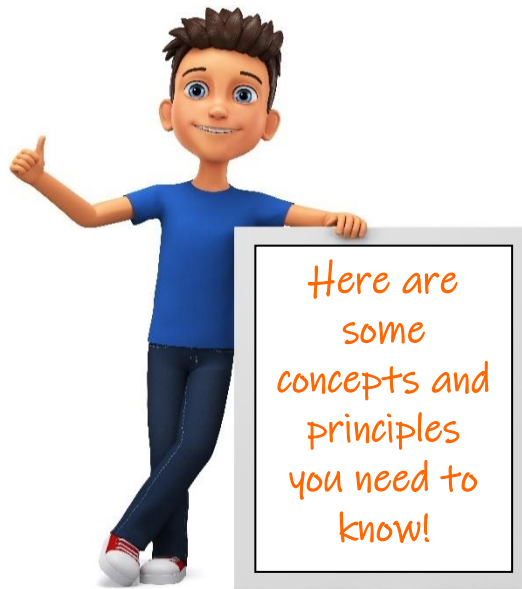


# STUDY TASK CARD 6

Australia's system of governance is democratic.  
Our democracy protects human rights and is supported by the rule of law.

**What does a society that endeavours to follow the rule of law and protect human rights look like?**



- ✓ All people, including the government are ruled by laws and obey them
- ✓ All people are treated fairly and equally under the law of the land
- ✓ Separation of powers between those who make the rules and those who enforce them
- ✓ Have access to justice that is fair and prompt according to the laws at the time
- ✓ Have equal rights and freedoms, including what religion they follow and what beliefs they have
- ✓ Can own property
- ✓ State of law and order

**Not everyone lives in a society where the rights and freedoms of individual citizens are recognised and supported by the governing authority they live under.**

In fact, not all countries have a governing system that supports the rule of law and human rights as we know it in Australia!



## What is government, and what role does it play in our lives?

A government is most effective when the rule of law prevails, and human rights are protected. Let's look at what a government is and identify the important responsibilities and roles it should have in order to successfully support the people who live under its management.

- Government is an organisation that determines the way in which a country, state, township, city, or village is run.
- Laws and policies are made at each of these levels and support the management regarding everything connected to the daily life of a community.
- All citizens, including the government are willing to abide by the laws and policies set by the government.
- Laws are not arbitrary and can be reviewed by representatives of the community.

There are many different forms of governance that countries around the world have adopted, to manage their citizens. Each system has a set of basic concepts and structures that underline how they operate. Some systems have been developed over a great deal of time.

When those in power have absolute power, they make rules for the citizens to obey, which they and the government and law enforcement are not required to obey. This is called *rule by law*.

Let's take a closer look:

### AUTOCRACY

This system has a single ruler where one person has all the power

Examples include:

- **Monarchy** – this is when a king (or queen) has absolute power, and particularly evident during medieval times when the *feudal system* was in effect.
- **Dictatorship** – another form of absolute power where one person rules.

*Citizens who live under these types of rule are oppressed, have no justice and find their day to day existence a great struggle to survive.*

Examples throughout history include:

- German Fuhrer **Adolf Hitler** (1889 – 1945)  
He initiated the second World War
- President of Iraq **Saddam Hussein** (1937 – 2006)
- Syrian President **Bashar al-Assad** (1965 – present day)





## DEMOCRACY

This system involves representatives of the people being in control by deciding who they want to have in positions of government.

The citizens hold the political power by electing leaders to represent their rights and interests in government. A democracy can also exist in small group organisations such as a workplace, or even your classroom!

## OLIGARCHY

A small group of people who have all the power.

- Immensely wealthy group which has influence in political systems. These wealthy few often make sure that all government decisions will benefit them to create and grow their immense personal wealth through *corruption*.
- Military JUNTA ('hoonta') – this is a dictatorship where the military rule by force through imposing *martial law*. A country is placed in a state of emergency.

## RELIGIOUS RULE

Also known as a *Theocracy*.

This is an ancient system of rule where a government recognises God or a divine being as the ultimate authority. Strict religious beliefs are infused into civilian life to control its citizens. A group of leaders is guided by a divine being and the states legal system is based on religious law. An example of this is a country called IRAN.

