
AP[®] Comparative Government and Politics

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 2

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Free-Response Question 2

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Question 2: Quantitative Analysis**5 points**

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- (a) Using the data in the graph, identify the age group in the United Kingdom with the largest percentage of women. **1 point**

An identification includes the following:

- 50–54

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- (b) Using the data in the graph, describe a difference between the population distribution in Nigeria and the population distribution in the United Kingdom. **1 point**

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Nigeria has a larger youth population than the United Kingdom.
- The United Kingdom has a larger elderly population than Nigeria.
- A direct comparison of a difference in a particular age group in Nigeria and the United Kingdom (there is a larger percentage of people who live past age 84 in the United Kingdom compared to Nigeria, for example).

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- (c) Describe how gender equity influences population distributions. **1 point**

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Description of any of the following factors among women leading to lower life expectancy and/or higher fertility rates:
 - High poverty rates
 - Less access to education
 - Less access to employment opportunities
 - Less access to health care
 - Fewer political rights
- Description of any of the following factors among women leading to higher life expectancy and/or lower fertility rates:
 - Low poverty rates
 - More access to education
 - More access to employment opportunities
 - More access to health care
 - Greater political rights among women

-
- (d) Using the data in the graph, draw one conclusion about gender equity in the population distributions. **1 point**

Acceptable conclusions include:

- Nigeria has less gender equity than the UK.
- The United Kingdom has more gender equity than Nigeria.
- Men and women in Nigeria are not equal.
- Women in Nigeria have fewer rights than men.
- Men in Nigeria have more rights than women.
- Men and women in the United Kingdom are more equal.

(e) Explain a future political implication of the population distributions shown.

1 point

Acceptable explanations include:

- As Nigeria's young population starts working, unemployment concerns could lead to the necessity of the government creating jobs or implementing job creation incentives.
- As Nigeria's young population starts working, unemployment concerns could lead to political instability if the government is unable to meet the demand.
- Because the Nigerian population is disproportionately young, there could be an increase in demand for social services or on the education system for children.
- Because such a large proportion of the Nigerian population will soon be politically active, they may advocate for political change.
- In the United Kingdom, the aging population could require the government to increase social services.
- Because the United Kingdom's population is disproportionately old, a shrinking workforce could lead to a loosening of immigration rules.
- In Nigeria or the United Kingdom there could be new population policies because the Nigerian population is disproportionately young, and the United Kingdom's is disproportionately old.

Scoring Note: The response must be political, not only economic.

Total for question 2 5 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) The age group in the UK with the largest percentage of women is ages 50-54 and this represents 3.7% of women.
- (b) Nigeria's population distribution indicates rapid population growth as the majority of the population is young. However in the UK the growth is much slower and approaching zero as the population is more evenly distributed than in Nigeria.
- (c) Gender equity plays a big role in distributions. Distributions with rapid growth need ~~the~~ ~~many~~ women to be giving birth often to many children to ensure growth. However Distributions with low growth see more gender equity as more women work and attend school.
- (d) There is more gender equity in the United Kingdom than in Nigeria. Since the UK is a developed country with slow growth ~~there~~ there are women attending school and entering the workforce than in Nigeria where mothers are younger and have to sacrifice work and school so they can raise their children.
- (e) The United Kingdom has an increasingly aging population. This means that the government will have to support a large elderly population. There will be an increase in medical expenses through the National Health Service. And if trends continue there will be a smaller working age population to support them and bring in more GDP.

Page 3

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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) 50-54 year olds has the largest percent of women.
- b) The United Kingdom has a very even distribution of its population across all age groups. Contrastly, the vast majority of Nigeria's population is between the ages of 0-19.
- c) In a ~~state~~ state like the UK the genders are more equitised equitable, so women have less kids because they have careers and other responsibilities, Nigeria has less gender equity, so women are at home having more kids and ~~creation~~ creating a large rise in the percentage of the population that is extremely young.
- d) Nigeria has less gender equity than does the UK.
- e) The large percentage of young people in Nigeria may cause a spike in unemployment as there are not enough jobs to support such a large number of people.

