

Citizen U Presents:  
**Comparing Power—**  
**An Appraisal of Comparative Government and Politics**  
AP Comparative and Politics Curriculum  
2 Teachers 2019

Big Ideas in AP Comparative Government and Politics\*

1. POWER AND AUTHORITY (PAU)\*
2. LEGITIMACY AND STABILITY (LEG)\*
3. DEMOCRATIZATION (DEM)\*
4. INTERNAL/EXTERNAL FORCES (IEF)\*
5. METHODS of POLITICAL ANALYSIS (MPA)\*

## Unit 2: Political Institutions\*

**PAU—** The structure and function of political institutions reflect the allocation of power within a political system.\*

### 2.1 Describe parliamentary, presidential, and semi-presidential systems \*

**Parliamentary systems**, such as the United Kingdom, combine the lawmaking and executive functions, which allows the national legislature to select and remove the head of government and cabinet.\*

- The UK's parliamentary system has fused powers between the executive and national legislature. The executive almost always secures approval of policies by a majority of parliament. The House of Commons occasionally rejects the cabinet's policy proposals (ie. 2019 votes on Brexit policy.) The House of Lords can review and suggest amendments with the possibility of slight delay (up to 30 days for budgets) in passage of legislation.

**Presidential systems**, such as Mexico and Nigeria, feature a cabinet that is mostly responsible to the elected executive, with a legislature that can only remove cabinet members through impeachment. These systems have separate fixed-term, popular elections for the national legislature, and a top executive leader serving as both head of state and head of government.\*

**Semi-presidential systems**, such as Russia, feature separate popular elections for the president and for the national legislature, allowing the president to nominate a prime minister (who must be approved by the legislature); members of the cabinet are held accountable by both the president and legislature.\*

- Russia is a semi-presidential system created by its 1993 constitution that often compared to France's semi-presidential system that was created in its 1958 constitution.

\*Sourced from the AP Comparative Government and Politics course description (2019.)

**PAU**— The structure and function of political institutions reflect the allocation of power within a political system.\*

## 2.2 Compare institutional relations among parliamentary, presidential, and semi-presidential systems.\*

Although parliamentary systems have fewer institutional obstacles to enact policy than presidential systems (presidential systems have divided branch powers), parliamentary systems have their own checks on the executive branch.\*

- The UK's parliamentary system has fused powers between the executive and national legislature that can expedite the executive's plans for making complicated and controversial policies with limited delay such as the steady devolution of central government powers to the UK's regional governments since 1997. The executive almost always secures approval of policies by a majority of parliament but several failed attempts to withdraw the United Kingdom from the European Union in 2019 showed that the House of Commons can occasionally reject the cabinet's policy proposals. While the House of Lords is the upper chamber, it has less power to check the executive than Commons. Lords can only review and suggest amendments to policies with the possibility of slight delay (up to 30 days for budget making.)

Parliaments may censure cabinet ministers, refuse to pass executive proposed legislation, question the executive and cabinet ministers, and impose time deadlines on calling new elections.\*

- The House of Commons holds a regular Question Time in which members of Commons can question the **prime minister** and other cabinet members about governmental policies and implementation of those policies by the **executive bureaucracy**. This **Question Time** allows majority members to indicate representation of the interest of their constituencies (districts) and allows the opposition party to verbally challenge the majority party governance and policy making. Commons passed a law in 2011 that created a **fixed-term election system** in which Commons elections would take place every 5 years on a fixed date. But the legislation allowed the prime minister to ask for snap elections to force all members to campaign for re-election within 30 days with a supermajority of support. This legislative approval of a snap election happened in 2017, just two years after the 2015 fixed-term Commons election. Commons also approved to hold a snap election in 2019 as part of the negotiations about the UK's relationship with the European Union.

- Presidential and semi-presidential systems have divided powers among governmental branches which allows the legislature to more commonly change or reject executive policy proposals. For instance, Nigeria's Senate rejected the president's proposed budget in 2016 that relied too heavily on borrowing from foreign sources.

\*Sourced from the AP Comparative Government and Politics course description (2019.)

**PAU**— The structure and function of political institutions reflect the allocation of power within a political system.\*

### 2.3 Explain the structure, function, and change of executive leadership in course countries.\*

Governments have executive institutions, including chief executives and **cabinets** that formulate, implement, and enforce policy through different methods and agencies.\*

Titles, powers, structure, and functions vary in executive leadership across the six countries—

- China's president serves as **commander in chief**, chair of China's Military Commission, and General Secretary of the Chinese Communist party (NPC); the president nominates the premier of the NPC who in turn serves as head of government overseeing the civil service; changes in top leadership are accomplished behind closed doors.\*

- Top leaders of the Chinese Communist Party determine top governing officials from within the ranks of the party leaders without input from the public.

