

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Conquer the Global Power Grid: 8th Grade Comparative Government Challenge

Executive accountability, legislative oversight, and power distribution models, providing a rigorous framework for evaluating how modern states function and fail.

1. In the Japanese Diet, the Prime Minister remains in power only as long as they maintain the 'confidence' of the lower house. This illustrates which core concept of parliamentary systems?

Answer: B) Executive-Legislative fusion

In parliamentary systems like Japan's, the executive branch is drawn from and accountable to the legislature, meaning the two branches are fused rather than strictly separated.

2. While the United States uses a federal system, _____ is an example of a country with a 'Unitary' system where the central government in Tokyo holds ultimate authority over all prefectures.

Answer: A) Japan

Japan operates under a unitary system where subnational governments (prefectures) only exercise powers that the central government chooses to delegate.

3. In an Absolute Monarchy, such as the one found in Oman, the head of state's authority is legally restricted by a written constitution and an independent parliament.

Answer: B) False

In an absolute monarchy, the ruler holds supreme authority that is not restricted by a constitution or law, unlike a constitutional monarchy.

4. Switzerland utilizes 'Direct Democracy' through frequent referendums. How does this differ from the 'Representative Democracy' found in most other Western nations?

Answer: C) Citizens vote directly on specific laws and policy changes

Direct democracy allows citizens to vote on policy initiatives directly, whereas representative democracy involves electing officials to make those decisions.

5. In a 'Theocracy' such as _____, the legal system and political leadership are based primarily on religious law and clergy authority.

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Answer: B) Iran

Iran is a contemporary example of a theocracy where the Supreme Leader is a religious figure who holds ultimate political power.

6. Which of these is a defining characteristic of a 'One-Party State' like Vietnam?

Answer: B) A lack of competitive elections between different political parties

In one-party states, a single political party has the right to form the government, and other parties are either outlawed or restricted from competing for power.

7. Hybrid regimes, such as the system currently seen in Hungary, often maintain the 'outward appearance' of democracy while eroding democratic institutions like a free press.

Answer: A) True

Hybrid regimes often hold elections but lack the full protections of civil liberties and checks on power found in liberal democracies.

8. The Mexican government is a 'Federal Republic.' What does this tell you about the relationship between the central government in Mexico City and the 31 states?

Answer: C) Power is shared, and states have their own constitutions and laws

Federalism is characterized by a constitutional division of power between a central authority and constituent political units like states.

9. In a 'Semi-Presidential' system like that of _____, there is both a directly elected President and a Prime Minister who is responsible to the legislature.

Answer: A) France

France is the classic example of a semi-presidential system where executive power is shared between a president and a prime minister.

10. Totalitarianism is identical to Authoritarianism because both systems allow for a high degree of private economic freedom and personal privacy.

Answer: B) False

Totalitarianism goes further than authoritarianism by seeking to control all aspects of public and private life, including the economy and social thoughts.

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