



Lesson Two:

Lesson One: Sources of Law in Qatar
Student Version
Handout 2.1

Name _____

Lesson Two Vocabulary Words

Article: one of the essays or paragraphs that make up a publication, such as magazines, or the Qatar Constitution.

Citizen: a native or naturalized member of a state or nation who owes allegiance to its government and is entitled to its protection.

Constitution: a document that sets forth the basic principles and laws that define a country's system of government, the powers of the government, and the rights and duties of citizens. The authority of a constitution is grounded in the will of the people, who agree to be governed according to the constitution's terms.

Culture: the beliefs, social forms, and material traits that define a social group.

Custom: a long-established practice common to many people from a particular place or habit, which is considered an unwritten law. (Recommended Vocabulary K-9, Qatar English Standards, Grade 4)

Declarations and reservations: statements that clarify how a nation plans to interpret or implement a treaty.

Government: the office, authority, or functioning organization that makes laws and controls a political unit such as a city, state, or country.

Right: a claim or title, whether legal, prescriptive, or moral: You have a right to say what you please.

Tradition: an established, customary and characteristic pattern of thought, action, or behavior such as a social or religious practice, passed from generation to generation by word of mouth or example.

Ratify: to formally agree to the terms of.

Shari'a Courts: Courts governed by the body of Islamic law.

Treaty: an agreement between two or more nations.



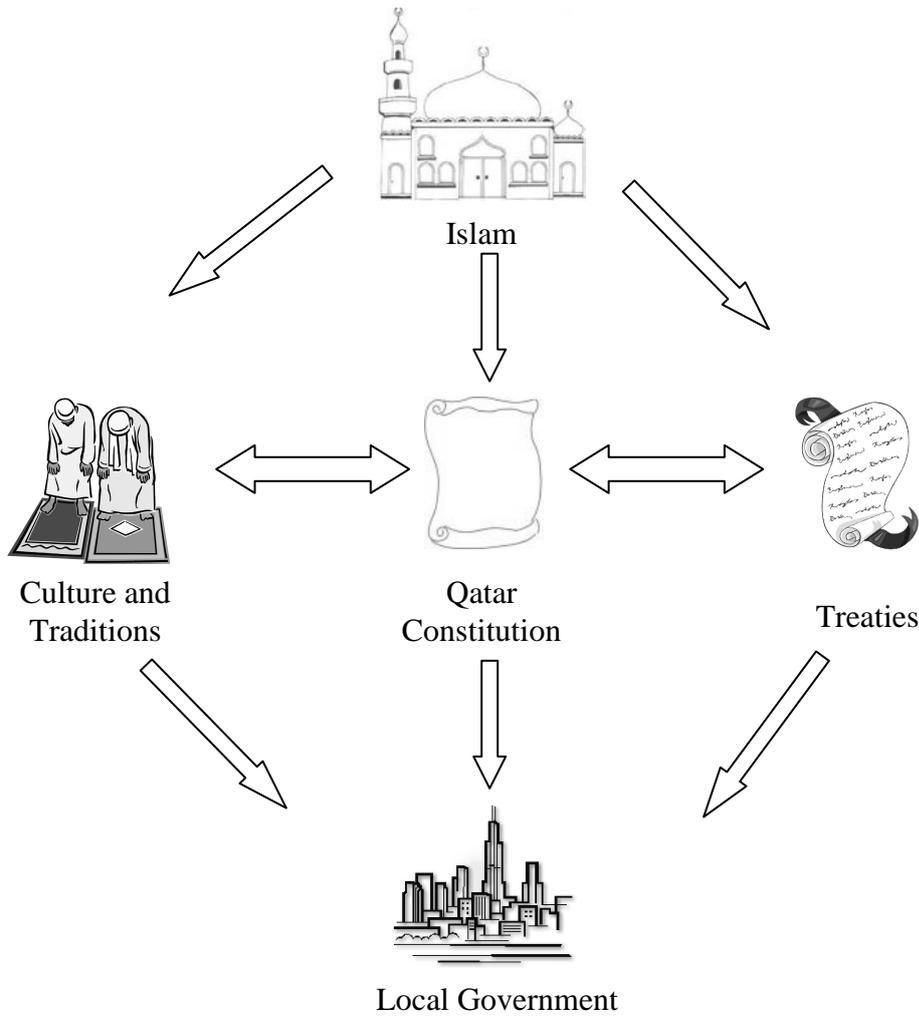


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Sources of Law in Qatar



Instructions: Use the chart to answer the following questions, and write your answers on the lines provided.

1. According to the chart, how does Islam relate to the other sources of law?

2. The chart shows Islam as a source for Qatari customs and traditions. Describe a Qatari custom or tradition that reflects Islam.