- Iran's Supreme Leader sets the political agenda, serves as commander in chief, and appoints top ministers, the Expediency Council, half of the Guardian Council, and the head of the judiciary. The president is elected for up to two 4-year terms, oversees the civil service, and conducts foreign policy.\*

- Iran's supreme leader acts as head of state and under the theory of vilayet-e-faqih, the supreme leader ensures all aspects of the government uphold Shi'a Islam. The supreme leader appoints top intelligence officials, military officials, media ministers and advisors on the Expediency Council without needing approval from the Majles. The supreme leader must be a top-ranking cleric of Shi'a Islam. He is appointed by the Assembly of Experts for 10-year terms. There have only been two Supreme Leaders since Iran's Islamic revolution in 1979. The Assembly of Experts, which appoints the supreme leader, is directly elected every 8 years.

Iran's president acts as head of government responsible for the implementation of policies including foreign policies that have been approved by the supreme leader.

Iran's president is directly elected for fixed terms of 4 years. The winning candidate must secure a majority of the national vote in either the first or the second round of balloting.

- Mexico's elected president, as both head of state and head of government, serves as commander in chief and leader of the bureaucracy, and can approve domestic legislation and lead foreign policy; the president is restricted to one term.\*

- The president appoints members of the cabinet with some positions needing approval of Mexico's Senate.

Mexico conducts a direct election for president on a fixed term of every 6 years. The winning candidate must secure a plurality of the national vote.

- Nigeria's elected president, as both head of state and head of government, serves as chief executive, commander in chief, and head of **civil service**, and can approve domestic legislation and conduct foreign policy.\*

- The president appoints members of the cabinet with the approval of Nigeria's Senate.

Nigeria conducts a direct election for president on a fixed term of every 4 years. The winning candidate must secure a majority of the national vote and win at least 25% of the vote in  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the states. Every winning candidate has secured victory in the first round of balloting.

- Russia's prime minister, the head of government, oversees the civil service. The elected president, head of state and commander in chief, appoints top ministers, conducts foreign policy, and presides over the Duma under certain conditions.\*

- Russia's president oversees the power ministries like the Federal Security Service (FSB) and the Foreign Intelligence Service. The president nominates a prime minister who serves as head of government and must be approved by the legislature. The president also appoints top judges and can dissolve the Duma to call for new legislative elections.

Russia conducts a direct election for president on a fixed term of every 6 years. The winning candidate must secure a majority of the national vote among several candidates in the first round of balloting or in the second round of balloting between the top two vote-earning candidates. Every winning candidate since Putin in 2000 has secured victory in the first round of balloting.

- The United Kingdom's monarch serves ceremonially as head of state and formally appoints as prime minister the leader of the party or coalition holding the largest number of seats in the House of Commons. The prime minister can call elections, sets the foreign policy agenda, and serves as *de facto* commander in chief and chief executive over the civil service.\*

- As head of government, the prime minister leads the cabinet's formulation of policy, and implementation and enforcement of policy through different methods and bureaucratic agencies.

\*Sourced from the AP Comparative Government and Politics course description (2019.)

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**PAU**— The structure and function of political institutions reflect the allocation of power within a political system.\*

## 2.4 Explain the advantages and disadvantages of executive term limits in course countries\*

Executive term limits have advantages and disadvantages with regards to promoting stability and effective policies in a country.

- Advantages of executive term limits are that they check executive power by and inhibit the emergence of dictators and personality rule; help to focus the officeholder on governing rather than winning elections; and provide opportunities for new leaders with new ideas, policies, or goals.\*

- Disadvantages of executive term limits are that they force good executives to leave office; allow insufficient time for an office holder to achieve goals; impede policy continuity; weaken accountability; create a lame-duck period for the officeholder; prevent the officeholder from building experience as chief executive; and can cause poorly designed policy.\*

- In China, presidents had operated with 10-year term limits until President Xi. During Xi's presidency, the National Party Congress changed the constitution to allow the president to serve indefinitely.

- In Iran, the supreme leader serves 10-year terms but neither of Iran's supreme leaders has ever been removed from office by the Assembly of Experts. Iran's president cannot serve more than two consecutive terms in office.

- In Mexico, the president has a one-term limit of 6 years called the *sexenio*.

- In Nigeria, the president has a two term limit of 4 years for each term.

- In Russia, the president has a constitutional term limit of no more than two consecutive terms of 6 years for each term. This was increased from 4-year terms to 6-year terms by constitutional amendment in 2012. Vladimir Putin served as president from 2000-2008 then stepped down (was appointed as prime minister by President Medvedev) then Putin was elected again in 2012 and in 2018.

- In the United Kingdom, the head of state has no formal term limit. The monarch and serves until death or abdication. The prime minister also has no formal term limit as head of government.

