

The Democracy Index by “The Economist Intelligence Unit”

What is it and how to use it to compare governments?

Learning Target: I can compare democracy to another form of government.

Overall questions to answer:

1. In your opinion, what is democracy really?
2. How can one measure how democratic a country is?
3. How can someone compare two countries to see which country is more democratic?
4. For each of the following types of government, what Democracy Index scores does a country need to earn?
 - a. Full democracy:
 - b. Flawed democracy:
 - c. Hybrid regime:
 - d. Authoritarian regime:

Exercise #1: Add columns A, B, C, D, and E. Then divide that number by 5 to calculate the score for the final column.

	A	B	C	D	E		
Country	Fair and regular elections	Protecting the rights of all people	How well the government works	Political Participation	Political Culture	Total Score (Add columns A + B + C + D + E Together)	Final Democracy Index Score (Divide the total score by 5)
United States	9.17	8.53	7.50	7.22	8.13		
Canada	9.58	10.00	9.29	7.78	8.75		

Which country, the United States or Canada, is more democratic according to these numbers?

Exercise #2: Add columns A, B, C, D, and E. Then divide that number by 5 to calculate the score for the final column. Finally, label government type.

	A	B	C	D	E	Add Columns	Divide by 5	Type of Government
Country	Fair and regular elections	Protecting the rights of all people	How well the government works	Political Participation	Political Culture	Total Score	Final Democracy Index Score	
Belarus	1.75	2.65	3.93	3.89	6.25			
Belgium	9.58	9.41	8.21	5.56	6.88			
Bosnia/Hercegovina	6.50	6.76	2.93	3.33	4.38			
Croatia	9.17	8.24	6.07	5.56	5.63			
Finland	10.00	9.71	8.93	7.78	8.75			
France	9.58	8.82	7.14	7.78	6.88			
Germany	9.58	9.12	8.57	7.78	8.13			
Greece	9.58	9.41	5.36	6.67	6.25			
Italy	9.58	8.53	6.43	7.22	7.50			
Norway	10.00	10.00	9.64	10.00	10.00			
Romania	9.17	8.53	5.71	5.00	5.00			
Russia	3.08	3.53	2.86	5.00	2.50			
Spain	9.58	9.41	7.14	6.67	8.75			
Sweden	9.58	10.00	9.64	9.44	10.00			
Ukraine	5.83	6.76	3.93	5.56	5.00			
United Kingdom	9.58	9.41	7.14	6.67	8.75			

According to these numbers, which is the most democratic of these countries? Which is the least democratic?