

# AP Comparative Government (COGO) Mexico Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

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# Table of Contents

<b>Copyright</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Table of Contents</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>How to Use This Guide</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Questions</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Answers</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Explanations</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Next Steps</b> .....	<b>15</b>

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# Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

**Remember:** successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

# How to Use This Guide

**This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:**

## **1. Start with a Diagnostic Review**

**Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.**

## **2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions**

**Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.**

## **3. Learn from the Explanations**

**After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.**

## **4. Track Your Progress**

**Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.**

## **5. Simulate the Real Exam**

**Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.**

## **6. Repeat and Review**

**Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.**

**There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!**

## Questions

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- 1. Which independent regulatory body safeguards honest and accurate election results?**
  - A. Electoral Board**
  - B. Election Council**
  - C. Central Election Commission**
  - D. Federal Election Commission**
  
- 2. In Chiapas, how did the Mexican government respond to the Zapatista movement?**
  - A. Repression and negotiation**
  - B. Negotiation only**
  - C. Repression only**
  - D. Ignored it**
  
- 3. Which treaty, implemented January 1, 1994, largely eliminates trade barriers among the United States, Canada, and Mexico?**
  - A. North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)**
  - B. European Union**
  - C. United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA)**
  - D. Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**
  
- 4. Which portion of the economy exists largely outside government control, historically tied to colonial governance through traditional rulers?**
  - A. Civil Society**
  - B. ISI**
  - C. Informal Sector**
  - D. Para-Statal**
  
- 5. Which rebellion in the 1920s involved priests and the rights of churches and priests?**
  - A. Cristeros Rebellion**
  - B. Mexican Revolution**
  - C. Zapatista Uprising**
  - D. Tlatelolco Crisis**

- 6. Which Mexican national hero served as president and enacted reforms such as separation of church and state, land reform, and universal education?**
- A. Benito Juárez**
  - B. Andrés Manuel López Obrador**
  - C. Petróleos Mexicanos**
  - D. Instituto Federal Electoral**
- 7. The World Trade Organization is the successor to which treaty?**
- A. NAFTA**
  - B. GATT**
  - C. Maastricht Treaty**
  - D. Kyoto Protocol**
- 8. What are the two houses that make up Mexico's bicameral Congress?**
- A. Chamber of Deputies, Senate**
  - B. Senate, National Assembly**
  - C. Chamber of Deputies, Congress of the Union**
  - D. Chamber of Deputies, National Assembly**
- 9. What does EZLN stand for?**
- A. Zapatista Indigenous Liberation Nation**
  - B. European Zone Liberation Network**
  - C. Zonal Ejidos League of Neighbors**
  - D. Zapatista Army of National Liberation**
- 10. Which term refers to the original peoples of North and South America?**
- A. Indigenous Groups**
  - B. Mestizo**
  - C. Maquiladoras**
  - D. Amerindian**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Which independent regulatory body safeguards honest and accurate election results?**

- A. Electoral Board**
- B. Election Council**
- C. Central Election Commission**
- D. Federal Election Commission**

The central election commission is designed to act as an independent regulator that oversees the electoral process and certifies official results. It administers key tasks like organizing elections, counting ballots according to established rules, and publishing the official tallies. Because it operates independently from political actors, it helps prevent interference or manipulation, which is essential for maintaining trust in the accuracy of results. The other bodies usually have more limited or different roles (local boards or councils may operate at subnational levels, and a federal campaign-finance commission handles financing rules rather than certifying vote tallies), so they aren't the best fit for safeguarding honest and accurate election results.

**2. In Chiapas, how did the Mexican government respond to the Zapatista movement?**

- A. Repression and negotiation**
- B. Negotiation only**
- C. Repression only**
- D. Ignored it**

When studying state responses to insurgent movements, a key pattern is that governments often mix coercive force with political dialogue. In Chiapas, the Mexican government did just that with the Zapatista movement: it used repression to quickly restore order and counter the armed uprising, including deploying federal forces and enforcing security measures. At the same time, officials pursued negotiations to address some of the Zapatistas' grievances, leading to dialogue and agreements like the San Andrés Accords in 1996. Although the accords faced implementation challenges later, the combination of military pressure and negotiated talks shows that the government did not rely on a single tactic.

**3. Which treaty, implemented January 1, 1994, largely eliminates trade barriers among the United States, Canada, and Mexico?**

- A. North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)**
- B. European Union**
- C. United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA)**
- D. Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**

The main idea is trade liberalization through a regional agreement that creates a free-trade framework among member countries. The treaty implemented January 1, 1994 is the North American Free Trade Agreement, which largely eliminates tariffs and other trade barriers among the United States, Canada, and Mexico, aiming to boost cross-border trade and investment. The European Union is a different regional bloc in Europe, not the North American trio; the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement is the later update that replaced NAFTA in 2020; and ASEAN refers to Southeast Asia, not North America.

