Essay and Discussion Questions: Forms of Government

Explain
1. What distinguishes democracy from autocracy?
2. What distinguishes direct democracy from representative democracy?
3. What distinguishes presidential democracy from parliamentary democracy?
4. What distinguishes a communist system from a capitalist system?
5. What distinguishes left-wing and right-wing ideologies?
6. What are the pillars of a democracy?
7. What factors are important to a successful revolution?

Analyze
8. Why is democracy an attractive form of government? Why is authoritarianism?
9. How is a government’s choice of economic system tied to its goals and values?
10. Why has democratic backsliding increased since 2005?
11. How do the pillars of democracy contribute to a healthy, functioning government?
12. What sorts of grievances lead to revolutions?

Evaluate
13. What form of government do you think is best? Why?
14. What do you think can be done about democratic backsliding?