

We live in democracy....

so what?

A	Anarchy	1	Ruled by a single leader. The leader has not been elected and may use force to keep control
B	Democracy	2	There is no government some people rebel against government
C	Dictatorship	3	A central government shares power with a number of smaller local governments
D	Federal Government	4	There is only one political party. People are forced to do what the government tells them to.
E	Communist	5	The government is elected by the people. Everyone eligible to vote can have their say

Index of Democracy

The Economist collated lots of information about how all of the worlds countries are run.

Information included human rights, elections, politicians actions and the general lifestyle of citizens

Every country was then ranked in order of how democratic it is



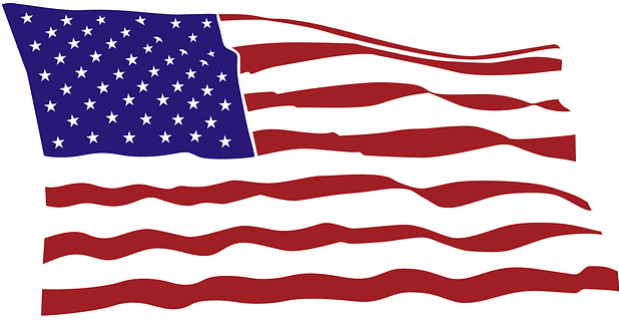
Most democratic = 1

Least democratic = 147



Can you put these in order?

USA



Ghana

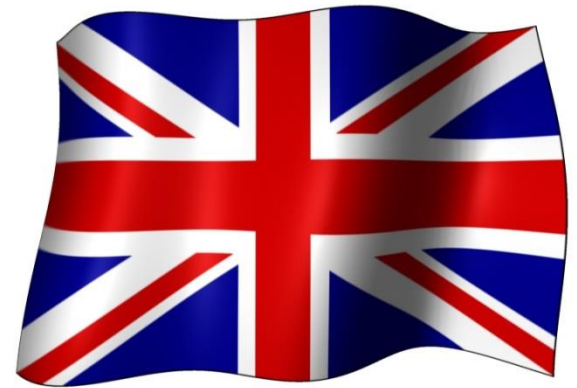


Sweden



North Korea

UK



What does it mean if you live there?



-
- Everyone over the age of 18 is able to vote.
 - There are regular elections, but the government gets to choose when they are.
 - The media is separate from the government and so is able to criticize it without fear.
 - There are hundreds of political parties registered in , but only two of them stand a chance of winning an election.
 - The Queen is the head of state, and technically can dissolve (get rid of) the government in power. No one votes for the Queen as her position is hereditary (i.e. it is passed down from parents to children).



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Hi. I'm a boy called Bae. We had a major famine in the 1990s. We are a single-party state. Our country is totalitarian. People in our country who speak out against the way we are treated face torture, starvation, rape or murder. There are even work camps here, where people who clash with our leaders are held. Our leaders do not want us to communicate with other countries. For example, we are threatened with the death penalty if we listen to music from South Korea. Sadly, we are seen to be the least democratic country in the world.



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Hi. I'm a girl called Katina. My country has a royal family and a prime minister. There are 21 counties in my country. Each county is divided up into municipalities - there are 290 of these in total. The main religion here is Christianity but there are plenty of others too. Our well known cities are Gothenburg and Malmo, and our capital is Stockholm. There is no better place to live in the world than here as far as democracy is concerned!



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(1 = SWEDEN)



So what?

- ▶ Democracy is an important element of freedom in society
- ▶ Democracy needs to be protected
- ▶ Democracy needs to be participated in at all levels

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6GR-9-nB-YE>



What can I do?

- ▶ School Council
- ▶ Youth Parliament
- ▶ Being an active citizen

