

AP Comparative Government (AP COGO) China Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. What is a significant aspect of China's environmental strategy?**
 - A. Shifting all energy reliance to fossil fuels**
 - B. A focus solely on nuclear energy development**
 - C. A preference for "engineering" solutions like sustainable development**
 - D. Limiting alternative energy research to international companies**
- 2. Which body is tasked with electoral responsibilities within the Chinese political system?**
 - A. National People's Congress**
 - B. Central Committee**
 - C. State Council**
 - D. Central Commission for Discipline Inspection**
- 3. How have market forces influenced competition in China's economy today?**
 - A. Government monopolies have led to increased prices**
 - B. Fierce competition between state-owned and non-state firms**
 - C. Market forces have been eliminated**
 - D. Competition is regulated heavily by the state**
- 4. What type of government structure does China operate under?**
 - A. Unitary**
 - B. Federal**
 - C. Confederate**
 - D. Decentralized**
- 5. What are some consequences of China's One-Child Policy?**
 - A. Increased population density in cities**
 - B. Resistance in urban areas and improved gender balance**
 - C. Unusual gender balance and selling of women**
 - D. Higher rates of multiple births**

- 6. What general approach does the Chinese government take towards NGOs?**
- A. Complete freedom to operate without oversight**
 - B. Encouragement to engage in political discourse**
 - C. Strict regulation and oversight**
 - D. Autonomy to manage their affairs as they see fit**
- 7. What has been one of the major outcomes of China's transition from a command economy to a market economy?**
- A. Increase in government control**
 - B. Fastest-growing economy in the world**
 - C. Decline in agricultural productivity**
 - D. Reduction in foreign trade**
- 8. What does the CCP credit as the main factor in its sustained rule?**
- A. The success of leaders in managing foreign affairs**
 - B. The ability of leaders to govern the economy effectively**
 - C. Staunch adherence to Maoist ideologies**
 - D. Development of strong military capabilities**
- 9. Which measure does the Chinese government use to control web access?**
- A. Encouraging free websites**
 - B. Blocking foreign websites**
 - C. Promoting open-source technology**
 - D. Subsidizing private internet cafes**
- 10. What was one major consequence of the policies under Deng Xiaoping for ordinary citizens?**
- A. Increased poverty rates among rural populations**
 - B. Encouragement to work harder and pursue personal wealth**
 - C. Reduction in available employment opportunities**
 - D. Higher taxes on private enterprises**

Answers

SAMPLE

1. C
2. A
3. B
4. A
5. C
6. C
7. B
8. B
9. B
10. B

SAMPLE

Explanations

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- 1. What is a significant aspect of China's environmental strategy?**
- A. Shifting all energy reliance to fossil fuels**
 - B. A focus solely on nuclear energy development**
 - C. A preference for "engineering" solutions like sustainable development**
 - D. Limiting alternative energy research to international companies**

China's environmental strategy is significantly characterized by a preference for "engineering" solutions, such as sustainable development projects. This approach encompasses a wide array of initiatives that aim to tackle environmental challenges through technological and infrastructural advancements. The Chinese government often invests in renewable energy technologies, like wind, solar, and hydropower, while also implementing dam projects and urban planning that emphasize eco-friendly practices. This focus on engineering solutions reflects the nation's strategy to address pollution, resource inefficiency, and urbanization challenges while maintaining economic growth. The engagement in sustainable development illustrates China's broader commitment to addressing pressing environmental issues while simultaneously fostering economic growth. This combination is crucial, given the scale of the country's industrial output and its ongoing urbanization. In contrast, reliance solely on specific energy sources or limiting innovation to foreign companies does not reflect the comprehensive and multifaceted approach that characterizes China's current environmental policies.

- 2. Which body is tasked with electoral responsibilities within the Chinese political system?**
- A. National People's Congress**
 - B. Central Committee**
 - C. State Council**
 - D. Central Commission for Discipline Inspection**

The National People's Congress (NPC) serves as the highest organ of state power in China and is responsible for a wide range of legislative duties, including those related to electoral processes. It is the primary legislative body that oversees the election of legislative representatives at various levels, including the provincial people's congresses and local people's congresses. This body plays a crucial role in the approval and establishment of electoral laws and regulations that govern elections in China. In stark contrast, the Central Committee focuses on guiding the Communist Party's policies and strategies without direct responsibilities concerning elections. The State Council functions as the executive branch of government, managing the day-to-day functions of state affairs rather than electoral oversight. The Central Commission for Discipline Inspection is concerned with internal party discipline, ensuring members adhere to party rules, and is not involved in electoral processes. Thus, the NPC is uniquely positioned to handle electoral responsibilities within China's political structure.

