

government/ cabinet/ administration  
*Am E* - vláda  
 government - správa/ řízení/ vedení/ vláda  
 body of high-ranking members - orgán  
 vysoce postavených členů (vlády)  
 represent the executive branch - repre-  
 zentovat/ představovat výkonnou složku  
 title - název  
 hold - zastávat funkci  
 hold office - zastávat úřad  
 portfolio - rezort  
 duty - úkol/ povinnost  
 secretary *Am E*/ minister - ministr  
 therefore - tudíž/ a proto  
 ministry/ department *Am E* - ministerstvo  
 lead by - vést/ řídit  
 nation - stát  
 subordinate to - podřídit/ podřízovat  
 komu

decide - rozhodovat  
 decision - rozhodnutí  
 government's policy - vládní politika  
 direction - směr  
 in regard to - pokud jde o/ co se týká  
 legislation - legislativa  
 pass by the parliament - přijmout/  
 schválit parlamentem  
 government policy - politika vlády/  
 vládní politika  
 publicly support - veřejně podporovat  
 delegate - delegovat/ pověřit  
 various government sub-committees -  
 nejriznější vládní podvýbory  
 report on - podat zprávu o  
 findings and recommendations - zjištění/  
 závěry a doporučení

#### Government and its Ministries

The Czech Republic government is a body of high-ranking members of government representing the executive branch. Like in most governments our government members are given the title of minister and each holds a different portfolio of government duties. (In some countries like the USA the title secretary is used for administration members.) Therefore a ministry is a department of a government, led by a minister. (In some nations a department is used for a ministry.) Ministers are usually subordinate to the government, Prime Minister and President.

The Czech government decides the government's policy and direction in regard to legislation passed by the parliament and it is also responsible for all government policy. All ministers must publicly support its policy. Many decisions may be delegated to the various government sub-committees and then they report on their findings and recommendations.

**Prime Minister / Premier – ministerský předseda/ premiér**  
**head – čelný představitel/ hlava (čeho) šef**  
**in command – v řízení vlády (zde v textu)**  
**designate – označit/ stanovit/ určit**  
**vice-premier/ deputy premier – vicepremiér/ místopředseda vlády**  
**ultimately – konec konců**  
**responsible for – zodpovědný za**  
**policy and decisions – politika a rozhodnutí**  
**interchangeably – lze zaměnit/ lze**  
**alternovat**  
**executive official – představitel výkonné moci**  
**exercise his executive power – uplatňovat výkonnou moc**  
**oversee – dohlížet/ dozírat**  
**operation of the civil service – fungování státní správy**  
**government agency – vládní úřad**  
**nominate members of the cabinet – navrhnout členy vlády**  
**nominee/ candidate – kandidát/ navrhovaná osoba**  
**shadow government – stínová vláda**  
**form – tvořit/ sestavit**  
**leading members – přední členové/ příslušníci (strany)**  
**opposition party – opoziční strana**  
**generally – všeobecně/ obvykle**  
**hold critic portfolio – zastávat „funkci kritika“ toho kterého rezoru**  
**shadow – sledovat/ pronásledovat (někoho)**  
**decision – rozhodnutí**  
**propose policy alternatives – navrhnout politické alternativy**

The Prime Minister is the head of the Czech Republic government, a second in command to a prime minister is designated as a vice-premier or deputy premier. The prime minister is ultimately responsible for the policy and decisions of government. (In many countries, the title "prime minister" is used interchangeably with "premier".) As an executive official of government he exercises his executive power and as the head of the CR government he also oversees the operation of the civil service and government agencies, nominates members of the government.

There is also a shadow government that is formed by the leading members of an opposition party. They generally hold critic portfolios shadowing government ministers, questioning their decisions and proposing policy alternatives.