**4. Which portion of the economy exists largely outside government control, historically tied to colonial governance through traditional rulers?**

**A. Civil Society**

**B. ISI**

**C. Informal Sector**

**D. Para-Statal**

The informal sector is the part of the economy that operates outside government regulation, taxation, and formal reporting. It includes activities like street vending, unregistered small businesses, casual labor, and family crafts. This segment tends to persist because it relies on cash-based transactions, easily adaptable labor, and networks that don't require formal registration or supervision. Historically, colonial rulers often governed through indirect rule, using traditional authorities to manage local economies and social order. This arrangement kept many day-to-day economic activities outside centralized bureaucratic control, allowing markets to function through customary practices and informal networks. Those patterns linger after independence: state capacity may remain weak, and the influence of traditional authorities and local commercial networks can maintain a sizable informal economy that isn't fully captured by formal regulations or statistics. In contrast, civil society refers to non-governmental organizations and groups involved in public life; ISI describes a state-led industrialization strategy; and para-statals are government-owned enterprises. None of these capture the idea of a large economic segment operating largely outside state control and rooted in colonial governance structures via traditional rulers.

**5. Which rebellion in the 1920s involved priests and the rights of churches and priests?**

**A. Cristeros Rebellion**

**B. Mexican Revolution**

**C. Zapatista Uprising**

**D. Tlatelolco Crisis**

In the 1920s, Mexico faced a fierce clash over religious rights as the state pushed anti-clerical measures and restricted church powers. The resulting rebellion, led largely by priests and their supporters, sprang up to defend the right of churches and clergy to operate and worship without government interference. This movement, known as the Cristero Rebellion, stretched from 1926 to 1929 and highlighted the immediate conflict between church authority and state enforcement of secular laws, such as those limiting church property, education, and public worship. It's the best answer because its central actors were clergy and parish communities opposing the government's restrictions on church rights. Other events listed occurred in different contexts or timeframes: the Mexican Revolution happened earlier and encompassed broader social reforms, the Zapatista uprising focused on indigenous land and autonomy, and the Tlatelolco Crisis occurred in 1968 with student-led protests, not clerical rights.

**6. Which Mexican national hero served as president and enacted reforms such as separation of church and state, land reform, and universal education?**

**A. Benito Juárez**

**B. Andrés Manuel López Obrador**

**C. Petróleos Mexicanos**

**D. Instituto Federal Electoral**

This question tests understanding of Mexico's Reform era and who led its major liberal changes. Benito Juárez, who served as president in the mid-19th century, championed a program of liberal reforms aimed at modernizing the state and limiting church power. He pushed for the separation of church and state, reducing ecclesiastical privileges and removing religious authority from civil affairs. He also supported land reform efforts that curbed church and corporate landholdings and promoted private ownership, and he advanced public, secular education to make schooling available to all citizens. Juárez's leadership during this period—often called La Reforma—made him a national hero for advancing these foundational changes. Other options don't fit because they are not the figure associated with these reforms (one is a modern president, and the others are a state-owned company and an electoral agency, not individuals who enacted policy).

**7. The World Trade Organization is the successor to which treaty?**

**A. NAFTA**

**B. GATT**

**C. Maastricht Treaty**

**D. Kyoto Protocol**

Evolution of global trade governance: the WTO's origin lies in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). GATT started after World War II to reduce tariffs and establish binding rules for trade in goods, operating as a framework of agreements and rounds of negotiations. In 1995, after the Uruguay Round, GATT was incorporated into the newly created World Trade Organization, which took over as the formal international body overseeing trade rules and resolving disputes, and it broadened the scope to include services, intellectual property, and more. The other options don't fit because NAFTA is a regional trade agreement, Maastricht is about the European Union, and the Kyoto Protocol deals with climate policy, not trade rules.

**8. What are the two houses that make up Mexico's bicameral Congress?**

**A. Chamber of Deputies, Senate**

**B. Senate, National Assembly**

**C. Chamber of Deputies, Congress of the Union**

**D. Chamber of Deputies, National Assembly**

Mexico's legislature is bicameral, composed of two chambers: the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. Together they form the Congress of the Union, the national legislative body. The option that pairs Chamber of Deputies with Congress of the Union would be incorrect because the Congress of the Union is the whole two-chamber legislature, not a single chamber. National Assembly isn't the Mexican federal house either. So the two houses are the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate.

**9. What does EZLN stand for?**

- A. Zapatista Indigenous Liberation Nation**
- B. European Zone Liberation Network**
- C. Zonal Ejidos League of Neighbors**
- D. Zapatista Army of National Liberation**

EZLN stands for Zapatista Army of National Liberation. In Spanish, the group is Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional. This Mexican movement, centered in Chiapas, emerged to fight for Indigenous rights, autonomy, and social justice, and it is best known for the 1994 uprising tied to resistance to neoliberal reforms. The other name options don't fit because they would misstate the key words—they don't use Ejército (Army) or Liberación Nacional (National Liberation)—and they describe different ideas or groups.

**10. Which term refers to the original peoples of North and South America?**

- A. Indigenous Groups**
- B. Mestizo**
- C. Maquiladoras**
- D. Amerindian**

A single term has long been used to label the original inhabitants across North and South America. Amerindian refers specifically to the native peoples of the American continents, spanning both regions. It distinguishes these groups from Mestizo, which denotes people of mixed Indigenous and European ancestry, and from Maquiladoras, which are manufacturing plants in Mexico and not related to indigenous identity. While Indigenous peoples is the modern, more inclusive phrase, Amerindian is the traditional label that fits the question's framing by naming the original inhabitants across both continents.

## Next Steps

**Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.**

**As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.**

**If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at [hello@examzify.com](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://apcogomexico.examzify.com>**

**We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!**

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