3. How have market forces influenced competition in China's economy today?

- A. Government monopolies have led to increased prices**
- B. Fierce competition between state-owned and non-state firms**
- C. Market forces have been eliminated**
- D. Competition is regulated heavily by the state**

Fierce competition between state-owned and non-state firms is a correct choice because it highlights a significant aspect of China's economic transformation over the past few decades. Since the late 20th century, China has transitioned from a centrally planned economy to a more market-oriented one, integrating various market forces into its economic framework. As a result, both state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and private firms operate within the same market, creating a dynamic competitive environment. This competition is essential for driving innovation, efficiency, and consumer choice, as businesses—whether state-owned or privately run—strive to improve their products and services to attract consumers. The presence of non-state firms has pressured state-owned enterprises to adopt more competitive practices, leading to a more vibrant and resilient economy. Additionally, the Chinese government has recognized the role of market dynamics in boosting economic growth, allowing greater market forces to influence various sectors while still maintaining control over certain strategic industries. This dual structure fosters competition, especially in sectors where non-state firms can compete more effectively against their state-owned counterparts. The other options, while reflecting aspects of the economic landscape in China, do not capture the essence of the competitive environment created by the presence of both state-owned and non-state firms. For example, while state

4. What type of government structure does China operate under?

- A. Unitary**
- B. Federal**
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- D. Decentralized**

China operates under a unitary system of government, which means that power is concentrated in a central authority. The central government in Beijing maintains significant control over local governments and administrative divisions, such as provinces and municipalities. This structure allows the national government to enforce its policies uniformly across the entire country. In a unitary system, local governments may have some administrative authority, but they derive their powers from the central government, which can choose to grant or revoke these powers. In China's case, the Communist Party of China (CPC) exerts its influence over all levels of government, ensuring that ultimate power remains centralized. In contrast, a federal system involves multiple levels of government (national and regional) that share powers and responsibilities, which is not the case in China. The confederate structure, which establishes a weak central government with strong regional governments, is also not applicable to China's governance. Similarly, a decentralized system would imply that local governments have substantial autonomy, which is contrary to the tight control exercised by the central government in China.

5. What are some consequences of China's One-Child Policy?

- A. Increased population density in cities**
- B. Resistance in urban areas and improved gender balance**
- C. Unusual gender balance and selling of women**
- D. Higher rates of multiple births**

The One-Child Policy, implemented in 1979, aimed to control population growth in China and had significant social implications. Among its most notable consequences was the unusual gender balance in the population, primarily due to a cultural preference for male children. This preference led many families to engage in sex-selective abortions and infanticide, resulting in a significant demographic imbalance where the number of males greatly exceeded that of females. Additionally, this skewed gender ratio created social complications, including a shortage of marriageable women, which exacerbated the trafficking and selling of women in some regions of China. The combination of these factors contributed to various societal issues, such as increased competition for partners among men and associated social unrest. While aspects like higher population density, resistance in urban areas, and higher rates of multiple births are relevant issues within the broader context of population dynamics, they do not precisely capture the unique demographic challenges directly arising from the One-Child Policy as effectively as the significant gender imbalance and its social ramifications.

6. What general approach does the Chinese government take towards NGOs?

- A. Complete freedom to operate without oversight**
- B. Encouragement to engage in political discourse**
- C. Strict regulation and oversight**
- D. Autonomy to manage their affairs as they see fit**

The Chinese government takes a general approach of strict regulation and oversight towards non-governmental organizations (NGOs). This means that while NGOs may operate in various sectors, such as social services and environmental advocacy, they are required to register with the government and often face significant bureaucratic hurdles. The state maintains a tight grip on their activities to ensure they do not challenge the authority of the Communist Party or engage in political activism that could disrupt social stability. The rationale behind this strict oversight is rooted in the government's desire to maintain control over civil society and prevent any forms of dissent or organization that might threaten the ruling party's hegemony. NGOs often have to navigate a complex network of laws and regulations, and those perceived as stepping outside their designated roles can be subject to penalties, restrictions, or even closure. In contrast, other approaches like complete freedom to operate or autonomy to manage affairs do not accurately reflect the reality of the government's stance towards NGOs in China, where oversight is a fundamental part of the operational framework. Encouragement to engage in political discourse also doesn't align with the overall strategy of the Chinese state, which discourages political mobilization outside of the Party's control.

