

COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Section I

Time—45 minutes

55 Questions

Directions: Each of the questions or incomplete statements below is followed by five suggested answers or completions. Select the one that is best in each case and then fill in the corresponding oval on the answer sheet.

- Which of the following election systems is most likely to produce the largest number of competitive political parties?
 - Plurality
 - First past the post
 - Proportional representation
 - Two-round majority
 - Referendum based
- Which of the following is found in illiberal democracies?
 - Elections
 - Local government transparency
 - Guaranteed civil liberties
 - Enfranchisement for all social cleavage groups
 - Strong civil society
- The two largest ethnic groups in Mexico are
 - indigenous and African
 - indigenous and European
 - mestizo and African
 - mestizo and European
 - mestizo and indigenous
- Which of the following best describes how social movements differ from interest groups?
 - Social movements tend to be ethnically based, and interest groups are economically based.
 - Social movements tend to be less formally organized than interest groups.
 - Social movements tend to be more narrowly focused on a single issue, while interest groups are broadly focused.
 - Interest groups tend to be more important in liberal democracies than are social movements.
 - Interest groups tend to threaten the stability of government more than social movements do.
- Which of the following do Great Britain and Nigeria have in common?
 - Both countries have parliamentary systems of government with directly elected presidents.
 - Both countries have ethnic diversity and strong regional identities.
 - Both countries have powerful executive branches and very weak legislatures and judiciaries.
 - Both countries have economies dominated by the export of crude oil.
 - Both countries have a strong sense of national unity with minimal social cleavages.

Section I

6. In a comparison of authoritarian and democratic regimes, it is accurate to say authoritarian regimes
- (A) are more likely to be characterized by strong civil societies
 - (B) concentrate more power in legislative assemblies
 - (C) tend to be more inefficient decision makers
 - (D) are unstable and therefore more likely to be short-term
 - (E) probably lack well-established rule of law
7. In Great Britain, the title “chancellor of the exchequer” refers to the
- (A) Prince of Wales
 - (B) prime minister
 - (C) foreign minister
 - (D) finance minister
 - (E) head of the House of Lords
8. China’s political leaders regard which of the following as integral parts of an eventually united Chinese state?
- I. Hong Kong
 - II. North and South Korea
 - III. Taiwan
 - IV. Tibet
- (A) I and II only
 - (B) II and IV only
 - (C) I, III, and IV only
 - (D) II, III, and IV only
 - (E) I, II, III, and IV
9. Which of the following statements is true with regard to the judicial systems in Nigeria and Iran?
- (A) Both systems reflect the British influence in following both codified and common law.
 - (B) Both systems are reflective of the Napoleonic influence and have only codified law.
 - (C) Both systems have elements of Shari’ah law incorporated into their judicial systems.
 - (D) Both systems reject the concept of human rights being protected by a constitution.
 - (E) Both systems forbid the use of lawyers to argue cases against the government’s charges in criminal cases.
10. One major contrast between the Yeltsin and Putin presidential administrations in terms of domestic policies lies in the
- (A) extensive media freedom under Yeltsin and the significant decrease in media freedom under Putin
 - (B) peaceful relations with Chechnya under Yeltsin and the violent relations with Chechnya under Putin
 - (C) strong government control over political parties under Yeltsin and freer, multiparty competition under Putin
 - (D) limited use of presidential decrees under Yeltsin and the extensive use of presidential decrees under Putin
 - (E) continuation of the centrally planned economy under Yeltsin and the quick move to a free-market economy under Putin
11. All of the following are issues currently faced by the European Union (EU) EXCEPT
- (A) the withdrawal of its founding members
 - (B) trade disputes with nonmember countries
 - (C) the discrepancy in economic power between member states
 - (D) pressure from nonmember states to join the Union
 - (E) challenges to the EU’s authority by nationalist sentiment within the member states
12. Which of the following is an accurate feature of the judiciary in China?
- (A) There are no judges, only juries.
 - (B) There is no independent judicial review.
 - (C) Judges are accountable to the public that elects them.
 - (D) The Supreme Court has the power to overturn an act of the National People’s Congress.
 - (E) Judges have found the death penalty unconstitutional.

