**3 branches of Gov’t**

LEGISLATIVE:

Yeah. It’s the legislative branch. I’m the one that pass the laws. So if you want to make something happen, you’ve got to go through me.

EXECUTIVE:

It’s the executive branch. Who’s calling the shots in the oval office?

JUDICIAL: Yeah, yeah, it’s the courts. Judicial.

It goes check, check to stay balanced,

Not just one, we bring three talents.

The powers? Got to keep ‘em separated,

That’s the motto, we made it.

3 branches of government, that’s all:

Legislative writes the laws,

Executive executes laws — so official,

The court system is Judicial.

LEGISLATIVE:

I’m the legislative branch, I write laws,

Without me, it’d be anarchy of course.

Say my name: I’m called Congress,

Sitting on Capitol Hill, kid that’s honest.

Made up of the Senate and the House of Reps,

We write a bill and send it to the President’s desk.

We legislate, and we roll deep,

535 members in my clique, see?

Senate? Each state sends two,

100 senators in all, that’s how we do.

The House of Representatives is by population,

Cali reps the hardest, no debating.

If my bills get a Presidential veto,

I can override that with enough people.

I wrote the budget and I’m passing the laws,

Now I’mma grab the mic and pass it off...

EXECUTIVE:

Oh, hey Congress — sometimes I need to mess with your plans,

I carry out laws, I’m the Executive branch,

I’m the president, roll with the VP and cabinet,

And I’ll veto your laws if I’m not having it.

So hail to the commander in chief,

All the armed forces need to follow me.

My powers been blossoming since George Washington

Stepped to the office and did awesome things.

I’ve got a bowling alley in my home,

Where I call in air strikes from invisible drones.

Who appoints the Cabinet and judges too?

The boss in the Oval Office that’s who.

JUDICIAL: Check check, I’mma keep it short,

The Judicial system, I’m the courts.

My highest court, that’s Supreme,

All 9 justices know what I mean:

Nominated by the pres, confirmed by the Senate,

No term limits, they serve a life sentence.

Plead your case, it’s not unusual,

For me to rule a law unconstitutional.

LEGISLATIVE:

So I write a law.

EXECUTIVE:

Well, I might veto it.

LEGISLATIVE:

And I can override that, you know it.

EXECUTIVE:

Man, I’m executive, the one that carries it out.

JUDICIAL:

It can get challenged in the courts, that’s what I’m all about.

I might declare it unconstitutional.

LEGISLATIVE:

I can impeach judges who act unusual,

EXECUTIVE:

I nominate justices in the first place.

LEGISLATIVE:

I can impeach you too if you step out of place.

3 branches of government, that’s all:

Legislative writes the laws,

Executive executes laws — so official,

The court system is Judicial. (x2)

It goes check, check to stay balanced,

Not just one, we bring three talents.

The powers? Got to keep ‘em separated,

That’s the motto, we made it.

**Forms of Government**

I know you guys in America have your democracy, and that’s awesome, but in my country, we’ve been through every form of government. Let me tell you about it.

You might not know who is making the rules,

But there is some form of government that’s governing you.

And when people get disillusioned,

That’s when we see a revolution.

In my land, you need to ask who’s running it,

We’ve lived through every single form of government.

It started out, we didn’t have any laws,

People did whatever they wanted just because.

That’s anarchy, no government at all,

People robbed and killed in the free-for-all.

No police, just gangs and bandits,

Until some families joined up and demanded,

A king to rule over the land,

And when the king died, his kids ruled after him,

Which means that we lived in a monarchy,

Where crowns and thrones move through the family.

Until somebody flat out got sick of it,

Led an armed revolution just to go against.

Overthrew the king and kidnapped his kids,

Overnight we lived in a dictatorship.

One single person calling all of the shots,

Power-tripping in his palaces or one of his yachts.

So much propaganda from the state-controlled media,

And harsh punishments if we beefed with the leader, yep.

You might not know who is making the rules,

But there is some form of government that’s governing you.

And when people get disillusioned,

That’s when we see a revolution.

But the dictator died and the army started running it,

A few leaders controlling the whole government,

That’s an oligarchy, and the heads of military,

Ruled by force which was really pretty scary.

With war on their mind we lived through violent times,

And the laws were designed to help the more refined.

Till the church made it a crime to live this way,

Religion should be the law for how we live each day.

With laws built by religious leaders now in charge.

It was a theocracy, laws came from god —

Or one religion’s version. We still couldn’t vote,

Oppressive rule still shaped the country no joke,

It was OK if you agreed,

but anyone who didn’t was probably getting beat.

We wanted a voice, and we wanted to be free,

We organized as a direct democracy,

Where everyone gets to vote on all the laws,

Everyone has a voice, cuz we’re all in charge.

Things got better and you know how it showed?

The population began to explode.

With so many people to be spoken for,

They had to better organize just to ensure,

That we all were represented and this just means,

That we became a representative democracy.

With a lean new team built around a constitution,

And elected officials who upheld and used it.

It’s been long a story, and it never ends,

Cuz another revolution might come again.

You might not know who is making the rules,

But there is some form of government that’s governing you.

And when people get disillusioned,

That’s when we see a revolution.

**Political Parties**

We’re reporting live from the political party, come on.

Come on, everybody,

We're about to check out a political party.

But not like a birthday, more like a group,

Of like minded people who share a point of view.

When it comes to our government,

We have a few.

Republican, Democrat,

and some more too.

2 different parties, but sometimes it’s better,

When the parties all party together.

Welcome to the party, but it’s political,

Where sticking together gets real critical.

Every party you see has a platform,

A list of views and issues going on.

Who's joins the party?

The candidates, running for office in ya city and ya state.

