

Italy's Government and Its Elections: Video Questions

Directions: While watching the European Studies Center's Teachable Moments video on the Italian Government and Elections, please answer the questions below.

1. What form of government does Italy have?
2. What type of government system does Italy's government follow?
3. Name the three major branches of the Italian government.
4. Who runs Italy's government?
5. How does the role of President in Italy differ from the U.S.?
6. Name the two houses in Italy's Parliament.
7. How many seats or representatives are in each house?
8. How old do you have to be to serve in each house?
9. As of 2018, about how many parties does Italy have?
10. What were the two major parties in Italy from post-World War II up until 1992?
11. What happened to the political parties in Italy following the major corruption investigation known as Tangentopoli in 1992?
12. In 2011, what major issue ended Berlusconi's era?
13. What two votes do Italians have in their elections? Name the two ways the results are gathered.
14. What does the new 2017 election law, Rosatellum, force Italian political parties to do? Why?

Teacher's Answer Sheet

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1. A republic
2. A parliamentary system (follow-up with a discussion on how this differs from the presidential system in the United States)
3. A president, a bicameral parliament, and a judiciary
4. The prime minister
5. The role of President in Italy is ceremonial; President names the Prime Minister after general elections
6. The Lower House and the Senate
7. 630 in the Lower House and 315 in the Senate
8. You must be 25 years old to serve in the Lower House and 40 years old to serve in the Senate
9. 17
10. Christian Democrats and the Communists
11. Generally speaking, the parties reorganized. The center-left and the communist party reorganized. The communist party was no longer in existence after Tangentopoli. The center-right experienced a populist movement beginning in 1994 led by Berlusconi.
12. The Berlusconi era ends in 2011 because of Italy's financial crisis
13. The Italians have one vote for each house of the legislature—the Lower House and the Senate. The results are gathered by first-pass-the-post (the candidate of choice and whomever receives the most votes wins; approximately 37% of the seats are allocated in this way) and another for a party list (a proportional method with roughly 63% of seats allocated in this way)
14. Build coalitions; having a 40% majority of votes no longer leads to a majority in the government



Comparing US & Italian Governments

Objective: Students will be able to identify the major differences between the federal governments in Italy and the United States.

Directions: While watching the European Studies Center's Teachable Moments video on the Italian Government and Elections, please complete the table below with information about Italy. Access prior knowledge or research information on the United States to complete the right-hand column.

	Italy	United States
Government		
Executive Branch		
Legislative Branch		
Political Parties		

Additional Research Links

General Information about Italy's Government

1. CIA World Factbook: Italy (see "Government" tab)
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/it.html>

Articles about Italy's 2018 Elections and Its New Government

1. Council on Foreign Relations: Italy's New Government Could Be the Force That Finally Breaks Europe
<https://www.cfr.org/article/italys-new-government-could-be-force-finally-breaks-europe>
2. The New York Times: Italy's New Populist and Anti-Establishment Government Is Sworn In
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/01/world/europe/italy-government-populist.html>
3. Reuters: Italy's Conte sworn in as PM of anti-establishment government
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-italy-politics/italys-conte-sworn-in-as-pm-of-anti-establishment-government-idUSKCN1IX49T>