13. Which of the following accurately describes two main components of structural adjustment programs?
- (A) A reduction in government spending and the lowering of import tariffs
 - (B) An increase in taxes on corporations and redistribution of income
 - (C) An increase in employment and the minimum wage through spending on public works
 - (D) Nationalization of major industries and a decrease in interest rates
 - (E) A reduction of foreign investment and the institution of a flat tax
14. Which of the following is true of both China and Russia?
- (A) Both have proportional-representation electoral systems.
 - (B) Both have weak legislative branches compared with the executive branch.
 - (C) Both have developed strong, independent militaries.
 - (D) Both place more emphasis on ideological correctness than on technical expertise within the public bureaucracy.
 - (E) Both have moved from nationalism to multiculturalism as a central plank in state legitimacy.
15. Political life in the Nigerian Fourth Republic can be characterized by all of the following EXCEPT
- (A) the threat of a military coup
 - (B) corruption of the ruling elite
 - (C) the absence of political parties
 - (D) ethnic and regional favoritism
 - (E) disproportionate presidential power

Item 16 was not scored.

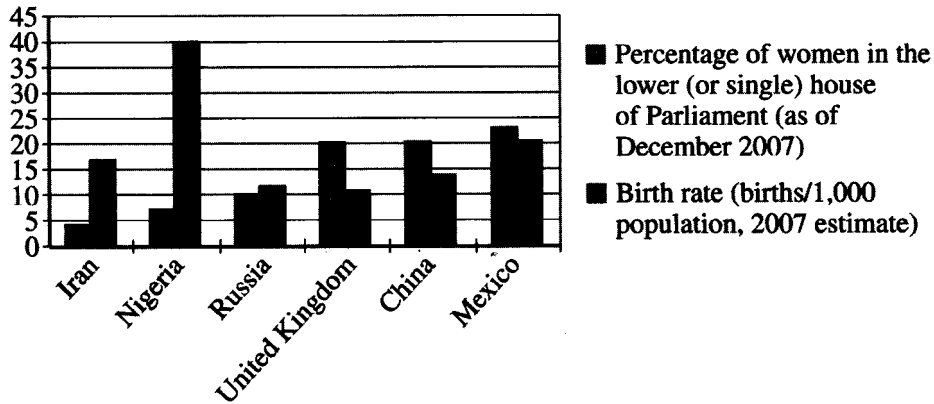
Item 17 was not scored.

18. Which of the following is a true statement about the adoption of competitive elections in Chinese villages?
- (A) They were initiated by the state to control local corruption and incompetent leaders.
 - (B) They clearly mark the end of the Communist Party's control in China.
 - (C) They provide an opportunity for serious national debate on rural policy in China.
 - (D) They have given rise to a number of nationally organized opposition parties.
 - (E) They were instituted as a consolation for income inequality with urban areas.
19. Historically, the government of Mexico limited the political power of the Catholic church by
- (A) barring Catholics from worshipping within the country
 - (B) minimizing the number of people who could attend a Catholic service
 - (C) not allowing Catholic priests to vote
 - (D) denying Catholics the right to run for office
 - (E) banning the pope from entering Mexico

