

Name _____

Oligarchy: Rule by the Few

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Limited political participation in an oligarchy challenges the government's legitimacy because it can lead to feelings of exclusion and disenfranchisement among the majority. To address this, measures such as political reforms, increased transparency, and inclusive decision-making processes can be implemented to involve a broader range of citizens in governance.
2. Oligarchs' specialized knowledge or expertise can impact policies and governance positively when their expertise is used for the benefit of the majority. However, it can also lead to policies that prioritize the interests of the wealthy elite, potentially exacerbating social and economic inequalities.
3. Striking a balance between the interests of the few in power and the welfare of the majority in an oligarchy can be challenging but not impossible. Implementing policies that address inequality, promote transparency, and engage citizens in decision-making processes can help achieve this balance.
4. Oligarchies often exacerbate social and economic inequalities by prioritizing the interests of the wealthy elite. Policies that benefit the few at the expense of the majority can widen these inequalities and lead to social unrest. To mitigate these issues, policies aimed at reducing inequality, promoting economic opportunity, and providing social services can be introduced to benefit a broader range of citizens.