## ANARCHY

No rules or laws – a state of lawlessness that creates *chaos*.

what are other words for lawlessness?

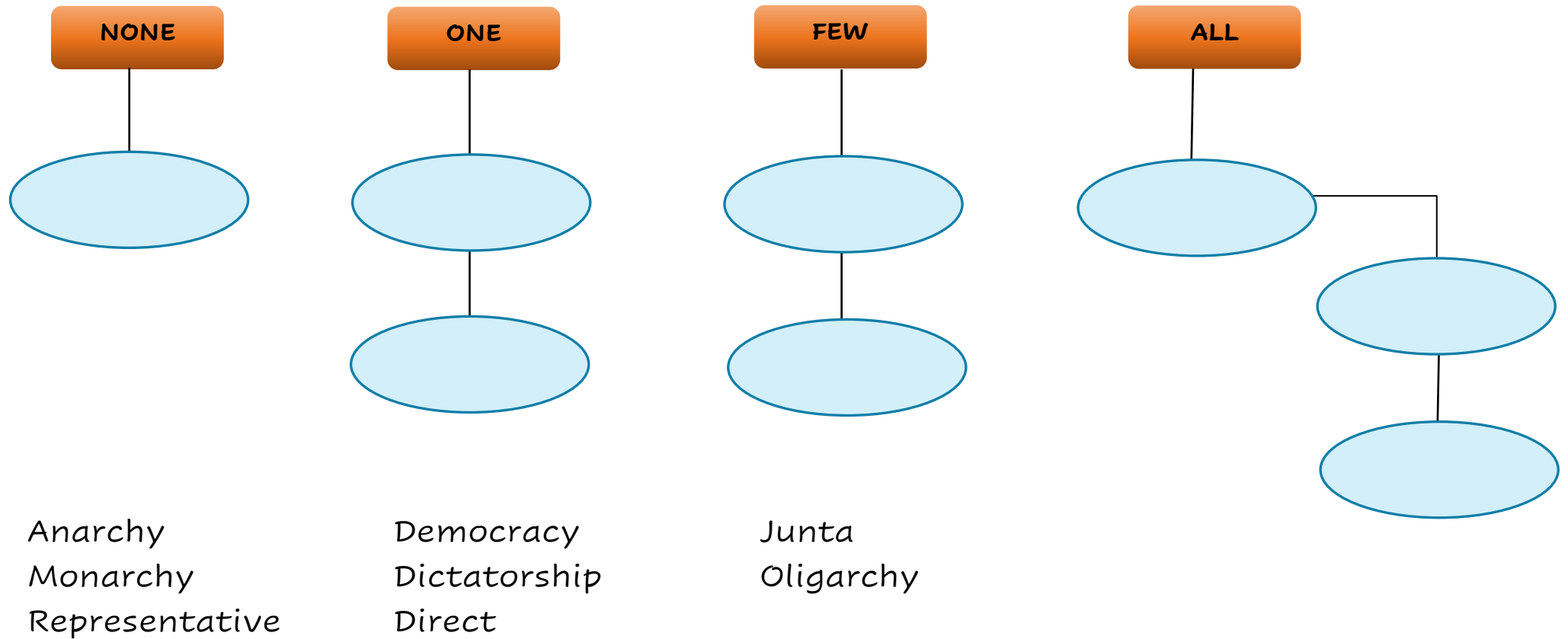
anarchy, disorder, chaos, confusion, crime, criminality, misrule, disturbance, illegality, unlawfulness



- No government is in control, or there is no trust in the government
- No laws or law enforcement
- A country does not have anarchy – but anarchy can exist in a country
- More of state of condition – not a state of governance

Prevalent when a government system breaks down and is VERY dangerous for citizens to live under. Examples of this can be found in parts of Africa, such as Somalia and Syria.

The terms below are all mixed up.  
Fit each one of these types of governance into the correct boxes:



# ANSWERS

Fit each one of these types of governance into the correct boxes .....

**NONE**

Anarchy

**ONE**

Monarchy

Dictatorship

**FEW**

Oligarchy

Junta

**ALL**

Democracy

Representative

Direct – small group org



**RULE OF LAW**

EDUCATION CENTRE