



REVIEW

**CALIFORNIA CONTENT
STANDARD 10.10.3**

Conditions for Democracy (Case Studies)

Specific Objective: Discuss the important trends in the regions (see 10.10.1, p. 107) today and whether they appear to serve the cause of individual freedom and democracy.

Read the summary and the chart to answer questions on the next page.

China and Mexico are both in periods of transition. Recently, both have experienced significant economic growth—and, at times, demands for greater democratic freedoms. The chart shows the practices that are needed to make democracy work, and how conditions in China and Mexico could affect those practices.

Conditions for Democracy: Case Studies		
Democratic Practice	China	Mexico
Free Elections <i>Needed:</i> voting rights; more than one political party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For more than 50 years, only one political party—the Communist party—has been allowed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2000, Mexico had its first presidential primary, followed by the end of single-party rule.
Citizen Participation <i>Needed:</i> guaranteed freedom of expression; economic stability; literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Communist party limits freedom of speech and the press. The economy is growing. Literacy has risen to 86% (2003), up from 20% in 1949. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> News media has often been subject to government pressure. The economy is growing. Literacy has risen to 92% (2003), up from less than 10% in 1917.
Individual Rights <i>Needed:</i> guarantees of individual rights and equality before the law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Communist party does not tolerate dissent. The party has detained many political prisoners and restricted freedom of speech. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The constitution of 1917 names various rights, including freedom of religion and the right to receive an education.
Constitutional Government <i>Needed:</i> a government based on widely understood laws that apply to everyone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chinese constitution of 1982 states that the law is above the Communist party. The party has significantly revised the constitution four times. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The constitution of 1917 laid the groundwork for a federal republic with a balance of powers.



**CALIFORNIA CONTENT
STANDARD 10.10.3**

Conditions for Democracy (Case Studies)

Directions: Choose the letter of the *best* answer.

“The solution to national problems begins with our own determination to confront them. Democracy becomes reality every time one of us takes on the responsibility of changing Mexico.”

—from Mexican president Vicente Fox Quesada’s State of the Union speech, September 1, 2004

- 1 **What central practice of democracy is President Fox describing in the quotation?**
 - A voting rights
 - B citizen participation
 - C equality before the law
 - D constitutional government
- 2 **What condition is necessary in establishing a democratic nation?**
 - A economic growth
 - B free elections
 - C a presidency
 - D UN membership
- 3 **Which fact, relating to the history of China’s constitution, suggests that China may not have the current conditions for democracy?**
 - A It was not adopted until 1982.
 - B It was recently revised four times by the ruling party.
 - C It describes citizens’ “fundamental rights and duties.”
 - D It forbids the secession (withdrawal) of any territory.
- 4 **Which fact about the Chinese population is *most* likely to have contributed to recent demands for democratic reform?**
 - A About half of the people work in agriculture.
 - B China has the largest population of any nation in the world.
 - C More than 100 dialects are spoken in China.
 - D In the last 50 years, literacy increased from about 20% to more than 85%.
- 5 **How did Mexico’s presidential election in 2000 bring the country closer to democracy than previous elections?**
 - A There was a peaceful exchange of power.
 - B It overturned a military dictatorship.
 - C There was no clear winner.
 - D It brought the end of single-party rule.
- 6 **One way Mexico’s constitution of 1917 helped to lay groundwork for democracy was by**
 - A including a bill of rights.
 - B setting term limits for the president.
 - C proclaiming national ownership of natural resources.
 - D limiting ownership of property by foreigners and the Church.