**Comparing Governments**

**Government and Economy Analysis**

**Your Name** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Choose one country for analysis: France, India, Japan, Mexico, or Venezuela. Contact your instructor if you wish to examine a different country.**

Your Chosen Country France

1. **Use the CIA World Factbook and Freedom House websites to learn about your chosen country. Answer the following questions based on the lesson and your research in complete sentences:**

* What type of government does the country have? Describe how it structures authority.

France is a semi-presidential republic; it combines elements of presidential and parliamentary systems. The President, directly elected by universal suffrage for a five-year term, is the head of state, and he enjoys a very important position, with the power to appoint the Prime Minister, who is the head of government. The Parliament is bicameral, comprising the National Assembly and the Senate, which perform legislative functions.

* Does the country have features of democratization, meaning are there signs it is moving closer to or away from democracy? Explain.

France has deep-seated democratic institutions, a common occurrence of free and fair elections, an incredibly vibrant civil society, and well-protected civil liberties. Yet, over the last couple of years, there has been some controversy over the use of constitutional provisions—most notably Article 49.3—which allows the government to enact legislation without full parliamentary debate, something some see as an erosion of traditional democratic procedures.

* Is this country's economic system closer to a command or to a free market economy? Use at least one fact in your response.

France represents a mixed economy that balances free-market principles and a high level of state involvement. The government influences different types of economic activities with the aim of achieving a balance between economic efficiency and social equity through regulatory laws and social welfare programs, among others. For example, the share of public expenditures in France's GDP remains one of the highest in respect to social services.

* How does the country’s economy compare to that of the United States? Use at least one data figure in your response, such as GDP per capital

In this comparison of the economy between France and that of the United States, France's GDP per capita is approximately $55,200 for 2023, whereas that of the United States enjoys a higher per capita income. It means people in the United States are getting an average higher income as compared to the ones living in France.

* + To what extent does the country’s government and economic system support or conflict with U.S. principles? Use one specific principle in your explanation. (Recall that some of the principles are limited government, rule of law, and individual rights.)  
    Both France's government and economic system, though parallel in many instances of U.S. principles pertaining to the rule of law, include respect for individual rights; this will also be found in similar constructions of democratic government and a free-market economy. However, France conceptualizes and thus applies the notion of limited government, where there is more significant state intervention into economic and social affairs compared to what transpires within the United States—the meaning of governance and its relationship to economic management.