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3. According to the chart, what are sources of law for the Constitution?

4. According to the chart, what is the relationship between the Constitution and national and local laws?

5. Where would your school's rules fit on the chart?

6. Out of all of the sources of law on the chart, which sources are most important to you in your everyday life? How important are they to informing law in Qatar on the chart? Are they as important on the chart as they are in your life? Why do you think there may be differences?





Name _____

Writing the Qatar Constitution

Help! Jamal is so confused! His Qatar Constitution is all mixed up and needs to be put back in order. Can you help Jamal?
Match the most important ideas from the Qatar Constitution in the right column to the corresponding sections in the left column.

The State and Bases of Rule

Blueprint for the organization of the Qatari government, including the Amir and Council Members.

Public Rights and Duties and equality.

Establishes social values of Qatar, including security, stability,

Organization of Powers

Announces Qatar as an independent Arab state and defines governmental authority.

The Guiding Principles of Society

Lists public rights and duties, citizen's rights, and duties within the government of Qatar.

Good! Now, what comes first? What comes last?

Jamal is so happy you were able to help him match the sections of the Qatar Constitution. Now he needs help putting them back in order and into the constitution. Can you do it? Jamal is counting on you! Put the sections of the Qatar Constitution in the correct order by writing number 1, 2, 3, and 4 next to the first, second, third, and fourth sections. Then use that list to fill the sections in the correct order in the Qatar Constitution.

_____ The Guiding Principles of Society

_____ The State and Bases of Rule

_____ Public Rights and Duties

_____ Organization of Powers

**Thank you for helping Jamal!
He is so happy to have his Qatar Constitution back in order!**



Qatar Constitution

Section 1

Section 2

Section 3

Section 4



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Reading the Qatar Constitution

Instructions: Read the following excerpts from the Qatar Constitution, and use them to answer the questions. Write your answers on the lines provided.

Article 1

Qatar is an independent sovereign Arab State. Its religion is Islam and Shari'a law shall be a main source of its legislations. Its political system is democratic. The Arabic Language shall be its official language. The people of Qatar are a part of the Arab nation.

1. What relationship does this article establish between Islam and the Constitution?

2. What is the significance of this relationship?

3. How is this relationship reflected in the chart?

Article 8

The rule of the State is hereditary in the family of Al Thani and in the line of the male descendants of Hamad Bin Khalifa Bin Hamad Bin Abdullah Bin Jassim. The rule shall be inherited by the son named as Heir Apparent by the Emir. In the case that there is no such son, the prerogatives of rule shall pass to the member of the family named by the Emir as Heir Apparent. In this case, his male descendants shall inherit the rule. The provisions of the rule of the State and accession shall be determined by a special law that shall be issued within a year commencing as from the date of coming into force of this Constitution. This law shall have the power of the Constitution.

4. According to the Constitution, how are rulers of the State determined?

5. How is rule of the State passed from person to person?

6. On the chart, customs and traditions from Islam are shown on the same level as the Constitution, all as sources of law. How do the procedures in Article 8 of the Qatar Constitution reflect Qatari and Islamic customs and traditions?





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PART TWO

The Guiding Principles of the Society

Article 18

The Qatari society is based on the values of **justice, benevolence, freedom, equality, and high morals.**

Article 19

The State shall maintain the pillars of the society and ensure **security, stability, and equal opportunities** for all citizens.

Article 20

The State shall strive to strengthen the spirit of **national unity, cooperation, and fraternity** among all citizens.

Article 21

The family is the basis of the society. A Qatari family is founded on religion, ethics, and patriotism. The law shall regulate **adequate means to protect the family, support its structure, strengthen its ties,** and protect **maternity, childhood, and old age.**

Article 22

The State shall provide **care for the young,** and protect the same from **corruption, exploitation,** evils of **physical, mental and spiritual neglect.** The State shall also create **conducive circumstances** for developing their capabilities in all fields based on sound education.

Article 23

The State shall foster **public health;** provide means of **prevention** from diseases and epidemics and their cure in accordance with the law.

Article 24

The State shall foster, preserve and help disseminate **sciences, arts, cultural and national heritage,** and encourage scientific research.

Article 25

Education is one of the basic pillars of social progress. The state shall ensure, foster, and endeavor to spread it.

1. According to Part 2 of the Qatar Constitution, what are some of the things that the State of Qatar will provide its citizens?

2. How does the State provide these services already?





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3. What impact do these promises made by the Qatari government in the Constitution have on you? Your family? Your community?

PART THREE

Public Rights and Duties

Article 35

All persons are **equal before the law** and there shall be no discrimination whatsoever on grounds of gender, race, language, or religion.