7. What has been one of the major outcomes of China's transition from a command economy to a market economy?

- A. Increase in government control**
- B. Fastest-growing economy in the world**
- C. Decline in agricultural productivity**
- D. Reduction in foreign trade**

The transition from a command economy to a market economy has led to China experiencing the fastest-growing economy in the world. This shift allowed for greater efficiency, innovation, and responsiveness to consumer demands. By introducing market mechanisms, China was able to enhance productivity in various sectors, attract foreign investment, and expand its trade relationships, thus facilitating rapid economic growth. The reform measures implemented since the late 1970s, such as opening up to foreign trade and investment, privatizing state-owned enterprises, and allowing private entrepreneurship, have significantly contributed to this unprecedented economic expansion. As a result, millions of people have been lifted out of poverty, and the country's GDP has surged, making it a global economic powerhouse. In contrast, other options suggest scenarios that do not align with the realities of China's economic transformation. For instance, government control has generally diminished as market forces took precedence, agricultural productivity has seen significant enhancements due to the adoption of modern techniques, and foreign trade has substantially increased, positioning China as one of the leading trade nations in the world.

8. What does the CCP credit as the main factor in its sustained rule?

- A. The success of leaders in managing foreign affairs**
- B. The ability of leaders to govern the economy effectively**
- C. Staunch adherence to Maoist ideologies**
- D. Development of strong military capabilities**

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) credits its sustained rule primarily to the effectiveness of its leaders in managing the economy. Following the economic reforms initiated in the late 1970s, particularly under Deng Xiaoping, the CCP shifted from a purely Marxist economic model to one that incorporated elements of capitalism, allowing for market-oriented changes. This strategy led to unprecedented economic growth, lifted millions out of poverty, and significantly improved living standards in China, which subsequently bolstered the legitimacy and support for the CCP among the populace. The economic management is seen as vital for maintaining social stability and political control, as it directly impacts the lives of ordinary citizens. By delivering economic success, the CCP has been able to justify its one-party rule and suppress dissent, effectively connecting economic performance to political legitimacy. Through mechanisms like state-owned enterprises and targeted investment in infrastructure and technology, the government has also maintained a degree of control over the economy while engaging in globalization. In this context, the other options do not align as closely with this perspective. While foreign affairs and military capabilities are important, they are not viewed as the cornerstone of the CCP's rule. Additionally, while Maoist ideologies play a historical role in the party's image and identity, the current focus is much

9. Which measure does the Chinese government use to control web access?

- A. Encouraging free websites**
- B. Blocking foreign websites**
- C. Promoting open-source technology**
- D. Subsidizing private internet cafes**

The correct answer is that the Chinese government controls web access primarily by blocking foreign websites. This method is part of a broader strategy commonly known as the "Great Firewall of China," which involves implementing a range of measures to regulate and restrict internet content that is accessible to Chinese citizens. The blocking of foreign websites is intended to limit the flow of information and control the narratives that are available to the public. This is essential for maintaining the government's grip on power, as it seeks to prevent access to content that could encourage dissent or challenge the party's authority. Major platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Google are inaccessible in China, reflecting the government's commitment to controlling online discourse. While encouraging free websites, promoting open-source technology, and subsidizing private internet cafes could be beneficial for broader internet access or innovation, these measures do not align with the Chinese government's approach to regulating online information. Instead, their focus is on surveillance and censorship, which reinforces their power structure and addresses perceived threats to social stability.

10. What was one major consequence of the policies under Deng Xiaoping for ordinary citizens?

- A. Increased poverty rates among rural populations**
- B. Encouragement to work harder and pursue personal wealth**
- C. Reduction in available employment opportunities**
- D. Higher taxes on private enterprises**

The policies under Deng Xiaoping marked a significant shift in China's economic landscape, transitioning from a centrally planned economy to a more market-oriented one. This shift encouraged individuals to work harder and pursue personal wealth, which was a departure from the previous emphasis on collective ownership and egalitarianism. Deng's economic reforms included the introduction of the household responsibility system, which allowed farmers to keep and sell their surplus produce after meeting state quotas. This incentivized individuals to increase productivity and innovate, reflecting a broader acceptance of personal profit as a motivation. Additionally, the establishment of Special Economic Zones attracted foreign investment and created opportunities for entrepreneurship, further fostering a culture that valued individual effort and the pursuit of wealth. While there were challenges, such as disparities in wealth and social inequality that emerged from these policies, the primary consequence for many ordinary citizens was the newfound freedom to engage in economic activities with the aim of personal enrichment. This change fundamentally altered the Chinese economy and the lives of its citizens, allowing for greater economic mobility and initiatives.