

Examples of Concept (alternate)

Directions: Read the following four examples. After you read each example, go to your blank chart and fill it out. Read #1, and answer all four questions on your chart for concept example #1. Once you are done go on to #2 and repeat the same steps until you are finished with example #4.

1. King Phillip of Spain (1556-1598)

- Centralized Royal power by making all parts of the government his responsibility.
- Phillip believed that his authority to rule came from God.
- He saw himself as guardian of the Church and defended the Catholic Reformation.
- Phillip had control of the army and navy, and used them to impose the Inquisition against Protestants and heretics.
- The Spanish middle class had no government representation, and could not avoid being heavily taxed by Phillip to fund his wars and build the Spanish Armada.

2. King Louis XIV of France (1643 -1715)

- King Louis XIV is quoted as saying "L'etat, c'est moi," or "I am the state," believing he was the only one responsible for governing France.
- "As God's representative on Earth, the king was entitled to unquestioning obedience."
- Louis lived in Versailles, the most magnificent palace in Europe. It was full of the finest artwork, chandeliers, and mirrors, and was surrounded by beautiful gardens and forests.
- During his seventy two year reign Louis XIV never called upon the Estates General, the legislative body of France, to meet.
- The king revoked the Edict of Nantes and taxed his people at will in order to wage war against the Dutch and English.

3. Peter the Great (1682-1725)

- Peter the Great is credited with modernizing Russia after a return to his country from Western Europe.
- As Tsar of Russia, Peter is known as one of the most autocratic monarchs in Europe.
- He believed that his right to rule came from God.
- In order to centralize his power, he brought all Russians under his control, including the Orthodox Church.
- He forced nobles known as boyars to serve in either the military or state government.
- Peasants and serfs were required to work on roads, canals, government projects or serve in the military.
- In the process of improving Russian technology, education, and military, Peter executed thousands of people who challenged his power.

4. King Frederick III (1648-1670)

- In 1665 Frederick passed the King's Law which stated that he and his successors would be revered and considered the most perfect and supreme person on earth by all subjects.
- According to his law he stood above all human laws and judges in spiritual and secular matters except God Alone.
- He ignored the advice of nobles, took complete control of the government and military and abolished the only legislative branch known as the Rigsraadet.

Concept Example	Who rules the country?	What power do they have?	Where does their power come from?	Are there any checks and balances?
1				
2				
3				
4				