\*Sourced from the AP Comparative Government and Politics course description (2019.)

**PAU**— The structure and function of political institutions reflect the allocation of power within a political system.\*

## 2.5 Describe procedures for the removal of executive leadership by other institutions.

Across the course countries, executive leaders can be removed by the legislative branch through different procedures that control the abuse of power.

- In the United Kingdom, the head of state serves until death or abdication there is no removal process. The prime minister serves until ousted as party leader, voted out by Commons in a no confidence vote, or until a rival party wins control of the House of Commons through election.
- In Russia, the president can be removed through impeachment by the legislature.
- In China, the National People's Congress has the power to remove a president.
- In Nigeria, the president can be removed through impeachment by the legislature.
- In Mexico, its constitution does not empower the legislature to impeach the president.
- In Iran, neither of Iran's supreme leaders has ever been removed from office by the Assembly of Experts. Iran's president can be removed from office by the legislature and supreme leader.

\*Sourced from the AP Comparative Government and Politics course description (2019.)

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## 2.6 Describe legislative structures and functions in course countries\*

Legislative institutions of course countries include the following structures and functions—

- China's party-controlled system is unicameral and consists of an indirectly elected National People's Congress that the constitution recognizes as the government's most powerful institution that elects the president, approves the premier, and legitimizes policies of the executive.\*

- China's National People's Congress (NPC) members serve 5-year terms and are indirectly elected through a series of regional legislative assemblies. The NPC elects the president (head of state) and approves the appointment of the premier (head of government.) The NPC is typically seen as a rubberstamp of executive policy decisions. It meets for a two-week session each year.

- Iran's theocracy is unicameral; the Majles is elected and holds the power to approve legislation, oversee the budget, and confirm presidential nominees to the Cabinet. This body acts under the supervision of the Guardian Council to ensure compatibility with Islam and Sharia law.\*

- Majles members are elected on fixed terms of every four years separate from presidential elections. Elections are partially multi-member districts and partially single-member districts.

The Guardian Council also vets (filters) candidates for office. Half of Guardian Council are appointed by the Supreme Leader. Half are appointed by the head of the judiciary. Majles votes to approve these appointments.

- Mexico's congressional-presidential system is bicameral. It consists of an elected lower house—the Chamber of Deputies—that approves legislation, levies taxes, and verifies outcomes of elections. The elected upper house, the Senate, holds the unique power to confirm presidential appointments to the Supreme Court, approve treaties, and approve federal intervention in state matters.\*

- Mexico's Chamber of Deputies is partially directly elected in single-member district elections and partially elected in proportional representation of party list votes. Deputies have a four-term limit of 3 years each which was changed from a strict one term limit in 2015.

Mexico's Senate is partially directly elected in multi-member state elections (3 senators per state) and partially elected in proportional representation of party list votes. Senators have a two-term limit of six years each which was changed from a strict one term limit in 2015.

- Nigeria's congressional-presidential system is bicameral, consisting of an elected upper and lower chamber (Senate and House of Representatives). Both chambers hold the power to approve legislation, and the Senate possesses unique impeachment and confirmation powers.\*

- Nigeria's House of Representatives—lower chamber — is directly elected in single-member district elections. The House can approve legislation and hold the cabinet accountable for policy implementation.

Nigeria's Senate—upper chamber — is directly elected in multi-member state elections (3 senators per state.) The Senate approves legislation and can also hold the cabinet accountable for policy implementation with confirmation powers.

- Russia's parliamentary-hybrid system is bicameral, and consists of an elected state Duma, which passes legislation and confirms the prime minister. An appointed Federation Council approves budget legislation, treaties, judicial nominees, and troop deployment.\*

- Russia's Duma—stronger lower chamber — is partially elected in party list elections and partially directly elected in single-member district, plurality winner elections (First-Past-the-Post, FPTP.) The Duma can hold the cabinet accountable for policy implementation.

Russia's Federation Council—weaker upper chamber— is appointed.

- The United Kingdom's parliamentary system is bicameral, consisting of an elected House of Commons—which approves legislation—and selects the prime minister who is formally confirmed by the monarch, whereas an appointed House of Lords reviews and amends bills from the Commons, effectively delaying implementation as a power check.\*

- The UK's House of Commons—stronger lower chamber— is directly elected in single-member district, plurality winner elections (First-Past-the-Post, FPTP.) Commons can remove the prime minister and cabinet (very rare) with a vote of no confidence.

The UK's House of Lords—weaker upper chamber — is appointed. Lords can review and suggest amendments with the possibility of slight delay (up to 30 days for budgets) in passage of legislation.

\*Sourced from the AP Comparative Government and Politics course description (2019.)



