

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

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	16

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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 term describes the informal agreement between the government and important interest groups to exchange policy benefits?**
 - A. Accommodation**
 - B. Negotiation**
 - C. Cooptation**
 - D. Bargaining**

- 2. The Zapatistas were named in honor of which historical figure?**
 - A. Pancho Villa**
 - B. Miguel Hidalgo**
 - C. Benito Juárez**
 - D. Emiliano Zapata**

- 3. What is Amparo and its role in Mexican constitutional law?**
 - A. The Amparo is a remedy that protects constitutional rights by challenging acts of public authorities; it's a central instrument for civil liberties.**
 - B. Amparo is a trade agreement with neighboring countries.**
 - C. Amparo is the process of electing judges.**
 - D. Amparo is a financial instrument used by the government to borrow.**

- 4. Which institution is responsible for overseeing elections, voter registration, and party finances in Mexico?**
 - A. Instituto Nacional Electoral (INE)**
 - B. Supreme Court**
 - C. National Congress**
 - D. Pemex**

- 5. The 2010s reform wave in Mexico targeted which policy sectors?**
 - A. Education and healthcare**
 - B. Agriculture and rural development**
 - C. Financial and tax policy**
 - D. Energy and telecommunications reforms**

- 6. PAN is the acronym for which national political party in Mexico?**
- A. People's Action Network**
 - B. Progressive Alliance of Nations**
 - C. National Action Party**
 - D. Party of the National Alliance**
- 7. The Zapatista movement originated in which country?**
- A. Spain**
 - B. Colombia**
 - C. Mexico**
 - D. Peru**
- 8. Which institution organizes elections for the presidency and Congress in Mexico, registers voters and parties, and oversees campaign financing?**
- A. Petróleos Mexicanos**
 - B. Benito Juárez**
 - C. Instituto Federal Electoral**
 - D. Mexican Miracle**
- 9. How did Mexico's energy sector change after the 2013-2014 reform?**
- A. The reform opened the energy sector to private investment and competition in exploration and production, while retaining state control in certain areas; it curtailed Pemex's monopoly.**
 - B. It fully privatized Pemex and eliminated state involvement.**
 - C. It had no effect on Pemex or the structure of the energy sector.**
 - D. It nationalized international energy companies and restricted private participation.**
- 10. What term describes communal farms established through land redistribution in Mexico's modern era?**
- A. Latifundias**
 - B. Ranches**
 - C. Haciendas**
 - D. Ejidos**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which term describes the informal agreement between the government and important interest groups to exchange policy benefits?

A. Accommodation

B. Negotiation

C. Cooptation

D. Bargaining

Accommodating groups is about quietly yielding to influential interests by offering policy benefits in exchange for their support or to maintain stability, without creating formal coalitions or explicit, structured bargaining. This captures the idea of an informal agreement where the government trade-offs certain policies to gain the cooperation of key groups. In contrast, co-optation usually involves bringing groups into formal decision-making or leadership roles, while negotiation and bargaining imply more explicit, stated talks and concessions.

2. The Zapatistas were named in honor of which historical figure?

A. Pancho Villa

B. Miguel Hidalgo

C. Benito Juárez

D. Emiliano Zapata

This question centers on why the Zapatista movement carries a particular namesake: Emiliano Zapata, the southern Mexican revolutionary leader who became a symbol of peasant rights and land reform. Zapata championed agrarian justice through the Plan de Ayala and the redistribution of land to peasants, a legacy that the Zapatistas explicitly echo in their goals and identity. The other figures listed played important roles in different moments of Mexican history—Hidalgo in the independence era, Juárez in liberal reform, Villa as a revolutionary general—but none embodies the same direct link to land reform and peasant power that Zapata does, which is why his name is the one the movement chose.

3. What is Amparo and its role in Mexican constitutional law?

- A. The Amparo is a remedy that protects constitutional rights by challenging acts of public authorities; it's a central instrument for civil liberties.**
- B. Amparo is a trade agreement with neighboring countries.**
- C. Amparo is the process of electing judges.**
- D. Amparo is a financial instrument used by the government to borrow.**

Amparo is a constitutional remedy that protects individual rights by challenging acts or omissions of public authorities. When a government action—such as a law, regulation, administrative decision, or a court ruling—threatens or violates a person's guaranteed rights, amparo provides a fast, judicial way to halt the action and obtain a ruling that the act is unconstitutional. This makes amparo a central tool for civil liberties in Mexico, because it ensures due process and protects citizens from arbitrary or unlawful state power. It can lead to the act being annulled or corrected and to the restoration of rights, often with provisional relief while the case is decided. It's not a trade agreement, a process for electing judges, or a financial instrument.

