<u>Country Context</u>: We suggest that you spend approximately 40 minutes (20 minutes each) on questions 7 and 8.

7. Both unitary and federal systems may decentralize power.

 (a) Define a unitary system.

 (b) Describe how Great Britain has decentralized power since 1997.

 (c) Define federalism.

 (d) Explain how Mexico's political system limited the decentralization of power prior to 2000.

 (e) Explain one advantage of decentralization for public policy. Explain one disadvantage of decentralization for public policy.

Question 7

6 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for a definition of a unitary system.

Acceptable definitions include:

- In a unitary system, political power resides in the national government, with little or no power delegated to local governments.
- In a unitary system, political power resides in the central government, and local governments do not have constitutional status.

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of how Great Britain has decentralized power since 1997.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Great Britain has devolved power to regions, specifically Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as London.
- The national parliament has passed reforms devolving policymaking power to regional governments in certain areas, including health, education, judicial issues, and some taxation.

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for a definition of federalism.

Acceptable definitions are:

- In a federal system, the central and subnational governments share power.
- In a federal system, national and subnational governments are established by the constitution with certain enumerated powers.

Part (d): 1 point

- One point is earned for a correct explanation of how Mexico's political system limited the decentralization of power prior to 2000.

Acceptable explanations may include that prior to 2000:

- The Mexican president was very powerful. Most governors of states came from the same party as the president and had to do the president's bidding.
- Due to the dominance of the PRI, the president and the central government had significant informal powers over governors and other regional officials.
- Revenues were highly centralized. Although some powers were transferred in the 1980s to the local level, funding was not. Some revenue was given to municipalities in the 1990s, but states were unable to bring in their own tax revenues.
- The *dedazo* allowed the president to select his successor without input from the states.

Part (e): 2 points

One point is earned for a correct explanation of an advantage of decentralization for public policies, and one point is earned for a correct explanation of a disadvantage of decentralization for public policies.

Acceptable advantages of decentralization may include:

- It allows for policy innovation at the local level.
- It ensures that local policies serve local needs.
- It allows for competition between states or regions that improves policies.
- It promotes political efficacy, political participation, or democracy at the local level.
- It decreases costs at the central level or local level.
- It acts as a local check on central power.
- It allows for better representation of local ethnic and other groups.

Acceptable disadvantages of decentralization may include:

- It allows for policy incoherence or contradictory policy between regions or between federal and local governments.
- It makes federal or local policy implementation slower, inefficient, or more difficult.
- It allows for inequality between regions and undermines national unity.
- It leads to corruption at the local level.
- It increases competition for resources among regions and exacerbates ethnic and local tensions.

A score of zero (0) is earned for an attempted answer that earns no points.

A score of dash (—) is earned for a blank answer.