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2.7 Explain how legislative powers are constrained by other institutions and/or processes, which can affect legislative independence \*

Legislative powers can be constrained by other governmental institutions, including—

- China's Politburo Standing Committee, which is the actual center of power in the Chinese state. \*
- China's Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), which assumes legislative duties most of the year when the NPC is not in session, sets NPC legislative agenda, supervises NPC member elections, and interprets the Constitution and laws.\*
- Iran's Expediency Council, which is selected by the Supreme Leader as an advisory committee to resolve disputes between the Majles and the Guardian Council.\*
- Iran's Guardian Council, which vets candidates and oversees the Majles to make sure laws comply with Islamic law.\*
- In the UK in 2019, some analysts asserted that the prime minister could withdraw the UK out of the European Union without legislative approval from the parliament. These analysts said the only meaningful check the parliament has on the executive in the UK is the vote of no confidence to remove a prime minister.
- In Mexico, Nigeria and Russia, presidents have the executive power to issue decrees and directives shape how the executive bureaucracies enforce and implement policies. These executive decrees are common in presidential systems and can have the power of lawmaking without needing the approval of the legislative branch.

Legislatures have the potential to reinforce legitimacy and stability by responding to public demand, openly debating policy, facilitating compromise between factions, extending civil liberties, and restricting the power of the executive.\*

\*Sourced from the AP Comparative Government and Politics course description (2019.)

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## 2.8 Describe the structure and functions of judiciaries \*

Judiciaries in course countries have different functions and use various methods to appoint judges to interpret and apply laws and resolve disputes, represented by—

- In China, rule by law (instead of rule of law) means the judicial system is subservient to the decisions of the Chinese Communist Party (CPC), which controls most judicial appointments.\*

- The CCP controls most appointments of judges and courts are used to enforce party decisions.

- The Iranian judiciary's major function is to ensure that the legal system is based on religious law, so judges must be trained in Islamic Sharia law. The head of the judiciary is appointed by the Supreme Leader and can nominate half of the Guardian Council with approval by the Majles.\*

- There are civil courts in Iran for some crimes. Revolutionary courts handle more serious crimes like national security trials.

- The Mexican judiciary is in transition—the Supreme Court has the power of judicial review and subsequent constitutional amendments have been implemented with the intent to make the system more independent and effective. In Mexico, Supreme Court magistrates are nominated by the president and approved by the Senate for a term of 15 years. \*

- The Nigerian judiciary has the power of judicial review, and an effort has been made to reestablish its legitimacy and independence by reducing corruption; under the system of federalism, Islamic Sharia Courts have been established in the north. In Nigeria, Supreme Court judges are recommended by a judicial council and are appointed by the president with confirmation by the Senate \*

- Russia's government uses the judicial system to target opposition, and although constitutionally the courts have the power of judicial review, this power has not been used to limit the authority of the governing branches. In Russia, judges are nominated by the president and approved by the Federation Council.\*

- The United Kingdom's judicial system uses common law to enforce the rule of law; major functions of the Supreme Court include its serving as the final court of appeals, protecting human/civil rights and liberties, and ruling on devolution disputes.\*

- Top judges use the UK's common law system to interpret vague laws to establish judicial precedent for other judges to follow. The UK Supreme Court was established by an act of Parliament in 2009. This supreme court also hears cases related to disputes about the distribution of central powers to regional authorities (devolution.)

\*Sourced from the AP Comparative Government and Politics course description (2019.)

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## 2.9 Explain the importance of independent judiciaries relative to other political institutions\*

Governments maintain legitimacy through a variety of processes or factors, including policy effectiveness, political efficacy, The degree of the judiciary's independence from other branches of government depends on the amount of authority the courts have to overrule executive and legislative actions, the process by which judicial officials acquire their jobs, the length of judicial terms, the professional and academic backgrounds that judicial officials are expected to have, and the processes used to remove judges from their posts.\*

Independent judiciaries can strengthen democracy by maintaining checks and balances, protecting rights and liberties, establishing the rule of law, and maintaining separation of powers.\*

- In China, there is no independence of courts even though judges sometimes make rulings against the government in lawsuits by citizens. These rulings against the government are seen as superficial without the power of judicial review.
- Iran's constitution states the judiciary is an independent power but the courts are commonly used to prosecute opposition figures This creates a culture of rule by law (as contrasted to rule of law in an independent judiciary.)
- In Mexico, the judiciary has improved its independence with constitutional amendments. Mexico's Supreme Court has judges who are recommended by the president with confirmation by Mexico's Senate and with a 15 year term limit.
- Nigeria's judiciary has improved its independence by reducing corruption. Nigeria uses a common law legal system that gives more power to judges to interpret laws. The Supreme Court has the power of judicial review.
- Russia's judiciary is not viewed as independent because the government has used courts in the targeting of political opponents and dissidents.
- The judicial branch in the UK is viewed as independent from partisan influence and from control by the legislative and executive branches. This allows for rule of law as a democracy and some degree of judicial checks and balances even though the UK has no written constitution and no power of judicial review.

