

Name: _____ Date: _____

House of Cards: Comparative Executive Power Quiz for Seniors

How do variations in semi-presidentialism and consociationalism impact state stability? Evaluate institutional design and elite power-sharing mechanisms.

1. In the context of Arend Lijphart's typology, which mechanism is a defining feature of a consociational democracy, such as that practiced in Switzerland?

- A. A winner-take-all plurality electoral system
- B. The use of a grand coalition involving all major linguistic or religious groups
- C. Highly centralized unitary governance with no regional autonomy
- D. The absence of mutual veto power for minority groups

2. In a semi-presidential system like Poland's under the 'Little Constitution' era, the president and prime minister must always belong to the same political party to function legally.

- A. True
- B. False

3. The concept of ___ refers to a political system where the state is effectively controlled by a single party that merges its interests with the collective interest, as seen in Mexico's 'Perfect Dictatorship' era under the PRI.

- A. Hegemonic party system
- B. Anocratic pluralism
- C. Symmetric federalism
- D. Bicameral corporatism

4. Which of the following describes a 'Constructive Vote of No Confidence,' a mechanism used in the Spanish and German legislative systems?

- A. The legislature can dismiss the head of government without a successor ready
- B. A public referendum is required to dissolve the cabinet
- C. The opposition must agree on a replacement head of government before removing the incumbent
- D. The head of state has the sole power to veto a legislative motion of censure

5. Symmetric federalism exists when all subnational units (such as provinces or states) possess the same formal powers and relationship to the central government.

- A. True
- B. False

6. In the 1990s, Japan shifted from a Multi-Member District system to a ___ system to encourage party consolidation and reduce intra-party competition.

- A. Pure Proportional Representation
- B. Direct Democracy

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- C. Parallel (Mixed-Member) Electoral
- D. Sortition-based

7. How does 'Corporatism' in a political sense (e.g., Scandinavia or post-war Austria) differ from 'Pluralism' regarding interest group influence?

- A. Corporatism bans all interest groups except those funded by the military
- B. Pluralism grants specific 'peak' associations a monopoly on representation in policy-making
- C. Corporatism involves formal tripartite negotiations between the state, labor, and capital
- D. Pluralism requires the state to provide subsidies to every registered interest group

8. The transition from an authoritarian regime to a democratic one, often involving secret negotiations between 'soft-liners' and 'moderates,' is termed a ___ transition in transitology literature.

- A. Ruptura
- B. Pacted
- C. Revolutionary
- D. Imposed

9. Bureaucratic Authoritarianism is a theory primarily used to explain the rise of technocratic military regimes in South America during the 1960s and 70s.

- A. True
- B. False

10. Which institutional arrangement is typically associated with the 'Westminster Model' of democracy?

- A. A codified, rigid constitution
- B. Executive dominance over the legislature
- C. Strong judicial review to strike down primary legislation
- D. Proportional representation for all local elections