In the US we have a 2 party system,

Republican & Democrat,

But don't forget some

Smaller parties like Libertarian or Green,

And a few other parties that are on the scene.

The founding fathers first tried to stick it all together,

But they disagreed, eventually that led to

Two parties forming, no surprise,

Each had different views on the government’s size.

George Washington once dropped some knowledge,

Said all political parties ought to be abolished.

Come on, everybody,

We're about to check out a political party.

But not like a birthday, more like a group,

Of like minded people who share a point of view.

When it comes to our government,

We have a few.

Republican, Democrat,

and some more too.

2 different parties, but sometimes it’s better,

When the parties all party together.

Democrat, Republican - what's the difference?

Let me break it down now, listen.

Democrats are the Donkey,

Their color is blue.

They're liberal, on the left,

And they believe in universal healthcare.

And that government should help

So it needs to be larger and tax the wealthier Americans.

More gun control,

And regulations to help the environment, yo.

Republicans’ color is red — they are the elephant,

Conservative and on the right is their element.

They believe the government should play a small role,

With fewer social programs to keep taxes low.

They often oppose environmental regulation,

So businesses can carry on their operation.

Private healthcare, less gun control,

Those are basically the viewpoints that each party holds.

So come on, come on, come on —

Come on, everybody,

We're about to check out a political party.

But not like a birthday, more like a group,

Of like minded people who share a point of view.

When it comes to our government,

We have a few.

Republican, Democrat,

and some more too.

2 different parties, but sometimes it’s better,

When the parties all party together.

Yeah yeah yeah, that was the coverage of the political party, you know. We got to hang out with everyone tonight, the Republicans, Democrats...

**Presidential Election**

Yeah, yo, when you cast that next ballot you should vote for me,

'Cause I’mma be the next president.

I’ll be the president, boss of bosses,

In the White House, Oval Office.

F-L-Y in Air Force One,

Gonna be the president, but first I gotta run.

If you want to run for the presidency,

You’re gonna need a lot of cheese and you’re gonna need to be

35 years old, American-born.

How do I know? The Constitution says so.

Talk it over with your fam, make your decision,

Then make the announcement if you have the ambition.

Hook up with a party, they’ll help you fundraise,

They’re like a team, and that can go a long way.

And your party is a quick way to know where you stand,

You could be a Democrat or a Republican.

To get your party’s approval, you will

Have to win a primary election, man that’s brutal.

Each state votes at different times,

So you’ll be kissing babies at the local fish fry.

You’ll be traveling from state to state,

Doing TV spots and having debates.

One by one, knocking your opponents out the race,

Digging up dirt to expose their past mistakes.

Primaries go from January to June,

And if you get the most votes, then pretty soon

Your party will call you the nominee,

Now it’s time for to pick your VP.

The wannabe Vice President, your running mate,

Somebody with appeal, pick the right candidate.

I’ll be the president, boss of bosses,

In the White House, Oval Office.

F-L-Y in Air Force One,

Gonna be the president, but first I gotta run.

So you’ve been nominated at the convention,

Now we head into the general election.

It’s the fall and there are more debates,

Do you know your foreign policy? Get it straight.

Pick issues you can treadmill, I mean run on,

Start you’re rallies bumping a song.

Make sure you’ve got flags — people love flags,

And make sure your pockets stay fat.

Ask supporters for cash to run the ads,

Be a gladiator, stay on the attack.

You’re gonna pay attention everyday,

To the swing states that could swing either way.

First Tuesday in November, election day,

Everybody casts their votes, OK.

But it’s not a popular vote, I acknowledge,

It’s a weird thing: the Electoral College.

States gets a number of electoral votes,

That equals their members of Congress, woah.

So some votes carry more weight,

For that reason, some wish it would go away.

Anyway, that night, we gaze at screens,

Trying to figure out what the numbers mean.

Get the most electoral votes,

And you’ll be the next President who’ll be bringing us hope.

The loser will have to concede,

But if there’s no majority, let’s see.

It’ll be decided by the House of Reps,

That hasn’t happened in a while, yeah, I bet.

You won, but you’re not the president yet,

You need to wait until January 20th.

You’ll be sworn in, and then you just may

Be the next president of the USA.

I’ll be the president, boss of bosses,

In the White House, Oval Office.

F-L-Y in Air Force One,

Gonna be the president, but first I gotta run.

**Questions:**

1. What are the three branches of government?
2. Which branch writes laws?
3. What is the Legislative Branch often called?
4. What are the two parts of the Legislative Branch?
5. Which branch carries out the laws?
6. Who makes up the Executive Branch?
7. Which branch includes the federal courts?
8. Forms of gov’t: What do you call it when there's no government at all?
9. Forms of gov’t: What is a government ruled by a king and a royal family called?
10. Forms of gov’t: What do you call a government that features mostly religion-based laws?
11. Forms of gov’t: What is a government led by a single person called?
12. Forms of gov’t: What do you call a government led by a small group of people?
13. Forms of gov’t: What do you call a government in which all decisions are made by the people?
14. Forms of gov’t: What is a government with elected officials called?
15. Forms of gov’t: What do we call the change from one government to another?
16. **Political Parties:** True or false: Republican and Democrat are the only two political parties in the US.
17. **Political Parties:** True or false: At first, there weren't political parties in the US.
18. **Political Parties:** Which party believes in smaller government?
19. **Political Parties:** Which party is more conservative?
20. **Political Parties:** Which party supports more government assistance for the poor?
21. **Political Parties:** Which party is more in favor of protecting the environment?
22. President: How old do you have to be to become president?
23. What do you have to do to become your party's nominee?
24. Where are nominees officially announced?
25. When is the general election?
26. Is the election decided by popular vote?
27. Who decides the winner if there is no majority?