Page 3

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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) The age group in the United Kingdom with the largest percentage of women is the age group 50-54.
- B) The population distribution in the United Kingdom is fairly uniform distributed w/ slight peaks at 50-54. In Nigeria, the distribution is more pyramid shape with the largest percentage of the populations under the age of 25. There is also more young people that make up the population in Nigeria than in the UK. There are also a greater amount of people 50+ in the UK than in Nigeria.
- C) Gender equity influences population distributions because it makes the distributions more equal among each gender rather than there being an uneven distribution among males and females.
- D) The countries Nigeria and UK have a greater gender equity because the population distributions are approximately symmetrical between genders.
- E) In the future, the greatest percentage of the country will be working age and there needs to be an increase of jobs to strengthen the economy. In the UK, the future generations will be old and it will be a great % of the population. There might need to be an increase in social security or healthcare spending to support these people.

Use a pen with black or dark blue ink only. Do NOT write your name. Do NOT write outside the box.

Question 2

Quantitative 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 interpret, describe, compare, and draw conclusions from quantitative data presented in a population distribution chart. In addition, the question was designed to assess students' ability to make connections between the concepts of gender equity, population distributions, and political policies in Nigeria and the United Kingdom. Students were presented with two separate population distribution charts from *Population Pyramids of the World* displaying data from the United Kingdom and Nigeria. The data, drawn from 2018, displayed total percent of the population in 5-year increments, as well as a breakdown of males vs. females within each age cohort. Students were expected to be able to correctly identify the age group in the United Kingdom with the largest percentage of females. Students were also expected to describe a difference in the population distribution in Nigeria and the United Kingdom. In the next two prompts, students were asked to apply the concept of gender equity to the chart and these countries. First, they were asked to describe how gender equity influences population distributions. Then, they were asked to draw a conclusion about gender equity in the population distributions, using the data from the graph (meaning they needed to reference one or both countries in their response). Finally, students were expected to explain a future political implication related to the population distributions shown (namely, the United Kingdom's aging population and Nigeria's very young population).

Sample 2A

Score: 5

- (a) The response earned 1 point for correctly identifying the age range of 50–54.
- (b) The response earned 1 point. It describes a difference in population distributions in the two countries: "In the UK ... the population is more evenly distributed than in Nigeria."
- (c) The response earned 1 point. It describes a factor among women that leads to lower fertility rates: "Distributions with low growth see more gender equity as more women work and attend school."
- (d) The response earned 1 point. It correctly draws a conclusion about gender equity in the population distributions: "There is more gender equity in the United Kingdom than in Nigeria."
- (e) The response earned 1 point. It correctly explains a future political implication of the population distribution in the UK: "The United Kingdom has an increasingly aging population. This means that the government will have to support a large elderly population. There will be an increase in medical expenses through the National Health Service."

Question 2 (continued)

Sample: 2B

Score: 4

- (a) The response earned 1 point for correctly identifying the age range of 50–54.
- (b) The response earned 1 point. It describes a difference in population distributions in the two countries, by stating, “The United Kingdom has a very even distribution of its population,” while “Contrastly, the ... majority of Nigeria’s population is between the ages of 0–19.”
- (c) The response earned 1 point. It describes a factor among women that leads to lower fertility rates: “In a state like the UK, the genders are more equitable, so women have less kids because they have careers and other responsibilities.”
- (d) The response earned 1 point. It correctly draws a conclusion about gender equity in the population distributions: “Nigeria has less gender equity than does the UK.”
- (e) The response did not earn a point. It explains an economic implication for Nigeria, but it does not explain political implications.

Sample: 2C

Score: 3

- (a) The response earned 1 point for correctly identifying the age range of 50–54.
- (b) The response earned 1 point because it describes a difference in population distributions in the two countries: “There is alot more young people that make up the population in Nigeria than in the UK.”
- (c) The response did not earn a point for describing how gender equity influences population distributions, as it conflates gender equity with equal distribution of gender in the population.
- (d) The response did not earn a point for drawing a conclusion about gender equity in the population distributions, as it incorrectly describes the UK and Nigeria as having equal levels of gender equity: “The countries Nigeria and UK have a greater gender equity.”
- (e) The response earned 1 point for correctly explaining a future political implication of the population distribution in the UK: “In the UK, the future generations will be old and it will be a great % of the population. There might need to be an increase in social security or healthcare spending to support these people.”