



## Structure of Government

<b>Government Activity</b>	<b>Is this primarily a federal, state, or local responsibility?</b>	<b>What are the benefits of having these decisions made at this level?</b>	<b>How/when are the other branches involved?</b>
Issuing driver's licenses and making the rules of the road.			
Maintaining relationships with other countries			
Running public libraries and maintaining parks and trails			
Coining (issuing) money			
Overseeing much of the legal process – trying people for breaking the law and punishing those found guilty.			
Operating the police force and fire department			

## Structure of Government – Answer Key

Government Activity	Is this primarily a federal, state, or local responsibility?	What are the benefits of having these decisions made at this level?	How/when are the other branches involved?
Issuing driver's licenses and making the rules of the road.	<b>State</b>	<b>State identity (different licenses/license plates); keeps rules consistent across a larger area than local control</b>	<b><u>Federal</u></b> – there may be national regulations about driving tests, size of highways, etc. <b><u>Local</u></b> – towns/cities maintain local roads and local police departments monitor them.
Business conducted between states	<b>Federal</b>	<b>Someone needs to have the final say, what if the states disagree? Also offers consistency/equality between states</b>	<b><u>State</u></b> – set rules for elections; sends representatives to the federal government
Running public libraries and maintaining public parks and trails	<b>Local</b>	<b>Local governments will know most what their communities need and want from these facilities</b>	<b><u>Federal</u></b> – National Parks/Forests; may grant money to fund projects <b><u>State</u></b> – State parks also exist and may be used by small communities
Coining (issuing) money	<b>Federal</b>	<b>It would be too confusing to have each state have their own currency - how would people in MA buy things in NH?</b>	<b>Never</b> – this power is expressly designated to the federal government in the Constitution
Overseeing much of the legal process – trying people for breaking the law and punishing those found guilty.	<b>State</b>	<b>Small communities may not have the resources to maintain a courthouse/prison and the volume at the national level would be too large</b>	<b><u>Federal</u></b> – Cases may get elevated if appealed, there are federal prisons as well as state <b><u>Local</u></b> – police forces and jails/courthouses can be locally operated
Operating the police force and fire department	<b>Local</b>	<b>The local community members will be best able to serve their own needs</b>	<b>Assistance may come from the state and federal levels in cases of emergency</b>