\*Sourced from the AP Comparative Government and Politics course description (2019.)

# AP CompGoPo: Glossary

## Unit 2: Political Institutions

**Legislative branch**- part of government responsible for writing laws and major policies

**Executive branch**- part of government responsible for implementing laws through the government's bureaucracy

**Judicial branch**- part of government responsible for hearing cases and applying and interpreting laws

**Head of State**- executive leader who represents a nation in ceremonial functions; in some governments can also have formal powers to shape foreign policy

**Head of Government**- executive leader sometimes known as a chief executive who formulates, implements and enforces policies through the cabinet and different agencies

**Parliamentary systems** when a national legislature has combined lawmaking and executive functions with the power to select and remove a prime minister who acts as head of government\*

**Presidential systems** when separate election processes are used in the selection of the president and the national legislature; president serves as head of state and head of government who oversees the bureaucratic implementation of executive regulations and laws written by the legislature.\*

**Semi-presidential systems** when separate election processes are used in the selection of the president and the national legislature; president serves as head of state and selects the head of government, with the legislature's approval, to shape policies and implement the legislature's laws.

**Fixed-term election system** in which elections for public officials take place on a regularly announced established date

**Executive bureaucracy** is the system of governmental agencies that implement executive regulations and laws written by the legislature

**Question Time** allows majority members of a legislature to indicate representation of the interest of their constituencies (districts) and allows the opposition party to verbally challenge the majority party governance and policy making.\*

**Executive cabinet**- top governmental officials in charge of formulating, implementing, and enforcing policy through different methods and bureaucratic agencies

**Commander in chief**- top governmental official in charge of decisions pertaining to the military

**Prime minister**- when the leader of the national legislature is also the head of government who is in charge of formulating, implementing, and enforcing policy through different methods and bureaucratic agencies

**Civil Service** – permanent members of bureaucratic agencies who implement laws and governmental regulations

\*Sourced from the AP Comparative Government and Politics course description (2019.)

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**Comparing Power—**

**CheckUP: Unit 2 Political Institutions**

2.1 Describe parliamentary, presidential, and semi-presidential systems

2.2 Compare institutional relations among parliamentary, presidential, and semi-presidential systems.

1. Which of the following is an accurate pairing of a country with the structure of its political system?

A.	Mexico	Presidential system
B.	United Kingdom	Semi-presidential system
C.	Russia	Presidential system
D.	Nigeria	Parliamentary system

2. Which of the following is an accurate pairing of a country with the structure of its political system?

A.	Mexico	Semi-presidential system
B.	United Kingdom	Presidential system
C.	Russia	Parliamentary system
D.	Nigeria	Presidential system

3. Which of the following is an accurate pairing of a country with the structure of its political system?

A.	Mexico	Parliamentary system
B.	United Kingdom	Parliamentary system
C.	Russia	Parliamentary system
D.	Nigeria	Semi-presidential system

4. Which of the following is an accurate pairing of a country with the structure of its political system?

A.	Mexico	Parliamentary system
B.	United Kingdom	Semi-presidential system
C.	Russia	Semi-presidential system
D.	Nigeria	Parliamentary system

5. Which is a unique feature of a parliamentary political system?

A. Separate popular elections for the president and for the national legislature, allowing the president to nominate a prime minister.

B. An appointed head of state selects a president to act as head of government

C. Combines the lawmaking and executive functions, which allows the national legislature to select and remove the head of government and cabinet

D. Features a cabinet that is mostly responsible to the elected executive, with a legislature that can only remove cabinet members through impeachment

6. Which is a unique feature of a presidential political system?

- A. Separate popular elections for the president and for the national legislature, allowing the president to nominate a prime minister.
- B. An appointed head of state selects a president to act as head of government
- C. Combines the lawmaking and executive functions, which allows the national legislature to select and remove the head of government and cabinet
- D. Features a cabinet that is mostly responsible to the elected executive, with a legislature that can only remove cabinet members through impeachment

7. Which is a unique feature of a presidential political system?

- A. Separate popular elections for the president and for the national legislature, allowing the president to nominate a prime minister.
- B. An appointed head of state selects a president to act as head of government
- C. Combines the lawmaking and executive functions, which allows the national legislature to select and remove the head of government and cabinet
- D. Separate fixed-term, popular elections for the national legislature, and a top executive leader serving as both head of state and head of government

8. Which is a unique feature of a semi-presidential political system?

- A. Separate popular elections for the president and for the national legislature, allowing the president to nominate a prime minister.
- B. An appointed head of state selects a president to act as head of government
- C. Combines the lawmaking and executive functions, which allows the national legislature to select and remove the head of government and cabinet
- D. Separate fixed-term, popular elections for the national legislature, and a top executive leader serving as both head of state and head of government

9. Which is an accurate comparison of how presidential and parliamentary systems operate?

- A. Presidential systems are less likely to be checked by elements of federalism than parliamentary systems.
- B. Parliamentary systems have more institutional obstacles to enact policy than presidential systems.
- C. Presidential systems tend to enact more substantial policies more quickly than parliamentary systems.
- D. Parliamentary systems have fewer institutional obstacles to enact policy than presidential systems.

