



**Benchmark: C1a**

<b>United States</b>	<b>Iran</b>
<u>Structure of Government:</u> Constitution-based federal republic; strong democratic tradition	<u>Structure of Government:</u> theocratic republic
	

Source: CIA Fact Book

<https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html>

**Brief Constructed Response Prompt:**

How might differences in the cultures and histories of these two countries explain differences in their structures of government?

**Possible Response(s):** Answers will vary; one possible response...

The United States and Iran have different forms of government because the two countries are fundamentally very different in many ways. One primary difference is the role religion in government. The citizens of U.S. values separation of church and state and thus religion plays little to no role in the government. Iran's current government, on the other hand, was formed as the result of a religious revolution that sought to install an Islamic state.

**Rubric**

**2** = This response gives a valid explanation for both influences (history and culture).

**1** = This response gives a explanation for one influence.

**0** = inaccurate or no response