**Directions: Read the following examples and decide whether or not they are examples of absolutism. Make sure to use the critical attributes and definition of absolutism to test the examples.**

**Example #1**

In 1689 King William and Queen Mary became the monarchs of England. Before they were crowned, they accepted the English Bill of Rights which required the monarchy to work with Parliament to govern the country. The monarchs lost their power to suspend laws and were required to call on Parliament to meet regularly. The lower house of Parliament, known as the House of Commons, was given the power to tax and the responsibility of coordinating the country’s finances.

Absolutism? YES NO

If yes, what critical attributes does this example have?

If no, what prevents it from being an absolutist rule?

**Example #2**

According to the Mandate from Heaven, the right to rule China is granted by Heaven. The Chinese believed that since there was only one Heaven, there could be only one ruler. Chinese emperors that were part of the Han dynasty referred to themselves as Sons of Heaven, and commanded respect from all their subjects. Chinese law dictated that the emperor’s position could not be challenged by anyone. Emperors handpicked governors and officials in order to centralize their authority and spread their power. Each emperor served as head of state and commander of the army. They chose whether or not to listen to advisors, but had no legislative body to monitor imperial power or prevent abuse.

Absolutism? YES NO

If yes, what critical attributes does this example have?

If no, what prevents it from being an absolutist rule?

**Example #3**

Saudi Arabia contains one of the last remaining monarchies in the world today. Monarchs are chosen by members of the royal family and approved by Muslim legal scholars in accordance to the Qur’an and Shari’ah (Islamic law). State issues are decided by King Abdullah, along with the Council of Ministers and Consultative Council. With no elections or political parties, it is up to the king to appoint and dismiss members of both councils. At any time the king can choose to dissolve both government bodies. The Council of Ministers is responsible for internal, external, financial, economic, educational, and defense policies, but the king maintains final authority over all state affairs.

Absolutism? YES NO

If yes, what critical attributes does this example have?

If no, what prevents it from being an absolutist rule?

**Example #4**

In 1922 Benito Mussolini became Prime Minister of Italy. Within several years Mussolini eliminated all conventional and constitutional restraints on his power. In 1928 he outlawed political parties and abolished parliamentary elections. Through his complete control of the military and a massive campaign of propaganda, Mussolini was able to subjugate the minds of the Italian people and create a fascist state. He eventually became dictator of Italy and gained complete control of the Italian government.

Absolutism? YES NO

If yes, what critical attributes does this example have?