

Name: _____ Date: _____

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)?

- A. Democratic Consolidation
- B. Devolution of Power
- C. Unitary Centralization
- D. Asymmetric Federalism

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.

- A. Governor-General
- B. President
- C. Prime Minister
- D. Monarch

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

- A. True
- B. False

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

- A. Power is vested entirely in a unicameral legislature
- B. A dual executive consisting of both a President and a Prime Minister
- C. A Supreme Leader who oversees the military and the judiciary
- D. A coalition of regional governors who elect a national spokesperson

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 _____.

- A. Pluralism
- B. Totalitarianism
- C. Asymmetric Federalism
- D. Bicameralism

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

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- A. True
- B. False

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

- A. A mandate from the merchant and business class
- B. Scientific technocracy and data-driven policy
- C. Religious law and a clerical hierarchy
- D. Traditional tribal elders and oral customs

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.

- A. Civil Society
- B. State Corporatism
- C. Liberalism
- D. Anarchy

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

- A. True
- B. False

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

- A. The executive and legislative branches are fused or integrated
- B. The judiciary is the only branch with the power to draft legislation
- C. The executive branch is totally independent of the legislature
- D. Power is divided equally between the local mayors and the monarch