**Materials for the website Chapter 4**

**Practice Questions.  
Check your knowledge of important individuals, dates, institutions, and events in modern Russian politics.**

1. When was the position of President of the Russian Federation established?
2. When did the constitutional crisis in Russia occur?
3. Who was Ruslan Khasbulatov, and why did he oppose President Yeltsin’s actions?
4. What are the primary functions of the President of the Russian Federation?
5. Did Vladimir Putin participate in parliamentary elections before becoming President of Russia?
6. How many federal districts are there in the Russian Federation?
7. Who appoints the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, and how is the appointment confirmed?
8. What is the main function of the Security Council of Russia?
9. The President oversees five key ministries. Which ministries are these?
10. Russia is officially called a federation. What does this mean in practice?
11. Outline the three stages in the evolution of Russia’s political elites.
12. What are the key characteristics of an authoritarian political system?
13. Explain the concept of *“power vertical”* in the context of Russian governance.
14. Define the term *“sovereign democracy”*.
15. Describe the three developmental stages in the transformation of executive power in post-Soviet Russia.

**President of Russia:** <http://en.kremlin.ru/> (in English)

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia X/Twitter account:**

[**https://x.com/mfa\_russia**](https://x.com/mfa_russia)

**Additional study resources and databases:**

**Executive orders of Russian Presidents and Soviet Leaders and Federal Legislations (in Russian):**

<http://lawrussia.ru/texts>

**The Russian Government or Cabinet of Ministers (in English)**

<http://government.ru/en/>

**Facts related to local government in Russia:**

<http://factsanddetails.com/russia/Government_Military_Crime/sub9_5a/entry-5194.html>

**PBS: Inside Putin's Russia**

Correspondent Nick Schifrin and producer Zach Fannin take us inside Vladimir Putin's Russia, with an in-depth look at the resurgent national identity, the government's propaganda machine, the risk of being a Kremlin critic and much more.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_AkAZIk73F0>

**Vladimir Putin: A Critical Biography**

The accusations of criminality and corruption that have surrounded Vladimir Putin's reign in Russia. Tracing his career back over two decades, Putin's Way reveals how the accumulation of wealth and power has led to autocratic rule and the specter of a new Cold War.

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHhd27o0W3Q**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHhd27o0W3Q)(50 min.)