

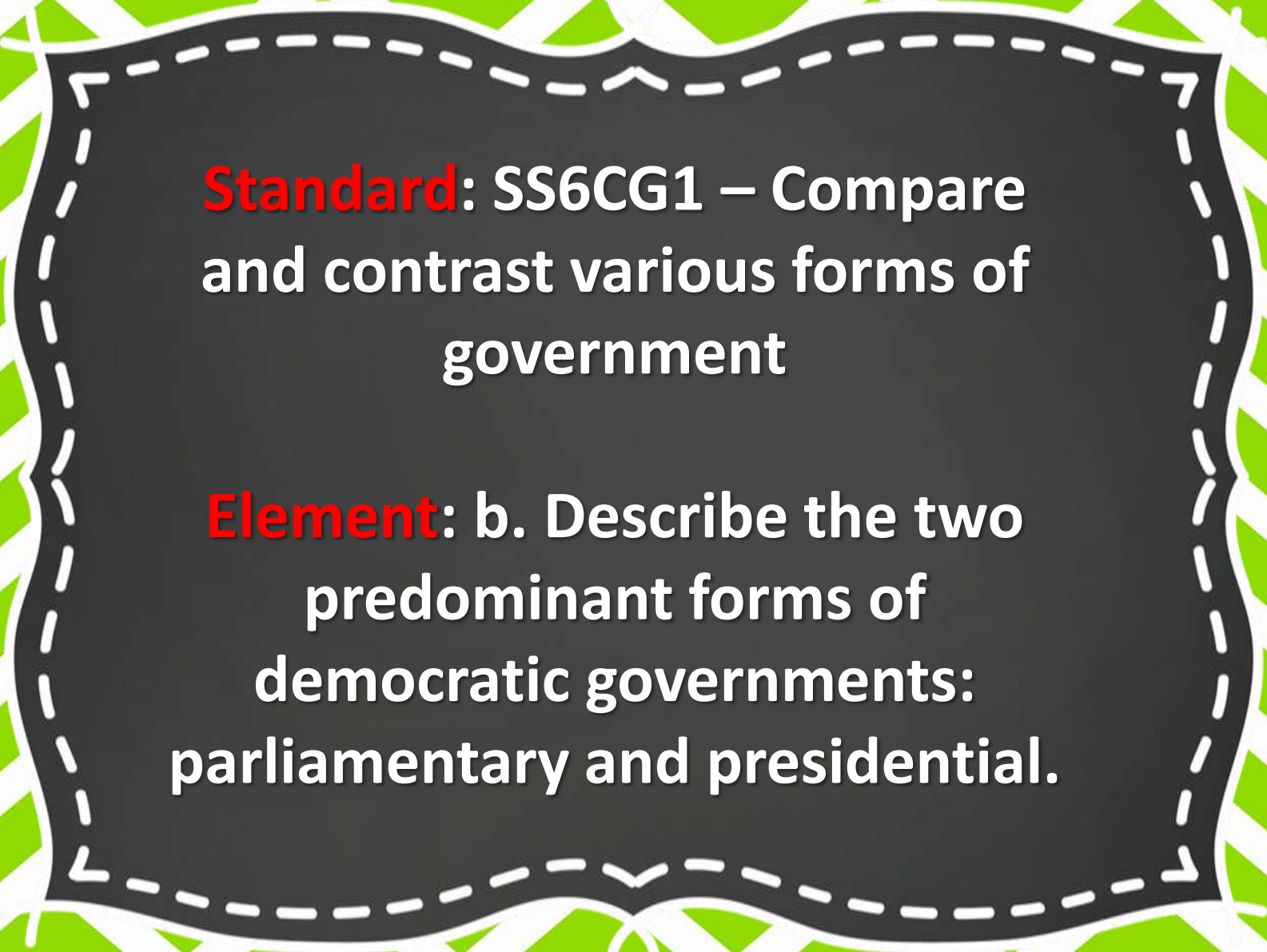


Brainy Yak



GOVERNMENT





**Standard:** SS6CG1 – Compare and contrast various forms of government

**Element:** b. Describe the two predominant forms of democratic governments: parliamentary and presidential.



## Parliamentary Government

Democracies may be classified as either **parliamentary** or **presidential**.

In a **parliamentary democracy**, the citizens elect members of the nation's legislature (typically referred to as its parliament).

Parliament then elects the nation's chief executive (typically called a **prime minister**.)

In a parliamentary democracy, the citizens vote for someone who will then vote for the head of state.

## Parliamentary Government

This prime minister (head of government) is selected from among the members of the nation's leading **political party** (i.e; those who won the most seats in parliament.)

Cuba's government exercises a **parliamentary system** not **parliamentary democracy**.

**Parliamentary System IS NOT the same thing as  
Parliamentary Democracy.**



## Parliamentary Government

Cuba's government is considered a **parliamentary system** and not a **parliamentary democracy** because only members of the **Communist party** are permitted to run for political office.

One could say they were a democracy if the **people** voted and elected officials **directly**.

While the citizens have the right to vote, they can only vote for members of the same political party.

In Cuba there is only one political party.

## Parliamentary Government

In a presidential democracy, the **citizens** have the power to elect both the nation's **legislators** and its **chief executive** (president).

The head of government (or state) in a presidential democracy is held accountable to the **VOTERS** who put him/her in power.



If the voters are not pleased with how the head of government is performing, they can vote someone else in their place.