

**Benchmark:** \_\_C1a\_\_

Read the following excerpt from Otto von Bismarck’s memoirs. Then answer the question that follows:

*“Late in September, after being prime minister, I gave a speech that created some excitement... I had said that we will not get nearer the goal of German unification by speeches, associations, and decisions of majorities. Only blood and iron, I stated, would settle the issue. I insisted that Parliament must place the greatest possible weight of blood iron in the hands of the King of Prussia. The king feared the consequences of this speech, predicting that my policies would result in our execution. I responded by saying to him that ‘we must all die sooner or later, and we can perish more honorably’ I am fighting for my king’s cause, and Your Majesty sealing with your own blood your rights as king by the grace of God.”*

**Brief Constructed Response Prompt:**

How might Bismarck’s comments illustrate the relationship between different cultures and structures of government? Support your answer with evidence.

**Possible Response(s):** Students may offer a variety of plausible responses.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Rubric**

- 2** = This response gives a valid reason with an accurate and relevant explanation.
- 1** = This response gives a valid reason with an inaccurate, irrelevant, or no explanation.
- 0** = inaccurate or no response