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# Elections and Political Parties

Write the correct term in each blank. You may use your dictionary if you wish.

candidate	political party	campaign	election
major political parties in the United Mexican States	six	consecutive	state governments
	vote		

- \_\_\_\_\_ **A** National Action Party (PAN), Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), Labor Party, Green Ecological Party of Mexico, Convergence, Social Democratic and Farmer Alternative, and New Alliance
- \_\_\_\_\_ **B** Activities designed to help a person get elected to public office
- \_\_\_\_\_ **C** To select or choose
- \_\_\_\_\_ **D** A group with the same ideas about running the government
- \_\_\_\_\_ **E** A person who wants to hold public office
- \_\_\_\_\_ **F** The time when citizens vote for the candidates of their choice
- \_\_\_\_\_ **G** Generally are set up in the same manner as the federal government
- \_\_\_\_\_ **H** Years in a presidential term
- \_\_\_\_\_ **I** One after the other



# Elections and Political Parties

Since the United Mexican States is a **democracy**, all of its government leaders are **elected**, or chosen by the citizens. The Constitution of 1917 states all the requirements for each federal office. These must be fulfilled before a person can run for office. A person who runs for an elected office is called a **candidate**.

The Constitution of 1917 also states the length of terms for each federal office. In Mexico, a person can only be elected president once. The president serves one, six-year term, called a sexenio. Elections for the Chamber of Deputies occur every three years. Deputies cannot serve **consecutive** terms, but may run for office again after three years have passed. A senate term is six years.

**STOP** What do you think? Why do you think a person would want to run for president or Congress of the Union? Write at least three reasons in complete sentences.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Political Parties

There are eight major **political parties** in the United Mexican States. Each party is made up of a group of people who share the same kinds of ideas about how the government should be run. The major political parties in Mexico are:

- National Action Party (PAN)
- Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI)
- Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD)
- Labor Party
- Green Ecological Party of Mexico
- Convergence
- Social Democratic and Farmer Alternative
- New Alliance



# Elections and Political Parties

1. Circle the word True if the statement is true. Circle the word False if it's false.

- a) In a democracy only a few of the government leaders are elected by the citizens.  
True      False
- b) A person who was born in the U.S.A. could become President of the United Mexican States.  
True      False
- c) A presidential term in the United Mexican States lasts for four years.  
True      False
- d) There are five major political parties in Mexico.  
True      False
- e) It is not very difficult to run for the presidency of the United Mexican States.  
True      False

2. Write each term beside its meaning.

democracy	candidate	campaign	elected	popular vote
major political parties in the United Mexican States	presidential term			

- \_\_\_\_\_ a) National Action Party and Institutional Revolutionary Party are examples
- \_\_\_\_\_ b) Votes cast by the people
- \_\_\_\_\_ c) Six years
- \_\_\_\_\_ d) A person who is running for public office
- \_\_\_\_\_ e) Chosen for public office
- \_\_\_\_\_ f) Activities designed to help a person get elected to public office
- \_\_\_\_\_ g) Government by the people



Here are six writing tasks about the government of Mexico. Be sure to think about all that you have learned about the Mexican government as you write. Write your answers in complete sentences in your notebook.

**Task #1** Every country on earth has some kind of government even though all governments are not alike. All governments have leaders. What is the title of the person who leads the Mexican government? How is he or she selected?

**Task #2** Being the leader of a large country like Mexico is a very big task for anyone. What kind of qualities do you think the leader of the Mexican government should have? What kind of qualities do you think the leader of your country should have? Compare the qualities you have given for each leader. Give good reasons for your opinion.

**Task #3** Article 3 of the Mexican Constitution of 1917 states, "Every individual has the right to receive education." Why do you think the writers of the Constitution thought an education was so important?

**Task #4** All countries have problems which must be solved. Some of these problems are so serious that they are present in most countries (for example, homelessness). If you were president of the United Mexican States which three problems would you try to solve? What would you do to solve them?

**Task #5** The Mexican president has many powers. Think about what you have learned about the Mexican government and describe three of the powers the Mexican president has. What document gives him these powers?

**Task #6** The Constitution of 1917 states that slavery is forbidden in Mexico. What is slavery? What basic rights are taken away from a person who is a slave to another person or group of people?