Article 36

Personal freedom shall be guaranteed and no person may be arrested, detained, searched, neither may his freedom of residence and mobility be restricted save under the provisions of the law; and no person may be subjected to torture, or any degrading treatment; and torture shall be considered a crime punishable by law.

Article 37

The sanctity of human **privacy** shall be inviolable, and therefore interference into privacy of a person, family affairs, home of residence, correspondence, or any other act of interference that may demean or defame a person may not be allowed save as limited by the provisions of the law stipulated therein.

Article 38

No citizen shall be banished neither shall he be denied re-entry to his country.

Article 39

An accused person is **presumed innocent** until his conviction is proved before a court of law wherein the necessary guarantees of the right of self-defense are secured.

...

Article 44

The right of the citizens to **assemble** is guaranteed in accordance with the provisions of the law.

...

Article 46

Individuals have the right to **address public authorities**.

Article 47

Freedom of expression of opinion and scientific research is guaranteed in accordance with the conditions and circumstances set forth in the law.





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PART FOUR Organization of Powers

Chapter One: General Provisions

Article 59

The **people** are the source of power, and they shall exercise the same in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.

Article 60

The system of Government is based on the **separation of powers** and shall be exercised in collaboration with the manner specified in this Constitution.

Article 61

The **Legislative Authority** shall be vested in Al-Shoura Council as prescribed in this Constitution.

Article 62

The **Executive Authority** shall be vested in the Emir and he shall be assisted by the Council of Ministers as specified in this Constitution.

Article 63

The **Judicial Authority** shall be vested in courts of law as prescribed in this Constitution; and court judgments shall be pronounced in the name of the Emir.

1. According to Section Four of the Constitution, what are key elements of the Qatari government?

2. What responsibilities do we have to Qatar in order for this Constitution to govern its citizens?

3. How might we help preserve the Rule of Law in Qatar?





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Reading Treaties with the Qatar Constitution

Instructions: Read the following excerpts from the Qatar Constitution, and the treaty, and use them to answer the questions. Write your answers on the lines provided.

Article 68

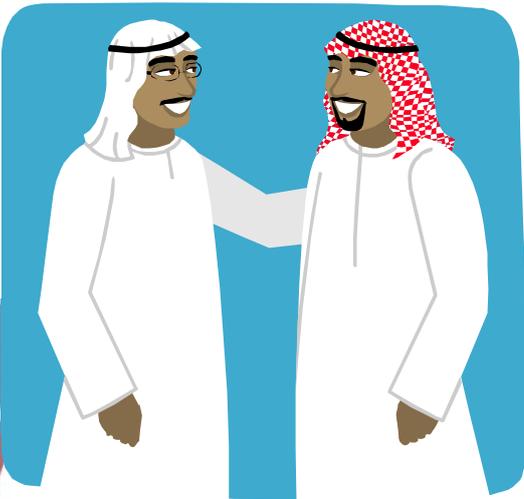
The Emir shall conclude treaties and agreements by a decree and refer them to Al-Shoura Council accompanied with appropriate explanatory notes. The treaty or agreement shall have the power of law after ratification and publication in the official Gazette; however, reconciliation treaties and treaties pertaining to the territory of the State or those relating to the right of sovereignty or public or private rights of the citizens, or those that involve an amendment of the laws of the State shall come into force when the same are issued as a law. Under no case may a treaty include secret conditions contradicting its publicized conditions.

1. Based on your reading of Article 68, what is a treaty? _____

2. According to the Constitution, who may make treaties? _____

3. How do treaties compare to laws in terms of power?

4. May treaties contain any secret conditions? Is this a good idea? Why or why not?



5. Can you think of any treaty that Qatar has made with another nation?

6. Why might nations make treaties?





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Qatar is part of several global treaties. An important treaty that Qatar has ratified is the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. When nations **ratify** international treaties, they often make **declarations and reservations**. Read Qatar’s reservation to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child:

Reservation made upon signature and confirmed upon ratification:

[The State of Qatar] enter(s) a general reservation by the State of Qatar concerning provisions incompatible with Islamic Law.

7. What does Qatar’s reservation mean?

8. How does Qatar’s reservation relate to statements made in the Qatar Constitution?

9. Where are treaties on the chart, from page 1? Does this reservation fit into that model?





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What is the Qatar Constitution?

When your grandparents were your age, this Qatar Constitution was not law. This constitution is new to them. They know you are learning about the constitution in school, so they have come to you asking you to teach them about this new Qatar Constitution. What would you tell them? What are the most important lessons you have learned about the constitution in school? Write a few paragraphs explaining the Qatar Constitution to your grandparents.

