

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

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	9
Explanations	11
Next Steps	17

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

- 1. In which southern Mexican state did rebels take up arms demanding land reform, contributing to a major rebellion?**
 - A. Chiapas**
 - B. Oaxaca**
 - C. Guerrero**
 - D. Veracruz**

- 2. Which term describes industry partially owned by the state in the Mexican economy?**
 - A. Patron-Client System**
 - B. Pendulum Theory**
 - C. Parastatals**
 - D. Mexican Miracle**

- 3. How does Mexico's relationship with the United States shape its policy agenda?**
 - A. The United States has no influence on Mexican policy decisions.**
 - B. Only cultural exchanges influence policy, not economic issues.**
 - C. Mexico's policy agenda is independent of US relations.**
 - D. Trade, migration, security, and investment influence policy choices; NAFTA/USMCA, border policies, and cross-border security shape priorities.**

- 4. Back and forth effect between socialist reform and free-market economic development is captured by which theory?**
 - A. Pendulum Theory**
 - B. Mexican Miracle**
 - C. Import Substitution**
 - D. Neoliberalism**

- 5. The period of rule by Porfirio Diaz, characterized by stability, authoritarianism, foreign investment, economic growth, and a rising gap between the rich and poor, is called the?**
- A. Mexican Revolution**
 - B. Reform War**
 - C. Porfiriato**
 - D. Cristero War**
- 6. What system of political representation allocates seats to parties within multi-member constituencies roughly in proportion to votes?**
- A. First Past the Post**
 - B. Single Transferable Vote**
 - C. Proportional Representation**
 - D. Mixed Member Proportional**
- 7. Which Mexican president, serving from 1935 to 1940, redistributed land and started a program of education?**
- A. Lázaro Cárdenas**
 - B. Porfirio Díaz**
 - C. Venustiano Carranza**
 - D. Francisco I. Madero**
- 8. A period of rapid GNP growth in an orderly transition from authoritarian rule to democracy is described by which term?**
- A. Pendulum Theory**
 - B. Parastatals**
 - C. Mexican Miracle**
 - D. Neoliberalism**
- 9. What term describes communal farms established through land redistribution in Mexico's modern era?**
- A. Latifundias**
 - B. Ranches**
 - C. Haciendas**
 - D. Ejidos**

10. Which term describes a model of economic and social development that explains global inequality in terms of the historical exploration of poorer nations by richer ones?

- A. Modernization**
- B. Structuralism**
- C. Mercantilism**
- D. Dependency**

SAMPLE

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. In which southern Mexican state did rebels take up arms demanding land reform, contributing to a major rebellion?

- A. Chiapas**
- B. Oaxaca**
- C. Guerrero**
- D. Veracruz**

Chiapas is the state most closely associated with a recent, high-profile armed push for land reform and indigenous rights. In 1994, the Zapatista Army of National Liberation rose up in Chiapas, taking up arms to demand agrarian reform, better treatment of Indigenous communities, and local autonomy. This uprising became a major event in modern Mexican history, drawing global attention to rural poverty and land-distribution issues in the south. While other southern states have seen unrest, Chiapas is the clear instance where an organized rebel movement explicitly framed its struggle around land reform in a southern region.

2. Which term describes industry partially owned by the state in the Mexican economy?

- A. Patron-Client System**
- B. Pendulum Theory**
- C. Parastatals**
- D. Mexican Miracle**

Parastatals describe industry partially owned by the state in the Mexican economy. These are state-owned enterprises created to control strategic sectors and guide development, while still operating in the market. In Mexico, PEMEX (oil) and the CFE (electricity) are classic examples, showing how the government maintained influence over key industries as part of its development strategy. The other terms don't fit: patron-client relates to political patronage, pendulum theory to shifts in policy or ideology, and the Mexican Miracle refers to a period of growth, not ownership of industry. So parastatals is the best fit.

3. How does Mexico's relationship with the United States shape its policy agenda?

- A. The United States has no influence on Mexican policy decisions.
- B. Only cultural exchanges influence policy, not economic issues.
- C. Mexico's policy agenda is independent of US relations.
- D. Trade, migration, security, and investment influence policy choices; NAFTA/USMCA, border policies, and cross-border security shape priorities.**

The relationship with the United States shapes Mexico's policy agenda through its deep economic and security ties. Because the U.S. is a major trading partner, source of investment, and key security partner, Mexican policymakers align policies to accommodate trade rules, supply chains, and investment climates that keep manufacturing flowing and the economy open. The NAFTA/USMCA framework sets rules of origin, tariffs, and regulatory standards that Mexican industries—and the government's industrial policy—must navigate. Border policies and immigration enforcement in the United States directly affect Mexican labor markets, border communities, and cross-border commerce, so policy priorities often address how to manage migration flows, labor mobility, and border security. Cross-border security cooperation to combat organized crime and drug trafficking also influences policing, judicial cooperation, and regional stability priorities. In short, policy choices are shaped by how to sustain trade, manage migration, secure borders, and attract investment—factors that flow from the bilateral relationship. Options suggesting no influence, or that only cultural exchanges matter, or that Mexico acts independently of U.S. relations, miss these concrete, link-driven pressures and opportunities.

4. Back and forth effect between socialist reform and free-market economic development is captured by which theory?

- A. Pendulum Theory**
- B. Mexican Miracle
- C. Import Substitution
- D. Neoliberalism

The main idea here is the pattern of policy swings between more state-led, socialist-style reforms and free-market, market-oriented development. Pendulum Theory captures that push-pull dynamic: when one end dominates, pressures build for a shift toward the other, producing cycles of reform. In Mexico and similar economies, you can see periods where heavy state involvement and import-substitution strategies give way to liberalization, privatization, and market reforms, then potentially swing back again as conditions change. The other options describe specific policies or outcomes—like a growth era or a particular reform approach—rather than the oscillating pattern itself.