# Crossword Puzzle!

**Word List**

balances	dictator
conflicts	judicial
candidate	protect
Hidalgo	branch
Senate	power
sexenio	anarchy
federation	vote
titles	

**Down**

- Chamber of the \_\_\_\_\_
- to forgive
- Another word for "might"
- An army should \_\_\_\_\_ the citizens
- The common \_\_\_\_\_
- An army should \_\_\_\_\_ the citizens
- A group of independent states
- Checks and \_\_\_\_\_
- One who has all the power and rules by force
- The Chamber of \_\_\_\_\_
- A person who is running for political office

**Across**

- Presidential term in Mexico
- Person or group of people who make the rules for everyone else
- Privileges due to a person because he lives in a particular place
- Sections of the Mexican Constitution
- Another word for disagreements or battles
- One division of government
- Miguel \_\_\_\_\_, Mexican patriot
- A form of government in which the people select the ones who govern them
- In a democracy, a citizen casts his \_\_\_\_\_ for president
- The branch of the Mexican government which makes sure that the laws are constitutional
- Having no government at all
- Judicial, Legislative and \_\_\_\_\_



# Word Search

Find all of the words in the Word Search. Words may be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal. A few may even be backwards! Look carefully!

- |              |              |           |           |
|--------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| leader       | democracy    | titles    | chambers  |
| citizens     | independence | branches  | publishes |
| rights       | hidalgo      | sexenio   | democracy |
| enforce      | sovereign    | checks    | elected   |
| anarchy      | mexico city  | veto      | political |
| monarchy     | federation   | pardon    | parties   |
| constitution | president    | authority | vote      |

c	h	e	c	k	s	a	b	s	r	e	b	n	a	h	a	c	d
m	i	l	k	j	t	i	h	g	f	e	r	d	c	b	u	z	y
n	d	o	p	q	h	i	n	o	a	r	a	p	r	s	t	u	v
d	a	c	b	a	g	z	t	y	w	n	v	u	t	h	r	q	
e	l	f	g	h	i	i	j	k	r	c	m	n	b	o	p	q	
r	g	s	p	o	r	n	m	l	e	k	h	j	i	h	r	e	a
a	o	e	d	f	g	t	e	w	a	s	e	n	m	u	i	i	n
e	v	i	i	b	o	i	n	e	x	e	s	e	n	e	t	l	s
m	n	t	s	y	t	u	b	v	e	j	q	k	b	e	y	l	i
h	o	r	n	o	e	l	k	r	y	c	a	r	c	o	m	e	d
t	r	a	e	r	v	o	t	e	p	o	r	y	k	r	j	a	w
w	i	p	z	l	m	e	x	i	c	o	c	i	t	y	y	d	c
s	n	v	i	p	e	r	d	s	a	q	w	e	h	r	e	o	
b	d	e	t	y	q	c	u	e	j	w	b	e	e	c	o	r	n
w	e	g	i	h	k	t	s	i	z	x	p	a	r	t	e	s	
i	p	e	c	w	q	a	r	e	s	g	d	o	f	a	h	j	t
j	e	c	r	v	b	e	m	y	d	e	n	l	w	n	e	r	i
y	n	f	g	n	b	l	h	x	c	n	m	i	q	o	w	e	t
p	d	q	u	m	r	c	e	r	w	q	m	t	n	m	b	v	u
l	e	w	a	o	r	y	o	t	n	e	d	i	s	e	r	p	t
a	n	h	b	a	j	f	g	d	s	d	s	c	a	q	w	q	i
l	c	a	n	m	n	o	f	e	d	e	r	a	t	i	o	n	o
h	e	a	f	e	f	y	s	e	h	s	i	l	b	u	p	h	n



# Comprehension Quiz

## Part B

Answer each question in complete sentences.

- Explain why the framers of the Constitution built a system of **checks and balances** into the three branches of government. 1

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- Describe the qualifications a person must have to run for **president** of the United Mexican States. 3

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- In your opinion, what form of government is best for its citizens? Why? 3

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- Name each **branch** of the Mexican government and tell what each one does. 6

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- Why is **Miguel Hidalgo** important in Mexican history? 2

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SUBTOTAL: /15

# Currency of Mexico



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

After You Read 



# Elections and Political Parties

Answer each question with a complete sentence.

3. Describe the process of running for the office of President of the United Mexican States.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What **personal qualities** do you think a person should have who wants to be the President of the United Mexican States? Try to think of at least three. Give reasons for your answers.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. We have read about a number of **major political parties** in Mexico. Choose one of these parties that you would like to learn more about. Research this party to find some interesting facts about it. Use the Internet, an encyclopedia, or books from the library to find your information. If you were a Mexican citizen, would you want to be a member of this party? Why or why not? Write your answers in your notebook.

6. Use Your Brain!

What subjects do you think that a person who plans on running for public office should study in college? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Accept any reasonable response

4. Accept any reasonable response

5. Answers will vary based on resources used

6. Accept any reasonable response

Answers will vary

- Across:**
- sexenio
  - government
  - rights
  - Titles
  - conflicts
  - branch
  - Hidalgo
  - democracy
  - vote
  - judicial
  - anarchy
  - executive

- Down:**
- Senate
  - pardon
  - power
  - good
  - protect
  - federation
  - balances
  - dictator
  - Deputies
  - candidate



# EASY MARKING ANSWER KEY