4. Which institution is responsible for overseeing elections, voter registration, and party finances in Mexico?

- A. Instituto Nacional Electoral (INE)**
- B. Supreme Court**
- C. National Congress**
- D. Pemex**

Instituto Nacional Electoral (INE) is the body that oversees elections, maintains the voter registry, and regulates party finances in Mexico. It operates as an autonomous public authority designed to organize elections and ensure that voting, registration, and campaign financing are administered fairly and transparently. The other institutions have different roles: the Supreme Court handles judicial matters, the National Congress makes and revises laws (and can set funding for electoral processes) but does not run elections, and Pemex is a state-owned oil company with no electoral responsibilities.

5. The 2010s reform wave in Mexico targeted which policy sectors?

- A. Education and healthcare**
- B. Agriculture and rural development**
- C. Financial and tax policy**
- D. Energy and telecommunications reforms**

Opening up the two biggest parts of Mexico's economy to competition was the hallmark of the 2010s reform wave: energy and telecommunications. In energy, the reform opened the state-controlled oil and electricity sectors to private investment, created new regulators, and laid out a framework for private exploration, production, and generation. In telecommunications, reforms aimed to break up monopolies, foster competition, and improve access by strengthening the regulator, opening networks to rivals, and encouraging new entrants. These moves were the most visible, sweeping changes of the era and driven by the goal of boosting efficiency, lowering costs, and drawing in private capital. That's why energy and telecommunications reforms are identified as the focus of the wave.

6. PAN is the acronym for which national political party in Mexico?

- A. People's Action Network**
- B. Progressive Alliance of Nations**
- C. National Action Party**
- D. Party of the National Alliance**

In Mexican politics, acronyms come from the official party names. PAN stands for the National Action Party (Partido Acción Nacional in Spanish). This is a major center-right party with Christian democratic roots that has played a key role in Mexico's political history, including producing presidents Vicente Fox and Felipe Calderón. The other options don't match the actual name of the party, so they don't fit the acronym PAN.

7. The Zapatista movement originated in which country?

- A. Spain**
- B. Colombia**
- C. Mexico**
- D. Peru**

The Zapatista movement originated in Mexico, specifically in the southern state of Chiapas in the early 1990s. It grew out of Indigenous communities' demands for land, autonomy, and resistance to neoliberal policies highlighted by NAFTA, which helped spark their uprising in 1994. The movement's emphasis on Indigenous rights and self-governance is rooted in Mexican experiences and politics, making Mexico the correct origin. Spain, Colombia, and Peru have their own distinct insurgent histories (for example, Colombia's FARC and Peru's Shining Path), which is why they're not the source of the Zapatista movement.

8. Which institution organizes elections for the presidency and Congress in Mexico, registers voters and parties, and oversees campaign financing?

- A. Petróleos Mexicanos
- B. Benito Juárez
- C. Instituto Federal Electoral**
- D. Mexican Miracle

This item tests your knowledge of Mexico's electoral authority. The institution responsible for organizing elections for the presidency and Congress, maintaining the voter registry, registering political parties, and overseeing campaign financing is the Instituto Federal Electoral. It operates as an independent public body to run federal elections, certify party eligibility, and enforce rules on campaign spending and financing to ensure fair competition. The other options do not fit: the oil company PEMEX is for energy, Benito Juárez is a historical figure, and the Mexican Miracle refers to an economic growth period, not an electoral body.

9. How did Mexico's energy sector change after the 2013-2014 reform?

- A. The reform opened the energy sector to private investment and competition in exploration and production, while retaining state control in certain areas; it curtailed Pemex's monopoly.**
- B. It fully privatized Pemex and eliminated state involvement.
- C. It had no effect on Pemex or the structure of the energy sector.
- D. It nationalized international energy companies and restricted private participation.

The change being tested is that the 2013-14 reform opened Mexico's energy sector to private investment and competition in exploration and production, while the state maintained control in key areas and Pemex's monopoly was reduced rather than eliminated. The reform allowed private and foreign firms to bid for upstream licenses, introduced new regulators to oversee competition and safety, and created a framework for contracts with private players. Yet Pemex remains a state-owned company and the government preserves strategic oversight of the sector. This combination—opening up E&P to private participation while preserving state ownership and control—best fits the reform's outcome. The other options misstate the move by claiming full privatization, no effect, or nationalization of private firms.

10. 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.

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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!

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