
AP[®] Comparative Government and Politics

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 1

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Free-Response Question 1

- ✓ Scoring Guidelines
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Question 1: Conceptual Analysis**4 points**

(a) Describe a socialist policy used by governments to address income inequality. **1 point**

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Welfare benefits for the poor provide benefits such as healthcare or family assistance to lower-income people.
- Progressive taxation sets proportionally higher tax rates for higher-income people.
- A higher minimum wage provides more income to people with the lowest income.
- Universal healthcare provides healthcare free at the point of service to all citizens.
- Nationalization of industries/companies takes companies into public/government ownership.

(b) Explain how political culture differs from political ideology. **1 point**

Acceptable explanations include:

- Political culture refers to the shared political beliefs of people within a country, whereas political ideology refers to how people think their beliefs should be applied and protected by the government.
- Political culture refers to widely shared beliefs and values about how citizens relate to government, whereas political ideology refers to a particular set of ideas about the role of government.
- Political culture refers to broadly accepted norms for processes of decision-making in a society, while political ideology refers to a particular set of political preferences about what decisions should be made.
- Political culture refers to political norms and values characteristic of a society as a whole, whereas political ideology normally refers to the political ideas of a group.

(c) Explain how socialist policies might affect economic development. **1 point**

Acceptable explanations include:Negative effects

- Nationalization of private industry might deter investment in other industries, lowering economic growth.
- Socialist policies might reduce incentives or profit motive, reducing economic efficiency or productivity, or innovation.
- Increasing social spending might undermine economic development because it creates greater opportunities for patronage and corruption by centralizing control of the economy under greedy officials.
- Excessive regulation to accomplish social goals might stifle innovation and/or reallocation of resources to more productive ends.

Positive effects

- Nationalization of private industry might result in profits being used for development rather than for individual financial gain.
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- Progressive taxation might increase the government's ability to make effective investments in infrastructure/education/technology.
- Higher quality government-provided health, education, or housing might make people more productive.
- Redistribution of wealth might help lower-income citizens seek more productive opportunities.

(d) Explain how a government's implementation of a socialist policy might affect its legitimacy. **1 point**

Acceptable explanations include:

- Socialist policies might be unpopular with citizens, decreasing their acceptance of the government's right to rule or authority.
- Socialist policies might be incompetently or corruptly managed, decreasing citizens' acceptance of the government's right to rule or authority.
- Socialist policies might be popular with citizens, increasing their acceptance of the government's right to rule or authority.
- Socialist policies might satisfy citizens' basic needs, helping to secure regime stability.

Total for question 1 4 points

Important: Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4



Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

a) A socialist policy used by governments to address income inequality is greater taxation of upper-class citizens to balance out everyone's ^{net} yearly incomes.

b) Political ideology is a specific set of beliefs about specific political issues while political culture is the generally atmosphere of shared beliefs, values, & understandings within a region/nation. For example, a person's political ideology may be more conservative, prompting them to support pro-gun policies and ~~reject~~ pro-life policies. However, regardless of political ideologies, people in the same political culture would, for example, maintain that everyone should ~~has~~ vote and that everyone has the right to different opinions.

c) Socialist policies might affect economic development by lowering development. Policies like increased minimum wage, increased taxation on the wealthy, and improved free healthcare all take away people's spending money to help "pay" for these policies. If people have less spending money, then they are not able to buy the items they want to buy. As a result of these limitations on the consumer, economic development may decrease because business is taking place at slower, less monumental rates.

d) A gov't's implementation of a socialist ~~policy~~ policy might

Page 2

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● **Important:** Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4



Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

increase legitimacy. Because of policies like those mentioned in ~~response~~ part c of the response, people may feel more equal to each other and more cared for by the gov't since their incomes are more equal and they have the same free healthcare. When people feel like the gov't cares for them, citizens are more inclined to trust and support the gov't. As a result of the policies, the gov't therefore experiences greater levels of legitimacy and otherwise respect from its citizens.

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● Important: Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4

● ○ ○ ○

Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

- (a) One socialist policy to address income inequality would be increasing taxes on upperclass citizens & putting it towards healthcare, education, housing, food & other social programs.
- (b) Political ideology is the framework & basis of where people's political ideas come from while political culture is the norms for a society such as political participation, political conversations/debate, etc.
- (c) Socialist policies like guaranteed work & housing can get people almost immediately back on their feet & working further developing the economy. More of an evenly distributed income under socialist policy gives more money for lower income people to spend & develop the economy & less income or wealth for higher income individuals to hoard meaning more money rotating in the economy making a better economy.
- (d) If a government is able to provide for the people & give basic necessities guaranteed it can give the legitimacy by showing the government is a service they can rely on. And possible economic development under socialist policy can also further that legitimacy.