20. Which of the following best describes a regime change?
- (A) A successful coup d'état occurs in which one political leader replaces another as head of state.
 - (B) A change occurs in a country's political institutions and practices, as from totalitarian to democratic rule.
 - (C) One longtime ruler dies or retires and is replaced by another, who in turn rules the country for a long period of time.
 - (D) A country's political leader is replaced by a competitor, either by election or by military force.
 - (E) An authoritarian ruler is defeated by military force, and a new leader emerges from the lower ranks of the military to replace the former ruler.
21. Which institution has responsibility for organizing federal elections in Mexico?
- (A) The Institute of Federal Elections (IFE)
 - (B) The Mexican Ministry of the Interior
 - (C) The Organization of American States (OAS)
 - (D) The Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judicial Branch (TEPJF)
 - (E) Electoral authorities in each Mexican state and the federal district
22. Which of the following is true of women in Nigeria?
- (A) They had more control over their own affairs under colonialism than they do now.
 - (B) They enjoy more freedom in the northern region than they do in the south.
 - (C) They must walk at least two spaces behind their husbands.
 - (D) They enjoy more freedom in the southern region than they do in the north.
 - (E) They voted for the first time in 1999.
23. Which of the following statements about political socialization is true?
- (A) Political socialization is a process that continues throughout an individual's life.
 - (B) The most powerful agent of political socialization is the school.
 - (C) Political socialization ensures that citizens perceive the government as legitimate.
 - (D) Citizens of one generation tend to undergo the same political socialization as other generations within the same society.
 - (E) Political socialization does not occur in countries where a democratic political system and a highly educated population exist.
24. Which of the following principles did President Mohammad Khatami put at the center of his domestic agenda in his first term?
- (A) Strengthened clerical supremacy
 - (B) Neoliberal economic reforms
 - (C) Increased freedom of the press
 - (D) Minority rights
 - (E) Coeducational schools
25. Differences in the platforms of two parties important in the first decade of postcommunist Russia—the Communist Party and Yabloko—have reflected disagreements on primarily what policy?
- (A) Ethnic appeasement
 - (B) Gender rights
 - (C) Religious freedom
 - (D) Urban development
 - (E) Economic reform

26. In a rentier system, public policy is less responsive to citizens because of which of the following factors?
- (A) Most citizens rent rather than own property.
 - (B) Government revenues are derived from foreign purchases of a particular resource.
 - (C) Governments are necessarily corrupt in such systems.
 - (D) There is no consensus for policy because the polity is fractured by numerous cleavages.
 - (E) Such systems have temporary governments, which do not have time to develop policy.
27. Which statement below is an accurate description of the role of the military in Mexico and Nigeria in the past 50 years?
- (A) In both systems, the military has often governed in lieu of civilian governments.
 - (B) In both systems, the military is torn by ethnic dissension, making the military very instable.
 - (C) In both systems, the oil industry is in the hands of the military.
 - (D) In Mexico, the military has played a minor role in governing, while in Nigeria it has been actively involved.
 - (E) In Mexico, the military has ethnic minorities in it; in Nigeria, the military has been dominated by Islamists.
28. Since the 1970s, which civil society groups in the United Kingdom have increased and which have decreased their representation in Parliament?
- (A) Representation of trade unions has increased, while representation of the Anglican church and environmental groups has decreased.
 - (B) Representation of trade unions and environmental groups has increased, while representation of the Anglican church has decreased.
 - (C) Representation of environmental groups has increased, while representation of the Anglican church and trade unions has decreased.
 - (D) Representation of the Anglican church and environmental groups has increased, while representation of trade unions has decreased.
 - (E) Representation of the Anglican church has increased, while representation of trade unions and environmental groups has decreased.

Item 29 was not scored.



30. A political scientist investigating the relationship between birth rate and the number of women in Parliament compiles data into the bar graph shown above, which suggests that

- (A) Mexico, the United Kingdom and China have the highest percentage of women in Parliament
- (B) Russia and Iran have the highest birth rates
- (C) women in Nigeria are more likely to be in Parliament than to have babies
- (D) Mexico has the highest birth rate and the highest percentage of women in Parliament
- (E) Iran has the highest percentage of women in Parliament

31. Britain's imposition of a federal political structure on Nigeria was significant because it

- (A) simplified the revenue allocation process
- (B) facilitated development by giving each state the opportunity to carry out independent development projects
- (C) gave states responsibility for law enforcement with a network of state police forces
- (D) led to the equitable distribution of resources across all regions
- (E) aggravated ethnonationalism when regional boundaries coincided with ethnic divisions

32. Which of the following is true of the bureaucracy in Mexico?

- (A) It is a major source of employment within Mexico.
- (B) The National Action Party (PAN) has effectively cut back on bureaucratic corruption.
- (C) Oil is no longer controlled by the government bureaucracy.
- (D) The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has caused an increase in bureaucratic inefficiency.
- (E) It has become smaller since the increase in microcredit programs.