10. Which is a common check on an executive in a parliamentary system?

- A. Impeachment of the president.
- B. Regularly scheduled public questioning of leaders in the executive branch.
- C. Separate elections for the legislature and head of government.
- D. Executive selects members of the cabinet to direct administration of the laws.

## 2.3 Explain the structure, function, and change of executive leadership in course countries

1. Which of the following best describes the role of an executive cabinet?

- A. formulate and implement policies through different bureaucratic agencies.
- B. vet candidates seeking national elected office.
- C. interpret laws to message the national court system about the desired application of laws.
- D. determine the rules for debate in the legislative process.

2. Which is the correct pairing of titles for the top executive in China's leadership structure?

A.	President	Premier
B.	Head of State	Prime Minister
C.	General Secretary of the Communist Party	Commander in Chief
D.	Speaker of the House	Head of State

3. Which is the correct pairing of titles for the top executive in China's leadership structure?

A.	Head of Government	Chair of the Central Military Commission
B.	Speaker of the House	Premier
C.	General Secretary of the Communist Party	Prime Minister
D.	President	Head of State

4. What power does the chair of China's Central Military Commission have?

- A. commander in chief
- B. head of state
- C. party leader
- D. oversees civil service

5. In China, how does one attain the position of head of government?

- A. Nomination by the National People's Congress
- B. National, popular election
- C. Nomination by the president
- D. Appointment by the theocratic leader

6. What power does China's premier have?

- A. commander in chief
- B. head of state
- C. party leader
- D. oversees civil service

7. In China, how does one attain the position as one of the top executive leaders?

- A. Nomination by the National People's Congress
- B. National, popular election
- C. Appointment by the theocratic leader
- D. Selection by top leaders of the Communist party

8. Which is the correct pairing of responsibilities for Iran's Supreme Leader?

A.	President	Premier
B.	Head of State	Commander in Chief
C.	General Secretary of the Communist Party	Appoints top executive ministers
D.	Appoints half of Guardian Council	Oversees civil service

9. Which is the correct pairing of responsibilities for Iran's Supreme Leader?

A.	President	Commander in Chief
B.	Head of State	Premier

C.	Appoints half of Guardian Council	Appoints top executive ministers
D.	Head of government	Oversees civil service

10. In Iran, how does one attain the position of Supreme Leader?

- A. Nomination by the Majles
- B. National, popular election
- C. Nomination by the president
- D. Appointment by the Assembly of Experts

2.4 Explain the advantages and disadvantages of executive term limits in course countries

2.5 Describe procedures for the removal of executive leadership by other institutions.

1. Which is the correct pairing of the advantages and disadvantages of executive term limits?

	Advantages of Term Limits	Disadvantages of Term Limits
A.	Force good executives to leave office	Inhibit the emergence of dictators
B.	Check executive power	Allow insufficient time for an office holder to achieve goals
C.	Impede policy continuity	Focus the officeholder on governing
D.	Prevent the officeholder from building experience	Create a lame-duck period for the officeholder

2. Which is the correct pairing of the advantages and disadvantages of executive term limits?

	Advantages of Term Limits	Disadvantages of Term Limits
A.	Force good executives to leave office	Focus the officeholder on governing
B.	Allow insufficient time for an office holder to achieve goals	Impede policy continuity
C.	Provide opportunities for new leaders with new ideas	Inhibit the emergence of dictators
D.	Prevent the officeholder from building experience	Check executive power

3. Which is the correct pairing of advantages of executive term limits?

A.	Impede policy continuity	Provide opportunities for new leaders with new ideas
B.	Prevent the officeholder from building experience	Can lead to poorly designed policy
C.	Inhibit the emergence of dictators	Force good executives to leave office
D.	Check executive power	Focus the officeholder on governing

4. Which is the correct pairing of disadvantages of executive term limits?

A.	Impede policy continuity	Provide opportunities for new leaders with new ideas
B.	Prevent the officeholder from building experience	Can lead to poorly designed policy
C.	Inhibit the emergence of dictators	Force good executives to leave office
D.	Check executive power	Focus the officeholder on governing

