

Latin America & Caribbean: Political Shifts, Cultural Trends & Trending Topics

Politics · Answer Key · 19 Questions

1. In Trinidad and Tobago, what significant measure has been implemented to combat rising gang violence and gun-related crimes?

- A) A national curfew
- B) A state of emergency**
- C) Increased military presence at borders
- D) Amnesty for gang members

2. What major issue is highlighted as a top concern for voters in Peru's recent presidential elections, contributing to its political instability?

- A) Climate change
- B) Economic reforms
- C) Crime and corruption**
- D) International trade disputes

3. Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado has expressed her intention to return to Venezuela by the end of 2026, advocating for what key democratic process?

- A) A referendum on constitutional changes
- B) Swift and credible elections**
- C) A transitional council
- D) Increased international mediation

4. Mexico's President Claudia Sheinbaum has authorized military operations to arrest cartel leaders, a strategy often referred to as:

- A) The 'kingpin' strategy**
- B) The 'iron fist' policy
- C) The 'zero tolerance' approach
- D) The 'cartel deactivation' plan

5. In Bolivia, what has been a significant focus of recent political developments and public protests?

- A) Environmental conservation laws
- B) Judicial independence and anti-corruption measures**
- C) Digital privacy regulations
- D) Space exploration initiatives

6. Brazil's Congress recently overturned President Lula's veto on a bill that significantly affects the prison sentence of which former president?

A) Fernando Henrique Cardoso

B) Jair Bolsonaro

C) Dilma Rousseff

D) Michel Temer

7. Argentina has declared which group a 'terrorist' organization, a designation that aims to strengthen international cooperation against crime?

A) The Shining Path

B) Hezbollah

C) The Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG)

D) The FARC

8. Colombia's President Gustavo Petro has been intercepting record volumes of illicit cocaine, but the effectiveness of this action is being weighed against:

A) Increased regional trade

B) US pressure

C) International tourism

D) Diplomatic relations with neighbors

9. El Salvador, under President Nayib Bukele, has implemented a 'state of exception' to crack down on gang violence. What is a notable consequence of this policy?

A) Increased political freedom

B) Suspension of constitutional rights

C) Expansion of press freedoms

D) Reduced incarceration rates

10. Cuba has been experiencing significant energy shortages, leading to widespread blackouts. What external factor is frequently cited as a cause for this crisis?

A) Internal mismanagement

B) A US oil blockade

C) A decline in renewable energy investment

D) Global natural gas price increases

11. Recent reports from Peru indicate that its presidential election process has been marred by:

A) Widespread voter apathy

B) Ballot shortages and logistical delays

C) Foreign interference in vote counting

D) A boycott by major political parties

12. In Mexico's Sinaloa state, what major legal action has been taken against the governor and other officials, impacting the political establishment?

- A) An impeachment trial
- B) US drug trafficking indictments**
- C) A vote of no confidence
- D) A recall election

13. What is a primary concern for workers in Argentina, leading to large protests against President Javier Milei's government?

- A) Decreased trade tariffs
- B) Labor reforms and rising cost of living**
- C) Reduced environmental regulations
- D) Increased foreign investment

14. Trinidad and Tobago's government declared a state of emergency in late 2024 due to a surge in what type of crime?

- A) Financial fraud
- B) Cybercrime
- C) Gang violence and murders**
- D) Political corruption

15. What significant political shift occurred in Bolivia with the election of Rodrigo Paz, ending a long period of a particular political ideology in power?

- A) It marked the return of a socialist government
- B) It ended decades of conservative rule
- C) It ended nearly 20 years of socialist government**
- D) It ushered in a period of military junta

16. Recent developments in Venezuela include the resumption of direct flights between Venezuela and which country after a seven-year suspension?

- A) Canada
- B) China
- C) Colombia
- D) United States**

17. In Colombia, security concerns have been heightened ahead of the presidential election due to:

- A) Economic sanctions from neighboring countries
- B) A series of drone and explosive attacks by armed groups**
- C) Widespread natural disasters
- D) A diplomatic crisis with a major world power

18. President Nayib Bukele of El Salvador has been criticized by rights groups for the conditions in CECOT, a mega-prison. What is a concerning practice reported at this facility?

- A) Excessive rehabilitation programs
- B) Frequent and severe beatings**
- C) Lack of basic amenities
- D) Extensive vocational training

19. Cuba has seen protests calling on the US to allow oil to arrive to the island. This is in the context of what is often referred to as:

- A) A trade embargo
- B) An energy blockade**
- C) A fishing ban
- D) A cultural boycott