

Name: _____ Date: _____

State of Balance: A 7th Grade Comparative Systems Quiz

Evaluate how power shifts from central hubs to local borders, moving beyond simple definitions into the mechanics of global stability.

1. In Switzerland's system of direct democracy, citizens frequently vote on specific laws via referendums. This contrasts with most representative democracies primarily because:

- A. It eliminates the need for any legislative body or parliament.
- B. The executive branch holds absolute veto power over the public.
- C. Power is shifted from elected officials directly to the electorate for key decisions.
- D. It requires a monarch to approve the results of every public vote.

2. While many nations use a federal system, Japan operates under a ____ system, where the central government in Tokyo holds the majority of authority and can create or dissolve local administrative boundaries.

- A. Confederal
- B. Unitary
- C. Totalitarian
- D. Anarchist

3. True or False: In a Constitutional Monarchy like Norway, the reigning King or Queen typically serves as the Head of State with significant daily political power, independent of the Prime Minister.

- A. True
- B. False

4. The European Union (EU) is often described as a 'confederation.' Which characteristic most defines this type of system relative to a federal system?

- A. Member states retain their sovereignty and can choose to leave the union.
- B. The central body has a large standing army that controls all member states.
- C. Individual citizens cannot vote for any representatives in the system.
- D. There is no central currency or economic agreement between the states.

5. In Mexico's government, the President serves as both the Head of State and the Head of Government. This structure is a hallmark of which system?

- A. Parliamentary System
- B. Theocratic System
- C. Presidential System
- D. Oligarchical System

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6. True or False: An 'Illiberal Democracy' is a system where elections take place, but citizens are often cut off from knowledge about the activities of those who exercise real power due to a lack of civil liberties.

- A. True
- B. False

7. In the nation of Iran, the Supreme Leader holds ultimate authority over political and religious life, illustrating a ____ where religious law significantly influences or dictates government policy.

- A. Plutocracy
- B. Theocracy
- C. Technocracy
- D. Meritocracy

8. Comparing the systems of Australia and Vietnam, which of the following is the most significant difference in their political pluralism?

- A. Australia allows multiple political parties to compete; Vietnam is a one-party state.
- B. Vietnam uses a monarch; Australia is a republic with no ties to a crown.
- C. Australia has no written constitution; Vietnam has the world's oldest constitution.
- D. Vietnam is a federal system; Australia is a strictly unitary central system.

9. The process of ____ occurs when a central government, such as the one in Spain, grants specific powers to autonomous regions like Catalonia or the Basque Country to manage their own affairs.

- A. Annexation
- B. Devolution
- C. Isolationism
- D. Globalism

10. Which scenario best describes a 'Coalition Government' often found in the parliamentary systems of countries like Israel or Italy?

- A. A single party wins 100% of the vote and bans all other competitors.
- B. The military takes over the government during a time of national emergency.
- C. Multiple political parties cooperate to form a majority in parliament to lead the country.
- D. The country is split into two separate nations with two different presidents.