5. Which is the correct pairing of a country with its executive term limit?

A.	China	One term of 6 years
B.	Mexico	Had been a 10-year limit; now limit removed
C.	Nigeria	No term limit for head of state or head of government
D.	Russia	Two consecutive terms of 6 years for head of state



6. Which is the correct pairing of a country with its executive term limit?

A.	Iran	One term of 6 years
B.	United Kingdom	Two consecutive terms of 6 years
C.	China	Had been a 10-year limit; now limit removed
D.	Mexico	No term limit for head of state or head of government

7. Which is the correct pairing of a country with its executive term limit?

A.	Iran	Two consecutive terms of 6 years
B.	United Kingdom	No term limit for head of state or head of government
C.	Nigeria	One term of 6 years
D.	Russia	Had been a 10-year limit; now limit removed

8. Which is the correct pairing of a country with its executive term limit?

A.	China	Two consecutive terms of 6 years
B.	Mexico	One term of 6 years
C.	Nigeria	No term limit for head of state or head of government
D.	Russia	Had been a 10-year limit; now limit removed

9. Which is the correct pairing of a country with its executive term limit?

A.	Iran	Unlimited terms for head of state; two consecutive terms of 4 years
B.	United Kingdom	Two consecutive terms of 6 years
C.	China	One term of 6 years
D.	Mexico	No term limit for head of state or head of government

10. Which is the correct pairing of a country with its executive term limit?

A.	Iran	No term limit for head of state or head of government
B.	United Kingdom	Two consecutive terms of 6 years
C.	Nigeria	Two total terms of 4 years each
D.	Russia	Had been a 10-year limit; now limit removed

2.6 Describe legislative structures and functions in course countries

2.7 Explain how legislative powers are constrained by other institutions and/or processes, which can affect legislative independence (China, Iran, and Mexico)

1. According to its constitution, what is the most powerful institution in China's government?

- A. General Secretary of the Communist Party
- B. National People's Congress
- C. Politburo Standing Committee
- D. State Council

2. Which is the correct pairing of features of China's legislative structure?

A.	Bicameral	Indirectly elected national legislature
B.	10-year terms	Two chambers: National People's Congress and Politburo
C.	Unicameral	National People's Congress has legislative authority

D.	Directly elected national legislature	5-year terms
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3. Which is the correct pairing of powers of China's national legislature?

A.	Appoints the General Secretary of the Communist Party	Drafts the national budget
B.	Approves policies endorsed by the executive	Elects the president
C.	Elects the prime minister	Appoints the Politburo of the Communist Party
D.	Appoints the state council	Amends the constitution of China's Communist Party

4. What institution oversees the work of Iran's national legislature?

- A. Majles
- B. Assembly of Experts
- C. Guardian Council
- D. Judiciary Council

5. Which is the correct pairing of features of Iran's legislative structure?

A.	Bicameral	Elected national legislature
B.	10-year terms	Two chambers: Majles and Guardian Council
C.	Unicameral	Majles has legislative authority
D.	Directly elected national legislature	8-year terms

6. Which is the correct pairing of powers of Iran's national legislature?

A.	Appoints the Guardian Council	Approves legislation
B.	Can impeach the President	Supervises work of the Guardian Council
C.	Approves legislation	Appoints the Supreme Leader
D.	Confirms presidential nominees for cabinet	Approves the national budget

7. According to its constitution, which institution confirms presidential appointments in Mexico?

- A. Senate
- B. Chamber of Deputies
- C. Supreme Court
- D. Cabinet

8. Which is the correct pairing of features of Mexico's legislative structure?

A.	Bicameral	Elected national legislature
B.	10-year terms	Chamber of Deputies and Senate
C.	Unicameral	Deputies = 3-year term; Senate = 6-year term
D.	Appointed by regional governments	8-year terms

9. Which is the correct pairing of features of Mexico's legislative structure?

	Mixed election: direct and proportional	Three-year terms; maximum of 4 terms
A.	Chamber of Deputies and Senate	Senate
B.	Senate	Chamber of Deputies and Senate
C.	Chamber of Deputies and Senate	Chamber of Deputies

D.	Chamber of Deputies	Chamber of Deputies and Senate
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10. Which is the correct pairing of powers of Mexico's national legislature?

