

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Rigid Controls vs. Radical Choice: 9th Grade Comparative Systems Quiz

Examine the tension between institutional design and civil liberties as you move beyond definitions to evaluate power dynamics in Mexico, Ethiopia, and beyond.

1. In the context of the Mexican political system's transition from a dominant-party state, which concept best describes the shift toward ensuring competitive elections through the Instituto Nacional Electoral (INE)?

Answer: A) Democratic Consolidation

Democratic consolidation occurs when a system transitions from authoritarian or single-party rule to a stable democracy where all major actors accept the 'rules of the game'.

2. Unlike a Head of State who serves a ceremonial role, the _____ in a parliamentary system like Ethiopia's holds the actual executive authority and is responsible to the legislature.

Answer: C) Prime Minister

In parliamentary systems, the Prime Minister serves as the Head of Government, exercising effective executive power, while the President or Monarch is often a symbolic Head of State.

3. True or False: In a purely 'Illiberal Democracy,' the government holds regular elections but consistently restricts civil liberties and the rule of law.

Answer: A) True

Illiberal democracies maintain the outward appearance of democracy (e.g., elections) but lack the protections for individual rights and judicial independence found in liberal democracies.

4. What is the primary mechanism used in a 'Semi-Presidential' system, such as that of Russia, to distribute executive power?

Answer: B) A dual executive consisting of both a President and a Prime Minister

Semi-presidential systems feature a President who is often directly elected and a Prime Minister who handles the legislature, creating a dual executive structure.

5. When a country like Spain grants significant legislative and tax-collecting powers to specific regions like Catalonia or the Basque Country, it is practicing _____.

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Answer: C) Asymmetric Federalism

Asymmetric federalism occurs when different constituent states or provinces within a federation possess different levels of power or autonomy.

6. True or False: In a 'Confederal' system of government, the central authority maintains ultimate sovereignty over the sub-national member states.

Answer: B) False

In a confederation, the member states retain their sovereignty and grant only limited, specific powers to a weak central government.

7. The concept of 'Theocracy' is best exemplified by a government where political authority is derived from:

Answer: C) Religious law and a clerical hierarchy

A theocracy, such as the Islamic Republic of Iran, is a system where religious leaders hold the highest political power and legal codes are based on religious texts.

8. In political science, the term _____ refers to a system where the state requires most social and economic groups to be incorporated into a government-sanctioned hierarchy, often seen in historical fascist or corporatist regimes.

Answer: B) State Corporatism

State corporatism is a method of control where the government co-opts interested groups (like labor unions) to prevent independent political mobilization.

9. True or False: A 'Vote of No Confidence' is a mechanism primarily found in presidential systems to impeach a president for criminal behavior.

Answer: B) False

A 'Vote of No Confidence' is a tool in parliamentary systems used to remove a Prime Minister or Cabinet for political reasons, not necessarily for criminal acts.

10. Which of the following best describes the 'Separation of Powers' in a traditional Westminster-style parliamentary system?

Answer: A) The executive and legislative branches are fused or integrated

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In most parliamentary (Westminster) systems, the executive branch (the Cabinet) is drawn from within the legislative branch, meaning their powers are fused rather than strictly separated.