

# **SS1 Government - Basic Concepts of Government**

## **Power**

Definition:

Power is the ability or capacity of a person or group to influence or control the actions, behavior, and decisions of others. In government, power is the means by which leaders enforce laws and make decisions for the welfare of the state.

Types of Power:

- Political Power
- Economic Power
- Military Power
- Social Power

Sources of Power:

- Constitution
- Law
- Tradition
- Wealth
- Force or coercion

Importance of Power:

- Enables government to maintain law and order.
- Helps in policy implementation.
- Ensures national security.

## **Authority**

Definition:

Authority is the legal or rightful power to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience. It is the recognized right to exercise power.

Types of Authority (According to Max Weber):

- Traditional Authority (based on customs and traditions)

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- Legal-Rational Authority (based on law and procedures)
- Charismatic Authority (based on personal qualities of the leader)

Differences Between Power and Authority:

Power		Authority
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May or may not be legal		Always legal and recognized
Can be enforced by coercion		Based on consent of the people
May involve force		Does not necessarily involve force

Importance of Authority:

- Ensures obedience to laws.
- Provides legitimacy to rulers.
- Helps maintain stability in government.

### Legitimacy

Definition:

Legitimacy is the acceptance and recognition by the people that a government or ruler has the right to exercise power and authority.

Sources of Legitimacy:

- Free and fair elections
- Constitution
- Popular support
- Performance and delivery of good governance
- International recognition

Importance of Legitimacy:

- Builds trust between government and citizens.
- Reduces opposition and rebellion.
- Promotes peace and stability.

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### **Sovereignty**

Definition:

Sovereignty is the supreme power of a state to govern itself without external interference. It is the absolute authority of the state over its territory and people.

Types of Sovereignty:

- Internal Sovereignty (control over people within the state)
- External Sovereignty (independence from other states)

Features of Sovereignty:

- Permanence
- Exclusiveness
- Indivisibility
- Absoluteness

Importance of Sovereignty:

- Ensures independence of the state.
- Allows government to make laws.
- Prevents foreign interference in domestic affairs.