

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key: Crack the Code of Global Power: 12th Grade Comparative Systems Quiz

Synthesize complex geopolitical data to distinguish between illiberal democracies, theocratic councils, and asymmetrical federalist structures across the globe.

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**1. In the context of the Mexican political transition, which concept best describes the long-term dominance of the PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party) before 2000, despite the existence of periodic elections?**

**Answer:** C) A dominant-party state

A dominant-party state features a system where one party consistently holds power through various mechanisms, even if other parties are legally allowed to compete in elections.

**2. In Iran's dual identity as a theocratic republic, the Supreme Leader holds ultimate authority over the elected President and the Majlis (Legislature).**

**Answer:** A) True

The Supreme Leader (Faqih) is the head of state and the highest-ranking political and religious authority, possessing the power to dismiss the president and veto legislation.

**3. The Russian Federation utilizes a \_\_\_\_\_ system, where a President and a Prime Minister share executive duties, though the balance of power often shifts based on the individual holding the presidency.**

**Answer:** B) Semi-presidential

A semi-presidential system features both a popularly elected president and a prime minister/cabinet who are responsible to the legislature.

**4. Which of the following serves as the primary mechanism for 'Checks and Balances' in a Westminster-style parliamentary system?**

**Answer:** B) A Vote of No Confidence

In parliamentary systems, the legislature can force the resignation of the government (the executive) through a Vote of No Confidence, ensuring executive accountability.

**5. Comparing devolution in Ethiopia to federalism in the United States, Ethiopia's constitution is unique because it theoretically allows for \_\_\_\_\_, the formal withdrawal of a region from the state.**

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**Answer:** B) Secession

Article 39 of the Ethiopian Constitution grants ethnic-based regions the right to self-determination, including the right to secession.

**6. The European Union is best described as a unitary state because it has a single central currency (the Euro) and a unified military for all member nations.**

**Answer:** B) False

The EU is a supranational organization/confederation where member states retain sovereignty; it does not have a unified military or a single unitary government.

**7. Which concept explains why the Swiss executive branch uses a 'Federal Council' consisting of seven members representing different parties and linguistic groups?**

**Answer:** B) Consociational democracy

Consociationalism focuses on power-sharing between diverse social groups to ensure stability in deeply divided societies.

**8. The concept of \_\_\_\_\_ in the Chinese political context refers to the hierarchical structure where lower-level party organs must strictly follow the decisions of higher-level organs.**

**Answer:** B) Democratic Centralism

Democratic Centralism allows for internal debate but mandates total unity and obedience once a decision has been reached by the central leadership.

**9. In a symmetric federal system, all subnational units (like states or provinces) possess the same amount of constitutional power relative to the national government.**

**Answer:** A) True

Symmetric federalism refers to a system where no distinction is made between the powers of different constituent states, unlike asymmetric systems like Spain or Canada.

**10. If a nation transitions from a system where the state controls all interest groups (Corporatism) to one where many independent groups compete for influence, it is moving toward:**

**Answer:** B) Pluralism

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Pluralism is a condition in which two or more groups, principles, or sources of authority coexist, often competing to influence public policy in a democracy.