33. Chinese leaders Hu Jintao and Jiang Zemin gained their political authority and effective political power from which of the following?
- (A) Their position as president or head of state
 - (B) The process of popular election
 - (C) Their close ties with former Soviet leaders
 - (D) The power, prestige, and wealth of their families in the precommunist era
 - (E) Their position as general secretary
34. Public policy in Nigeria is influenced by both domestic and international factors. All of the following factors are central to the Nigerian policy-making process EXCEPT
- (A) the World Bank
 - (B) the Nigerian bureaucracy
 - (C) single-party dominance in the legislature
 - (D) international commodities markets
 - (E) ethnic and religious divisions
35. According to dependency theory, which of the following is one aspect of the relationship between developed and developing nations in the global economy?
- (A) General prosperity will eventually envelop all nations due to developed nations' transferring much of their wealth to the developing nations.
 - (B) Developing nations are not able to compete in world markets with developed nations because leaders of developing nations mismanage their national economies.
 - (C) The stability of global commodity prices enhances the prospects of narrowing the gap between developed and developing nations.
 - (D) The economic progress of developing nations depends on the establishment of democratic electoral procedures.
 - (E) The economic progress of developing nations is hampered by developed nations' dominance of foreign direct investment in developing nations.
36. Devolution in the United Kingdom has allowed
- (A) separatist parties to have roles in Scotland and Wales
 - (B) the union of Ireland and Northern Ireland
 - (C) Scotland to join the European Union
 - (D) Northern Ireland to establish a separate state
 - (E) England and Wales to merge
37. Economic performances of countries are compared with the Gini coefficient that
- (A) measures standards of living across countries
 - (B) is an indicator of income inequality
 - (C) tells the average income of citizens in different countries
 - (D) adjusts the gross domestic product (GDP) for the cost of living
 - (E) is a measure of the type of economic system in place
38. In which of the following pairs of countries does the press enjoy the greatest freedom?
- (A) China and Great Britain
 - (B) China and Iran
 - (C) Great Britain and Nigeria
 - (D) Iran and Nigeria
 - (E) Russia and Iran
39. Which of the following statements accurately describes changes in the Chinese media in the past twenty years?
- (A) There has been a rapid decline in the number and types of media outlets.
 - (B) There has been a decline in the diversity of topics permitted for public discussion.
 - (C) There has been privatization of most media outlets.
 - (D) There has been a continuation of monolithic univocal programming at the national level.
 - (E) There has been an increase in investigative reporting.
40. Which of the following occurred soon after the death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini?
- (A) Iran invaded Kuwait.
 - (B) The government nationalized the financial sector and major industries.
 - (C) Economic development became the central concern of the Iranian state.
 - (D) Iran adopted a parliamentary form of government.
 - (E) Iran reclaimed some of the territory lost to Iraq in the Iran-Iraq War.

Section I

41. A successful vote of no confidence in a parliamentary system means that
- (A) new elections for the legislature are called
 - (B) the head of state will dissolve the national legislature
 - (C) all laws passed by the legislature in that session are voided
 - (D) the government steps down and a new government must be formed
 - (E) the heads of both state and government must step down from their posts
42. Which of the following is true about the current legal system in China?
- (A) It is still largely based on Confucianism.
 - (B) The judiciary is independent.
 - (C) Capital punishment is not allowed under the constitution.
 - (D) Economic reform has led to judicial reform.
 - (E) It is based on common law.
44. Which of the following statements is true about Iranian domestic policy?
- (A) The government does not allow foreign investment.
 - (B) Women are forbidden to attend university.
 - (C) The government argues that environmental policies are against Shari'ah law.
 - (D) The predominant interpretation of Shari'ah law allows for birth control.
 - (E) The government has forbidden the production of nuclear energy.
45. Citizens of nondemocratic regimes may be allowed to participate in elections in order to
- (A) prepare the country for a transition to democracy
 - (B) allow voters a choice between candidates and/or parties
 - (C) assess the state of public opinion
 - (D) provide legitimacy to the ruling regime
 - (E) give opposition parties the opportunity to form



Source: Kevin Kallaugher for *The Economist* magazine, June 24, 2008.