5. The period of rule by Porfirio Díaz, characterized by stability, authoritarianism, foreign investment, economic growth, and a rising gap between the rich and poor, is called the?
- A. Mexican Revolution
 - B. Reform War
 - C. Porfiriato**
 - D. Cristero War

The period is defined by a long, centralized rule under Porfirio Díaz, marked by order and growth but enforced through authoritarian control and limited political freedom. This era is known as the Porfiriato, named for Díaz, and it stretched from the late 19th century into the early 20th century. During this time the government promoted modernization and attracted foreign investment, expanding infrastructure and export-oriented growth. Yet the benefits largely flowed to a small elite and foreign investors, while peasants and workers faced land dispossession and weak rights, which widened the gap between rich and poor. The stability and growth produced tension that contributed to the Mexican Revolution around 1910-1911, which ultimately ended this rule. The other options refer to different moments in Mexican history: Reform War was a mid-19th-century liberal-conservative conflict that predates Díaz's rise; the Mexican Revolution is the broad upheaval that toppled Díaz; and the Cristero War occurred later in the 1920s over church-state conflicts.

6. What system of political representation allocates seats to parties within multi-member constituencies roughly in proportion to votes?
- A. First Past the Post
 - B. Single Transferable Vote
 - C. Proportional Representation**
 - D. Mixed Member Proportional

Proportional representation is the system that aims to mirror voting shares in the number of seats, especially when elections use multi-member districts. In this approach, each district elects several representatives, and the seats are allocated to parties roughly in proportion to how many votes they receive in that district. That means if a party gets about 30% of the votes, it gains about 30% of the seats in that district, allowing smaller parties to win representation and producing a legislature that more closely reflects overall support. First Past the Post, by contrast, uses single-member districts and awards a seat to the individual with the most votes, which often skews results toward larger parties. Single Transferable Vote is a form of proportional representation that uses ranked ballots and transfers votes to maintain proportionality, while Mixed Member Proportional blends district seats with additional proportional seats to balance overall representation. But the description given—allocating seats within multi-member constituencies roughly in proportion to votes—best identifies proportional representation.

7. Which Mexican president, serving from 1935 to 1940, redistributed land and started a program of education?

- A. Lázaro Cárdenas**
- B. Porfirio Díaz**
- C. Venustiano Carranza**
- D. Francisco I. Madero**

This item tests the leader who carried out major land redistribution and launched a broad education initiative in the mid-1930s. Lázaro Cárdenas implemented sweeping agrarian reform, redistributing land to peasants and establishing ejidos, the communal land holdings that became a cornerstone of Mexico's rural policy. He also prioritized public education, expanding schooling and literacy efforts as part of his social reform agenda. These moves mark a clear, sustained push toward state-led modernization in the 1934-1940 period, aligning with the question's timeframe. The other presidents mentioned did not pursue these combined programs to the same extent when looking specifically at the 1935-1940 window.

8. A period of rapid GNP growth in an orderly transition from authoritarian rule to democracy is described by which term?

- A. Pendulum Theory**
- B. Parastatals**
- C. Mexican Miracle**
- D. Neoliberalism**

A period of rapid GNP growth during a managed move from authoritarian rule to democracy is described as the Mexican Miracle. This term captures how Mexico experienced strong economic expansion while the ruling regime, the PRI, maintained control, allowing a relatively orderly transition as demands for democracy grew. It reflects the idea that economic development occurred alongside political stabilization, creating a sense of exceptional progress. The other terms don't fit this specific idea: Pendulum Theory describes cycles of political power switching in democracies, not a unique growth-and-transition period; parastatals are state-owned enterprises, not a description of the growth episode; neoliberalism refers to a set of market-friendly policy reforms, not the name for a growth period during an authoritarian-to-democracy transition.

9. What term describes communal farms established through land redistribution in Mexico's modern era?

- A. Latifundias**
- B. Ranches**
- C. Haciendas**
- D. Ejidos**

The term describes a form of communal farmland created through land redistribution after the Mexican Revolution. These lands, called ejidos, are owned by the community and set aside for the use of its members, who receive plots to cultivate while the community holds the land collectively. This system arose under the 1917 Constitution as part of agrarian reform aimed at breaking up large estates and promoting peasant farming. Unlike latifundias or haciendas, which are large privately owned estates, or ranches, which are private livestock farms, ejidos are tied to communal ownership and collective use, with rights to farm allocated to individual families. Over time, reforms loosened some restrictions on ejido land, but the core idea remains: communal lands granted through land redistribution for collective use.

10. Which term describes a model of economic and social development that explains global inequality in terms of the historical exploration of poorer nations by richer ones?

- A. Modernization**
- B. Structuralism**
- C. Mercantilism**
- D. Dependency**

Dependency theory explains global inequality as the result of a long history of exploitation by richer nations of poorer ones. It argues that colonial-era and ongoing neocolonial relations created a world system in which wealth flows from the periphery to the center, keeping poorer countries underdeveloped while richer nations gain. This occurs through biased terms of trade, dependence on exporting raw materials, and the influence of multinational corporations and debt, which tie weaker economies to the interests of stronger ones even after formal independence. This perspective contrasts with modernization theory, which centers on internal factors and stages of development within a country; mercantilism focuses on early modern state power and accumulation strategies; and structuralism emphasizes structural constraints but does not as directly foreground the colonial exploitation that dependency theory highlights. The key idea here is that historical and ongoing exploitation helps explain why some nations remain relatively underdeveloped.

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.

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!

SAMPLE