

Understanding the State and Government

Chapter 18: The State, the Government, and You · Topic 1

Key Concept

A state has four key elements: population, territory (defined borders), government, and sovereignty (the power to govern without external control).

Government refers to the group of people and institutions responsible for creating laws, implementing policies, and maintaining order within a state.

Governments can have different branches, like the legislature (makes laws), executive (implements laws), and judiciary (interprets laws), often working together with checks and balances.

Understanding the difference between a state and its government helps us see that governments can change (through elections) while the state itself continues to exist.

Quick Revision Notes

- A state has population, territory, government and sovereignty.
- Sovereignty means governing without external control.
- Government makes and enforces laws.
- Government has legislature, executive and judiciary branches.
- Legislature makes laws.
- Executive implements laws.
- Judiciary interprets laws.
- Governments can change while the state continues to exist.

Practice Questions

- 1 List the four elements of a state.
- 2 Explain the three branches of government.
- 3 Discuss an example of the legislature making a law.
- 4 Discuss an example of the executive implementing a policy.
- 5 Explain why governments can change but states remain.
- 6 Research India's branches of government.