	Chamber of Deputies	Senate
A.	Appoints regional governors	Approves legislation
B.	Can impeach the President	Supervises work of the Supreme Court
C.	Verifies election results	Ratifies president's treaties
D.	Confirms presidential nominees for cabinet	Approves the national budget

2.6 Describe legislative structures and functions in course countries

2.7 Explain how legislative powers are constrained by other institutions and/or processes, which can affect legislative independence (Nigeria, Russia, and the United Kingdom)

1. Which is the correct pairing of features of Nigeria's legislative structure?

A.	Bicameral	Elected national legislature
B.	10-year terms	House of Representatives and Senate
C.	Unicameral	House = single member per district; Senate = 3 per state
D.	Appointed by regional governments	8-year terms

2. Which is the correct pairing of features of Nigeria's legislative structure?

	Single-member district	Three per state
A.	House of Representatives only	Senate only
B.	Senate only	House of Representatives only
C.	House of Representatives only	House of Representatives and Senate
D.	House of Representatives and Senate	House of Representatives only

3. Which is the correct pairing of powers of Nigeria's national legislature?

	Approves legislation	Holds Cabinet accountable for implementing policies
A.	House of Representatives and Senate	House of Representatives and Senate
B.	Senate only	House of Representatives only
C.	House of Representatives only	Senate only
D.	House of Representatives and Senate	House of Representatives only

4. According to its constitution, which institution of Russia's government approves the deployment of troops?

- A. Duma
- B. Cabinet
- C. Federation Council
- D. Supreme Court

5. Which is the correct pairing of features of Russia's legislative structure?

A.	Unicameral	Elected national legislature
B.	8-year terms	Duma and Federation Council
C.	10-year terms	Appointed by regional governments
D.	Bicameral	Duma and Federation Council

6. Which is the correct pairing of features of Russia's legislative structure?

	Mixed election system	Appointed by regional government
A.	Duma only	Federation Council only
B.	Federation Council only	Duma only
C.	Duma only	Duma and Federation Council
D.	Duma and Federation Council	Duma only

7. Which is the correct pairing of powers of Russia's national legislature?

	Confirms Prime Minister	Ratifies treaties
A.	Duma only	Federation Council only
B.	Federation Council only	Duma only
C.	Duma only	Duma and Federation Council
D.	Duma and Federation Council	Duma only

8. Which institution of the United Kingdom's government only has the power to review legislation and suggest amendments to that legislation?

- A. House of Commons
- B. Cabinet
- C. House of Lords
- D. Supreme Court

9. Which is the correct pairing of features of the United Kingdom's legislative structure?

A.	Unicameral	Elected national legislature
B.	8-year terms	Commons and Lords
C.	10-year terms	Appointed by regional governments
D.	Bicameral	Commons and Lords

10. Which is the correct pairing of features of the United Kingdom's legislative structure?

	Single-member district election	Appointed to position
A.	Commons only	Commons and Lords
B.	Lords only	Commons only
C.	Commons only	Lords only
D.	Commons and Lords	Commons only

2.8 Describe the structure and functions of judiciaries

2.9 Explain the importance of independent judiciaries relative to other political institutions

1. Description of how authoritarian regimes, like China, use court systems and judicial appointments to enforce the government's authority against opposition leaders and political dissenters:

- A. Rule of law
- B. Rule by law
- C. Judicial review
- D. Common

2. Courts in China tend to make decisions in favor of:

- A. Political opponents
- B. Emerging political parties
- C. Communist Party
- D. Environmental activists

3. Judges in Iran are expected to have been trained in:

- A. Judicial review
- B. Codified law
- C. Common law
- D. Sharia law

4. Which of the following appoints the head of Iran's judiciary:

- A. Guardian Council
- B. Supreme Leader
- C. President
- D. Majles

5. One role of the head of Iran's judiciary is to:

- A. Appoint half of the Guardian Council
- B. Appoint the Supreme Leader
- C. Confirm the nomination of the President
- D. Approve the appointment of the Assembly of Experts

6. When Mexico's judiciary is described as being "in transition" it means that:

- A. Many seats on the judiciary are vacant.
- B. Courts are becoming more independent of political influence.
- C. Most court houses are still under construction.
- D. Courts are trending toward being less independent from political influence.

7. Which of the following describes the process of filling vacancies on Mexico's Supreme Court?

- A. A Senate committee appoints judicial nominees who are approved by the President.
- B. The President appoints judicial nominees who are approved by the Senate.
- C. A Chamber of Deputies committee appoints judicial nominees who are approved by the President.
- D. The President appoints judicial nominees who are approved by the Chamber of Deputies.

8. Even with a 15-year term limit, magistrates on Mexico's Supreme Court are trending toward:

- A. More influence from the Chamber of Deputies.
- B. More independence from political influence.
- C. More influence from the majority party.
- D. Less independence from political influence.

9. Courts in Nigeria have which power:

- A. Judicial review
- B. Executive orders
- C. Legislative vetos
- D. Authority to implement laws

10. When Nigeria's judiciary is described as transitioning to more independence, it means that:

- A. Most judges no longer receive government salaries.
- B. Courts are trending toward being less independent from political influence.
- C. The President has no role in the appointment of Supreme Court judges.
- D. Courts are becoming less influenced by corruption.