<p> <b>current</b> - současný  <b>come to power</b> - nastoupit k moci/ ujmout se úřadu  <b>election</b> - volby  <b>be staffed</b> - personálně obsazený  <b>civil servant/ public servant/ government employe</b> - státní úředník  <b>official</b> - úředník  <b>special adviser</b> - odborný poradce (<i>zde v textu</i>)  <b>support</b> - být oporou/ podporovat  <b>ensure</b> - zajistit  <b>carry out</b> - uskutečnit/ realizovat  <b>wide range of functions</b> - široká škála funkcí  <b>international diplomacy</b> - diplomacie na mezinárodní úrovni  <b>policy-making</b> - tvorba politiky/ koncepce  <b>policy-maker</b> - zákonodárce  <b>supreme decision-making body</b> - nejvyšší orgán činný rozhodnutí         </p>	<p>           Current Prime Minister came to power after the latest election. The office is staffed by civil servants and special advisers who support the Prime Minister and ensure he can carry out his wide range of functions, from international diplomacy to policy-making. The government is the centre of the Czech political system and is the supreme decision-making body.         </p>
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 (adapted)

## **EXERCISES**

### **1. Comprehension of the topic.**

1. What body is the Czech Republic government?
2. What titles are given to the Czech Republic government ministers?
3. What does each minister hold?
4. Who are ministers subordinate to?
5. What does the Czech Republic government decide?
6. What must ministers publicly do?
7. Who may many decisions be delegated to?
8. Who is designated as a vice-premier?
9. What is the prime minister ultimately responsible for?
10. How is the title "prime minister" used in many countries?
11. What does the prime minister do as an executive official?
12. What is a shadow government?
13. What do the shadow ministers usually do?
14. Who is the prime minister's office staffed by?
15. What centre is the Czech government?

2. Fill the gap with a suitable word the definition of which has been given.

1	... the group of high-ranking persons who control a country The president is not the head of the _____ in the parliamentary system.
2	... the people who work for the government _____ should be unimpeachable and incorruptible
3	... a member of the government who is in charge of a particular portfolio The _____ of Foreign Affairs has discussed this issue with his Italian counterpart
4	... a person who has a position of responsibility in an organisation Local council _____ have suggested how to cope with the problems of the Roma community.
5	... the leader of the government of a country Our _____ negotiated the government policy of the Czech Republic with the president.

3. There is a parliamentary system of government in the Czech Republic. Explain the principle of such a government.

4. There are many different forms of government as long as the world exists. They existed in the past, exist today and will probably exist in the future. Read the following definitions carefully and match them with the right expression. The clue is the number of people who hold political power.

- a) democracy
- b) autocracy
- c) oligarchy

- 1. ... a government where political power is held by a small group of individuals sharing similar interests with each other
- 2. ... a government where the people as a whole hold political power
- 3. ... a government where one individual ultimately holds all power

5. Fill in the appropriate word in the sentences.

suspension	suspend
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- 1. The Minister of Foreign Affairs has been \_\_\_\_\_ after being found guilty of misconduct.
- 2. There have been calls for the product's immediate \_\_\_\_\_ following reports that it is dangerous for children

3. The President has \_\_\_\_\_ the Prime Minister from forming a new cabinet.

comply	compliance	compliant
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4. My partner is a very \_\_\_\_\_ person, who always does what I want him to do.

5. There is a serious punishment for failure to \_\_\_\_\_ with the drug law.

6. The manager said that he had always acted in \_\_\_\_\_ with the firm regulations

imposition	impose
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7. The Czech government is going to \_\_\_\_\_ very high taxes on cigarettes.

8. Several administration ministers have demanded the \_\_\_\_\_ of the death penalty for the terrorist attackers

9. The local authority has \_\_\_\_\_ a ban on drinking alcohol in public

6. Give the right Czech equivalents of the listed ministries of the Czech Republic detailing all tasks they perform. Add the possible omitted ones.

1 the Ministry for Regional Development	
2. the Ministry of Agriculture	
3 the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	
4 the Ministry of Finance	
5. the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	
6. the Ministry of Industry and Trade	
7. the Ministry of Justice	
8 the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	