43. The cartoon above suggests that globalization has
- (A) grown to a point such that rising population is going to destabilize many world economies
 - (B) worn out the United States economy because too many other economies are based on consumer goods
 - (C) stoked the greed of corporations that will soon lead to their downfall and the start of a workers' revolution
 - (D) prompted the United States to push other countries to move their economies to become more market based
 - (E) entwined global economies to a point such that economic weakness in one affects the others
46. Which of the following is true of Iran's Supreme Leader?
- (A) He reviews all laws to make sure they are constitutional.
 - (B) He has the power to appoint half of the members of the Guardian Council.
 - (C) He can be dismissed by the President for failing to act according to Islamic principles.
 - (D) His power is constrained by an active legislature with substantial investigative authority.
 - (E) Although he can serve for an unlimited number of years, he must face the voters every four years for reelection.

47. The nature of the social and political cleavages in China and Russia are different because in China
- (A) there are no significant ethnic cleavages or conflicts, while in Russia ethnicity is a central cleavage
 - (B) regional differences have not led to secessionist movements, while in Russia this is a major source of upheaval
 - (C) the government has managed to maintain the gap between rich and poor close to premarket reform levels, while in Russia inequality has grown enormously
 - (D) the Communist Party is still one important and stable channel of upward mobility, while in Russia it is not
 - (E) there is no system of public education after primary school, while in Russia education is free through the university level for anyone who can pass the tests
48. What is meant by the term “democratic deficit” in the European Union?
- (A) Most new member states do not hold competitive elections.
 - (B) Very few democratic parties (parties on the political left) are elected in European elections.
 - (C) Turnout for domestic elections in all member states is decreasing.
 - (D) Most decision making in the European Union is done by nonelected officials.
 - (E) The European Union has a large deficit because of spending on agricultural subsidies.
49. Health care, pensions, unemployment insurance, and direct economic assistance to those in need are
- (A) impossible to study comparatively because of international diversity
 - (B) basic values of new social movements
 - (C) examples of provision of public policies
 - (D) common features of unofficial patron-client networks
 - (E) widely seen as being absent under the Soviet style of socialism
50. In comparing procedural and substantive democracy, it is accurate to say
- (A) all substantive democracies are procedural, but not all procedural democracies are substantive
 - (B) procedural democracies are characterized by more civil liberties than are substantive democracies
 - (C) during Putin’s tenure as president, democracy in Russia became increasingly substantive
 - (D) liberal democracies tend to be more procedural than substantive democracies
 - (E) procedural democracies are more likely to exhibit transparency in government than are substantive democracies
51. Political participation in authoritarian regimes differs from that in democratic regimes in which of the following ways?
- (A) Voluntary political participation does not occur in authoritarian regimes and does occur in democratic regimes.
 - (B) There are no avenues for political participation in authoritarian regimes and there are in democratic regimes.
 - (C) Authoritarian regimes do not respond to citizen participation while democratic regimes do respond.
 - (D) State organized participation is more likely to occur in authoritarian regimes than in democratic regimes.
 - (E) Grassroots political participation does not occur in authoritarian regimes but does occur in democratic regimes.
52. Which of the following pairs of countries has a bicameral national legislature?
- (A) Britain and Iran
 - (B) Mexico and China
 - (C) China and Russia
 - (D) Russia and Britain
 - (E) Iran and Nigeria

Section I

53. Nigeria has significantly increased its importance as a regional power through its leadership in which of the following organizations?
- (A) Organization of Islamic States
 - (B) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
 - (C) United Nations Security Council
 - (D) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
 - (E) Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
54. Which of the following is true of a unitary system?
- (A) It has no local or subnational governments at all.
 - (B) It constitutionally protects local and subnational governments.
 - (C) It must implement policy uniformly across subnational units.
 - (D) It is more decentralized than a federal system.
 - (E) It can have competitive local elections.
55. Who selects the head of the British government?
- (A) The departing prime minister
 - (B) The House of Lords
 - (C) A committee comprised of the majority and minority party MPs
 - (D) The electorate
 - (E) The majority party in the House of Commons

END OF SECTION I.

**IF YOU FINISH BEFORE TIME IS CALLED, YOU MAY
CHECK YOUR WORK ON THIS SECTION.**

DO NOT GO ON TO SECTION II UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.
