

# Critical Thinking Skills

## Mexican Government

Skills For Critical Thinking		Reading Comprehension								
		Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4	Section 5	Section 6	Section 7	Section 8	Writing Tasks
<b>LEVEL 1</b> Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>List Facts / Details</li> <li>Recall Information</li> <li>Match</li> <li>Sequence</li> <li>Recognize Validity (T/F)</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>LEVEL 2</b> Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compare &amp; Contrast</li> <li>Summarize</li> <li>State Main Idea</li> <li>Describe</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>LEVEL 3</b> Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply What Is Learned</li> <li>Infer Outcomes</li> </ul>	✓			✓			✓	✓	
<b>LEVEL 4</b> Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draw Conclusions</li> <li>Make Inferences</li> <li>Identify Cause &amp; Effect</li> </ul>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>LEVEL 5</b> Synthesis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Predict</li> <li>Design</li> <li>Create</li> <li>Compile Research</li> </ul>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>LEVEL 6</b> Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defend An Opinion</li> <li>Make Judgements</li> </ul>					✓		✓		✓

Based on Bloom's Taxonomy



# 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	state governments	vote	six consecutive

**A** National Action Party (PAN), Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), Labour 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

**S**ince 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.



**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.

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## 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:

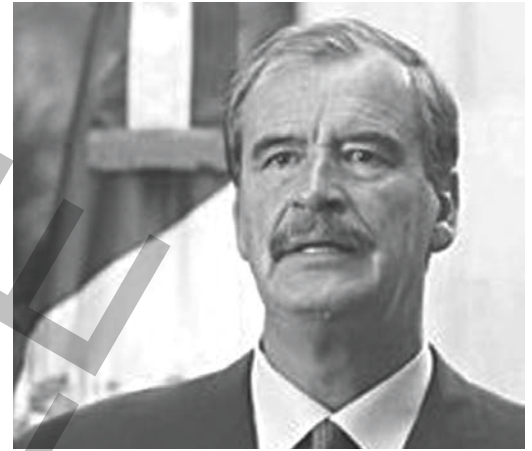
- National Action Party (PAN)
- Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI)
- Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD)
- Labour Party
- Green Ecological Party of Mexico
- Convergence
- Social Democratic and Farmer Alternative
- New Alliance



# Electing a Government



**T**he **Institutional Revolutionary Party** was the largest party during most of the Twentieth Century. All Mexican presidents elected from 1911 to 1996 were members of this party. The election of Vicente Fox as president in 2000 finally changed the trend. Vicente Fox belonged to the **National Action Party**, the second most popular political party. The six remaining parties have different numbers of followers.



The president of Mexico is elected by **popular vote**. This means that whoever gets the most votes cast by the people is the winner of the election. Members of the Congress of the Union and the governors of the states are elected in the same way.



**Why was the election of Vicente Fox important in Mexico's history? How was he elected?**

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## Getting Elected

Getting elected President of the United Mexican States is very hard to do. It takes lots of money and many supporters to run a campaign for the presidency. Today, running for any office can be costly and time-consuming. People who want to serve in public office must be dedicated and prepared for hard work.



**Be In the Know:** Use a reference book or the internet to do the following work.

Make a chart of all the presidents of the United Mexican States. Begin with Benito Juarez and end with the present President. Be sure to include the date the person was elected, the dates he or she held office, and the political party of the president.