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Important: Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4

Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

A. One socialist policy used by governments in response to income inequality is public welfare organizations. These organizations are created by the government of a country with the intention of helping meet the needs of impoverished citizens, including healthcare and housing services.

B. Political ideology encompasses the ideologies and beliefs held by an individual or group, while political culture refers to the broader state of politics within a country, including aspects such as political participations ~~and~~ as well as norms and policies within a political system and how constituents respond to them.

C. Socialist policies may alter the state of the economy due to the nature of the transition away from a privatized economy to one that is nationalized.

D. Since a government's legitimacy often comes from public opinion, it may be positively or negatively affected by the effects of socialist policies on the economy. This effect could vary based on how great the impact is, as well as how much individuals value the effects on the economy. This ties back to the fact that legitimacy is based in public opinion of the government.

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Question 1

Conceptual Analysis

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Overview

The intent of this question was to assess students' ability to describe and explain. First, students were expected to be able to describe a socialist policy that governments use to address economic inequality. Students were then expected to be able to explain the difference between political ideology and political culture. Students then needed to be able to explain how socialist policies in general might affect economic development. Finally, students were expected to be able to explain how a government's implementation of a socialist policy might affect political legitimacy, for good or ill.

Sample: 1A

Score: 4

(a) The response earned 1 point for describing a socialist policy used by governments to address income inequality as “greater taxation of upper-class citizens to balance out everyone's net yearly incomes.”

(b) The response earned 1 point for explaining how political ideology differs from political culture by stating, “Political ideology is a specific set of beliefs about specific political issues while political culture is the generally atmosphere of shared beliefs, values, & understandings within a region/nation.”

(c) The response earned 1 point for explaining how socialist policies might affect economic development by stating, “Policies like increased minimum wage ... take away people's spending money to help ‘pay’ for these policies ... then they are not able to buy the items they want to buy. As a result of these limitations on the consumer, economic development may decrease because business is taking place at slower ... rates.”

(d) The response earned 1 point for explaining how a government's implementation of a socialist policy might affect its legitimacy by stating that “people may feel more equal to each other and more cared for by the gov't since their incomes are more equal ... When people feel like the gov't cares for them, citizens are more inclined to trust and support the gov't. ... the gov't therefore experiences greater levels of legitimacy and otherwise respect from its citizens.”

Sample: 1B

Score: 3

(a) The response earned 1 point for describing a socialist policy used by governments to address income inequality as “increasing taxes on upperclass citizens + putting it towards healthcare, education, housing, food + other social programs.”

(b) The response did not earn a point for explaining how political ideology differs from political culture, such as explaining how political culture has to do with shared norms and values

Question 1 (continued)

characteristic of society as a whole, while political ideology has to do with particular ideas and goals characteristic of an individual or a partisan group.

(c) The response earned 1 point for explaining how socialist policies might affect economic development by stating that “an evenly distributed income under socialist policy gives more money for lower income people to spend + develop the economy + less income or wealth for higher income individuals to hoard meaning more money rotating in the economy making a better economy.”

(d) The response earned 1 point for explaining how a government’s implementation of a socialist policy might affect its legitimacy by stating, “If a government is able to provide for the people + give basic necessities guaranteed it can give the legitimacy by showing the government is a service they can rely on.”

Sample: 1C

Score: 2

(a) The response earned 1 point for describing a socialist policy used by governments to address income inequality as “public welfare organizations. ... with the intention of helping meet the needs of impoverished citizens, including healthcare and housing services.”

(b) The response earned 1 point for explaining how political ideology differs from political culture for stating, “Political ideology encompasses the ... beliefs held by an individual or group, while political culture refers to the broader state of politics within a country, including aspects such as political participation as well as norms and policies.”

(c) The response describes a transition from a privatized to a nationalized economy, but it did not earn a point for explaining how socialist policies might affect economic development, such as explaining how nationalization of private industry might deter investment in other industries, lowering economic growth, or how it might result in profits being used for development rather than for individual financial gain.

(d) The response did not earn a point for explaining how a government’s implementation of a socialist policy might affect its legitimacy, such as explaining how socialist policies might be unpopular or popular with citizens, decreasing or increasing their acceptance of the government's right to rule. The response does not indicate how the implementation of socialist policies could affect legitimacy.