

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: When Constitutions Clash: 10th Grade Comparative Government Global Audit

Sophomores move beyond simple definitions to analyze executive accountability and power distribution within the Mexican, Japanese, and Iranian political frameworks.

1. In the Japanese political system, which body holds the 'supreme power of the state' and is responsible for electing the Prime Minister, distinguishing it from a presidential system?

Answer: B) The National Diet

In Japan's parliamentary cabinet system, the Diet is the highest organ of state power, and the Prime Minister is chosen from among its members.

2. In Mexico, the principle of 'No Reelección' prevents the _____ from serving more than one six-year term (sexenio) to avoid the return of a dictatorship.

Answer: C) President

To prevent the emergence of a long-term autocrat like Porfirio Díaz, Mexico's constitution strictly limits the President to one single six-year term.

3. In a semi-presidential system, such as France, both a president and a prime minister are active participants in the day-to-day administration of the state.

Answer: A) True

Unlike purely presidential or parliamentary systems, semi-presidential systems share executive power between an elected president and a prime minister responsible to the legislature.

4. Which institution in Iran's theocratic government has the power to veto legislation passed by the Majlis (Parliament) if it is deemed incompatible with Islamic law?

Answer: C) The Guardian Council

The Guardian Council is a 12-member body that ensures all laws conform to the criteria of Islam and the Constitution.

5. While the United States is a federal system, _____ is a notable example of a unitary state where the central government in Tokyo retains the majority of legislative and fiscal authority.

Answer: B) Japan

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Japan operates as a unitary state, meaning its local prefectures derive their power from the national government rather than having sovereign status.

6. In a parliamentary system, a 'Vote of No Confidence' is a formal mechanism used by the legislature to remove the executive leader from power.

Answer: A) True

If the majority of parliament no longer supports the Prime Minister, they can pass this vote, often triggering a new election or a change in government.

7. How does the role of the 'Head of State' differ between a Constitutional Monarchy like Spain and an Absolute Monarchy like Oman?

Answer: C) In Spain, the monarch is largely ceremonial with symbolic power.

Constitutional monarchs are bound by a constitution and usually lack political power, whereas absolute monarchs hold supreme authority.

8. A political system characterized by a single party that dominates all aspects of social, economic, and political life through coercion and ideology is known as ____.

Answer: B) Totalitarianism

Totalitarian regimes seek to control the private and public lives of citizens, often utilizing a single-party state and mass surveillance.

9. In the Russian Federation, the President is the Head of State, while the Prime Minister serves as the Head of Government.

Answer: A) True

Russia uses a dual-executive system where the President handles foreign policy and defense, and the Prime Minister manages the economy and domestic policy.

10. Which of the following is a key feature of a 'Federal' system that distinguishes it from a 'Unitary' system?

Answer: C) Constitutionally protected power-sharing between national and regional levels.

Federalism allows sub-national units (states/provinces) to have their own specific powers that the central government cannot easily take away.