

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Central Power or Shared Rule? 6th Grade Global Systems Quiz

How does geography shape a nation's laws? Analyze the complex structural differences between the Swiss cantonal system and Japan's centralized prefecture model.

1. In Switzerland, the 'cantons' hold significant power to create their own laws and collect taxes independently of the national government. Which concept describes this distribution of power?

Answer: B) Federalism

Federalism is a system where power is constitutionally divided between a central authority and constituent political units, like cantons or states.

2. In Japan, the national government in Tokyo holds the primary authority over local prefectures, making it a ____ system.

Answer: C) Unitary

A unitary system centralizes power in the national government, which then dictates the level of authority granted to subnational divisions.

3. True or False: In a parliamentary system like Australia's, the executive branch is chosen directly by the citizens in a separate nationwide election.

Answer: B) False

In parliamentary systems, the executive (Prime Minister) is typically chosen by the legislature, not via a separate direct national vote.

4. The Republic of Ireland utilizes a system where the Head of State (President) is largely ceremonial, while the Head of Government (Taoiseach) holds actual political power. This distinction is common in which type of government?

Answer: C) Parliamentary Republic

Parliamentary republics often split the roles of Head of State and Head of Government, unlike presidential systems like Mexico or the US.

5. The Vatican City State is an example of a _____, because its legal system and leadership are based strictly on religious authority.

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Answer: A) Theocracy

A theocracy is a form of government in which a deity is recognized as the supreme civil ruler and laws are interpreted by religious authorities.

6. Scenario: A small group of powerful elite families controls all the economic and military decisions of a nation, leaving no room for citizen input. This is best described as an:

Answer: A) Oligarchy

An oligarchy is a system where power rests with a small, elite segment of society, distinguished by royalty, wealth, or military strength.

7. True or False: In Norway's Constitutional Monarchy, the King has the final legal authority to override any law passed by the elected parliament.

Answer: B) False

In a constitutional monarchy, the monarch's powers are limited by a constitution and they usually perform ceremonial duties while elected officials govern.

8. In a _____ democracy, such as ancient Athens or modern Swiss town meetings, citizens vote on laws themselves rather than electing others to do it.

Answer: C) Direct

Direct democracy involves citizens participating in decision-making personally rather than through intermediaries or representatives.

9. How does the 'rule of law' differ between a democratic system and an authoritarian regime?

Answer: A) In democracies, the law applies to everyone; in authoritarian regimes, leaders are often above the law.

The rule of law ensures accountability for all, including officials. Authoritarian leaders often manipulate or bypass the law to maintain power.

10. True or False: In a confederation, the central government typically holds more power than the individual states or regions.

Answer: B) False

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In a confederation, the local or state governments hold most of the power, leaving the central government weak and dependent on the member states.