

Name _____

Variations in Political Parties Across Different Countries

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Advantages and disadvantages of multiparty systems compared to two-party systems can vary. Multiparty systems allow for a broader representation of political ideologies and viewpoints but can lead to more complex coalition-building processes, potentially causing governmental instability. Two-party systems offer simplicity and clearer choices for voters but may limit political diversity and alternative voices.
2. Regional or ethnically-based parties contribute to diversity and inclusivity by representing the specific interests of particular regions or ethnic groups. They ensure that these voices are heard in the political arena and that policies address their unique needs. However, this diversity can also lead to challenges in achieving national consensus.
3. Single-party systems concentrate power in a dominant party, which can lead to efficiency in policy implementation but often suppresses political dissent and lacks checks and balances. Opposition parties play a limited role and may face restrictions. However, the system's stability can promote long-term planning and governance continuity.
4. Protest and single-issue parties face challenges in gaining significant political influence due to their narrow focus on specific issues. However, they can raise awareness, mobilize public support, and hold larger parties accountable for addressing these issues within the political discourse.

