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Answer Key: Puzzles of Power: Peerless Parliamentary and Presidential 7th Grade Quiz

Examine how global leaders juggle power through coalition-building and executive checks in this complex analysis of modern governance.

1. In the Japanese political system, the National Diet (legislature) selects the Prime Minister from among its own members. This fusion of power is a hallmark of which system?

Answer: B) Parliamentary

In parliamentary systems, the executive branch derives its legitimacy from the legislature. Japan's Diet choosing the Prime Minister illustrates this integration of powers.

2. Mexico operates under a system where the President serves as both the Head of State and Head of Government, holding authority independent of the legislature. This is known as a _____ system.

Answer: A) Presidential

A presidential system features a clear separation of powers where the executive is elected separately from the legislature and holds both representative and administrative leadership roles.

3. True or False: In a purely Unitary system, like that of the Republic of Korea (South Korea), the national government has the legal authority to create or abolish local administrative divisions.

Answer: A) True

In unitary systems, subnational units only exercise powers that the central government chooses to delegate, unlike federal systems where power is constitutionally shared.

4. Imagine a country where the military holds supreme authority and suspends the constitution to maintain order. Which term best evaluates this specific form of authoritarianism?

Answer: B) Military Junta

A junta is a committee of military leaders who take control of a country's government, often after a coup, representing a specific type of authoritarian rule.

5. India's government divides specific responsibilities, such as defense and law enforcement, between the central government in New Delhi and individual state governments. This structure is _____.

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Answer: C) Federal

Federalism is the division of power between a central (national) government and constituent political units (like states or provinces).

6. True or False: In a Parliamentary system, if the legislature passes a 'Vote of No Confidence,' the Prime Minister is typically forced to resign or call for new elections.

Answer: A) True

Because the executive depends on the support of the legislature in parliamentary systems, a loss of majority support (no confidence) triggers a change in leadership.

7. In Iran, the Supreme Leader holds final authority over government policy and must be a religious cleric. This system, where religious law and personnel dominate, is termed a:

Answer: C) Theocracy

A theocracy is a form of government in which a deity is officially recognized as the civil ruler and official policy is governed by religious doctrine.

8. When several political parties in a parliamentary system (like those in Israel or Italy) join together to form a majority and govern, they have formed a _____.

Answer: A) Coalition

Coalitions are common in multi-party parliamentary systems when no single party wins enough seats to hold an absolute majority on its own.

9. In Ethiopia's ethnic federalism, regional boundaries are drawn based on cultural and linguistic groups. What is the primary instructional goal of this specific power-sharing arrangement?

Answer: B) To provide autonomy to diverse groups to prevent conflict

Ethnic federalism is designed to give different cultural groups a sense of self-governance and protection within a larger national framework, aiming to manage diversity.

10. True or False: In most modern Constitutional Monarchies, such as Norway or Sweden, the King or Queen holds the actual power to write laws and command the daily operations of the military.

Answer: B) False

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In constitutional monarchies, the monarch usually serves as a ceremonial Head of State, while elected officials (like a Parliament) handle lawmaking and executive duties.