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1. Definitions

Define, describe or explain **one** of the following names, terms or concepts.

- El Plan de Iguala
- Antonio López de Santa Anna

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"El Plan de Iguala" was the most helpful during the chaotic times of the attempted Mexican Independence. In fact, it was Iturbide's intention to control the differences between those fighting for the same cause: defending the right of King Ferdinand VII to rule but with different ideologies. El Plan de Iguala was summarized to three most important guarantees: ① Mexico will be independent from Madrid, ② Roman Catholicism will be the official religion and ③ Creoles as well as Spaniards will be able to live as equal. Such promise of independence convinced the insurgents to accept the proposal.

The plan was widely accepted because it demanded independence from Spain but without attacking the two different classes: Peninsulares and Creoles. With this great idea, Iturbide succeeded in bringing together old insurgents and royalist forces to fight against the new Spanish government dictated by Napoleon and what was left of the King Ferdinand VII's traitors who accepted the new self imposed ruling. However, it is important to mention that the reasons differed from the insurgents who were, undoubtedly liberal, and the royalist forces whose conservative position clashed later on with those of the insurgents.

2. Short Essay (Choose one)

- Compare and contrast Guillermo Pietro's *The Glorious Revolution Of 1844* and *Décimas dedicated to Santa Anna's Leg*
- Compare and contrast Frances Calderón de la Barca's *Women and War in Mexico* and Guillermo Pietro's *The Glorious Revolution Of 1844* and Juan Bautista Morales' *War and Finance, Mexican Style*

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Guillermo Pietro's essay "The Glorious Revolution of 1844" describes a joyful way of life. Santa Anna is described as a man who took advantage of his achievements and tried to live life to the fullest. In fact, as it is noted in Pietro's essay, the celebrations were taken to the extreme as it involved drinking, bets and rooster games. In addition, as Santa Anna is described as a man who celebrates his achievements rather than the achievements of a nation, on the essay "Décimas dedicated to Santa Anna's leg," we can realize that Santa Anna's intentions were to honor himself.

Both essays describe a life of exaggerated celebration. In fact, such attitude might be categorized as a very selfish way, ^{or corruption} while Pietro's essay vividly describe a joyful event celebrating Santa Anna's achievements, on "Décimas dedicated to Santa Anna's leg" we present a variety of mixed feeling - the way people felt. Indeed, while some people viewed Santa Anna as a hero whose leg represented his effort for saving his beloved nation, others viewed him as a bad person who let the nation down by his selfishness.

The *Glorious Revolution of 1844* essay shows the details of how Santa Anna celebrated his own achievement - not the nation's. Moreover, on *Décimas dedicated to Santa Anna's leg* we recognized the mixed feeling on Santa Anna by the people. Some viewed him as a selfish man, others as a hero.

Could it be possible that Santa Anna's own behaviour created such confusion in the way Mexicans viewed him? Undoubtedly we will agree by reading such essays. It is crucial to identify that Santa Anna's celebration vividly narrated on Pietro's essay foment an idea which concludes that "Santa Anna" was someone who will only care for himself. In other words Santa Anna fought for his own interests and the celebration dictates such argument.

It can be understood that Santa Anna's own selfish behaviour read on the essay "The Glorious Revolution of 1844" was the cause of the mix feeling portrayed on the essay "Diximas dedicated to Santa Anna's leg." The variety of corridos only underline the different ways people would think of a person sometimes considered a national hero, and other times as a traitor.

3. Long Essay (Choose one)

- Describe and explain the causes and consequences of Mexican Independence.
- Discuss the creation and collapse of the First Mexican Empire.

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History has taught us that a very small event has, undoubtedly, a huge impact on the collective history of the world. In addition, the change of world order during Mexico's most chaotic period - the undermining of King Ferdinand VII - was one of the main causes of Mexico's quest for Independence. In fact, the bad rules imposed in

Mexico's economic system as well as the inequality between Spaniards and Creoles made the intention to be independent from Spain a reality.

During Napoleon's self-proclamation as the leader of the Spanish Empire, many royalists defended King Ferdinand VII's right to rule. Unquestionably, this was the main cause for rebellion and thought of independence. Spaniards as well as Creoles in Mexico could not obey a ruler who didn't have any royal right. In effect, this unleashed anger among those who supported the Spanish King. Insurgents, on the other hand, dreamed of being independent from Spain and this led to the common interest of both royalists and insurgents to fight for independence from Spain.

Such unification of forces could have not been possible if it wouldn't be because of El Plan de Iguala. Both royalists who defended the King Ferdinand's right to rule and the insurgents who wanted independence from Spain united their efforts to overcome the calamity of Napoleon rule.

In fact, the consequences of such union between insurgents and royalists led Mexico to a better period. The intention and desire to be free and independent was possible for Mexico to progress as an autonomous nation. In fact, the consequences of Mexico's independence are priceless and to a great extent, the right thing to have happened. Moreover, the cause of this independence movement might be considered as the conflicts in Europe by the self-imposed Napoleon and his intentions to govern.