

Democracy: in ancient Athens and in present-day Quebec

1. Complete in the following table on the differences between a dictatorship and a democracy. Check the political system that matches the statement on the left.

	Dictatorship	Democracy
Right to vote		
Right to demonstrate		
Several political parties		
I am the present political system in Canada		
The Head of State is above the law		



2. Lawmaking in Athens around 500 BCE.

(a) Laws were drafted by members of a democratic institution called a _____.

That institution was composed of _____ citizens. They were _____ every year from among all Athenian citizens.

They discussed then prepared bills.

(b) Bills prepared by the Boule were then presented to the _____, which is a kind of citizens' assembly.

All citizens could attend to _____ for or against the draft laws presented. If the _____ of citizens present vote "for", the draft law is _____. If the majority vote against, it is _____.

The presence of at least _____ citizens (out of 34,000 Athenian citizens at the time) was required in order to hold the vote.

(c) When a person is accused of having committed a crime, but pleads not guilty, a _____ must be held.

In Athens, _____ citizens, randomly selected, heard _____ and examined evidence. Then they voted. If the _____ believed that the accused was guilty, he or she was automatically declared guilty. This "peoples' court" was called the _____



3. Lawmaking in Québec

(a) In Québec, the 125 _____, elected by Québec citizens, present draft laws (called bills) to the _____ of Québec.

Each MNA must _____ the citizens of his or her region (constituency).

(b) In Québec, a law is voted on generally by a show of hands, and either passed or rejected.

To repeat, the _____, who represent their _____, vote for or against a bill.

Often, they vote according to the stated values of the _____ that they represent.

(c) Today, citizens accused of having committed a crime must be judged in a _____. They have the right to be represented by a _____.

In some cases, a _____ determines the guilt or innocence of the accused.

In other cases, guilt is determined by a group of _____ people (a jury) randomly selected from among all citizens. The jury's decision must be _____, which means they must all agree.

4. Indicate the political and legal system or systems that the following statements refer to.

	Athens around 500 BCE	Present-day Québec
Citizens turn out to vote for or against draft laws.		
The people who draft the bills also vote for or against them.		
Justice is rendered "in public".		
Jury members are chosen randomly from among all citizens.		

5. The concept of citizen through the ages.

	In Athens around 500 BCE	In present-day Québec
Who can become a citizen?	• • • •	• • •
Rights of a citizen	• • • •	• • • •

6. Debate time! Are you for or against the following statements? Explain why you think this way.

(a) Our MPs/MNAs should be randomly chosen from among adult Québec citizens.

For Against

(b) Elections should be abolished and replaced by surveys.

For Against
