

2023

AP<sup>®</sup>



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# AP<sup>®</sup> Comparative Government and Politics

## Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 1

### **Inside:**

#### **Free-Response Question 1**

- Scoring Guidelines**
- Student Samples**
- Scoring Commentary**

**Question 1: Conceptual Analysis****4 points**

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**(A)** Describe regime. **1 point****Acceptable descriptions include:**

- Regime refers to the fundamental rules that control access to and the exercise of political power.
- Regime refers to the set of formal institutions that define the relationship between the state and its citizens.

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**(B)** Describe one difference between authoritarian regimes and democratic regimes. **1 point****Acceptable descriptions include:**

- Authoritarian regimes often do not allow more than one party to exist, while democratic regimes allow competition.
- Authoritarian regimes typically do not have competitive elections, while democratic regimes have free and fair elections.
- Leaders in authoritarian regimes typically retain power over a long period of time, while leaders in democratic regimes alternate power through competitive elections.
- Authoritarian regimes typically limit the role of the people in the political process, while democratic regimes allow citizen participation.
- Authoritarian regimes use rule by law, while democratic regimes use rule of law.
- Authoritarian regimes lack independent branches of government, while democratic regimes typically have independent branches.
- Authoritarian regimes often have a lack of transparency, while democratic regimes are typically transparent.
- Authoritarian regimes typically limit civil liberties and/or human rights, while democratic regimes typically protect civil liberties and human rights.

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**(C)** Explain how authoritarian regimes maintain legitimacy. **1 point****Acceptable explanations include:**

- Authoritarian regimes often hold controlled/noncompetitive elections to maintain legitimacy because they give the people a feeling of efficacy.
  - Authoritarian regimes control the messages people receive through the media, which can cause people to be supportive of the regime.
  - Authoritarian regimes can generate economic growth and stability, which can make people happy and supportive of the regime.
  - Charismatic leadership gives people an emotional attachment to the regime, which makes people support the regime.
  - Tradition or ideology or religion (political culture) unify the people, which encourages them to support the regime.
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**(D)** Explain why citizens in an authoritarian regime would turn out to vote.

**1 point**

**Acceptable explanations include:**

Citizens would turn out to vote because:

- They have a desire to get ahead economically or socially, and participating in elections might be rewarded by political authorities.
- They fear repercussions from the government or political leaders if they fail to turn out to support the government in elections.
- They may be punished or denied benefits and services by the government if they do not participate in elections.
- They believe that by voting, they may be able to affect policy or change the status quo at least in some small way.
- They may support what the regime is accomplishing and vote to demonstrate that support.
- They have been actively recruited or coopted by the regime to act in a certain way, which may include participating in elections.
- They have been persuaded by the state-controlled media that they should vote and support the regime.
- They may believe their vote will make a difference because they believe the election is competitive.

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**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.

- (1)(a) A regime is defined as the fundamental rules and principles that define the nature of <sup>the governance of</sup> a state. A regime is often associated with the state's ideological foundation and does not change with a change in government. Two common regime type examples are democratic and authoritarian.
- (b) Democratic regimes often protect the civil rights and liberties of the citizens and follow rule of law, whereas authoritarian regimes use rule by law and usually don't protect citizen civil rights and liberties.
- (c) Authoritarian regimes can maintain charismatic legitimacy by promoting and encouraging public support of the leader. They can also use political socialization techniques to influence political culture and disseminate false information to the citizens to increase support and legitimacy for the government.
- (d) Citizens with high levels of political efficacy may vote and participate in other methods of political participation as it gives them the illusion that they can make a difference and have a say in the politics of the ~~state~~ authoritarian state.

Page 2

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

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 regime is the group of people holding political power of a nation / state, and the policies they implement
- b) one difference between authoritarian regimes and democratic regimes is that democratic regimes have transparency and the people and media are able to see what's going on in the government, and in authoritarian regimes there is little to no transparency and the people and media are not privy to government's goings-on
- c) Authoritarian regimes maintain legitimacy by holding elections. Even if they are preventing certain people from running or if they make certain of a particular outcome, holding elections makes the people feel they have more of a say and gives authoritarian regimes more legitimacy
- d) Citizens in an authoritarian regime might turn out to vote to show their support for another candidate, because even if they want war, if lots of people show support, it has the potential to snowball into further action against the authoritarian regime.

Page 2

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

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 regime is a state ~~that~~ that can keep its current form of government running even if the leader of the regime were to not be in office.

B) Authoritarian regimes use rule by law whereas democratic regimes use rule of law. Leaders or those with enough political power are above the law in authoritarian regimes. Everyone, including leaders, is subject to the law in democratic.

C) They maintain legitimacy by using coercion ~~and~~ force to scare citizens into obeying them.

D) It could be because ~~they~~ they believe that elections are free & they believe they are making ~~a~~ a difference by voting.

Page 2

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

## **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' understanding of a regime. Students were expected to describe a regime. In addition, students had to explain one difference between an authoritarian regime and a democratic regime. Students then needed to demonstrate that they understand how authoritarian regimes maintain legitimacy among their citizens. Finally, students needed to demonstrate why citizens would turn out to vote in an authoritarian regime.

#### **Sample: 1A**

**Score: 4**

(A) The response earned 1 point for describing a regime as “the fundamental rules and principles that define the nature of the governance of a state.”

(B) The response earned 1 point for describing one difference between authoritarian regimes and democratic regimes: “Democratic regimes often protect the civil rights and liberties of the citizens and follow rule of law, whereas authoritarian regimes use rule by law and usually don’t protect citizen civil rights and liberties.”

(C) The response earned 1 point for explaining how authoritarian regimes maintain legitimacy by stating, “Authoritarian regimes can maintain charismatic legitimacy by promoting and encouraging public support of the leader.” The point could also have been earned with the statement that regimes can use “political socialization techniques to ... disseminate false information ... to increase support.”

(D) The response earned 1 point for explaining why citizens in an authoritarian regime would turn out to vote by stating, “Citizens with high levels of political efficacy may vote ... it gives them the illusion that they can make a difference and have a say in the politics of the authoritarian state.”

#### **Sample: 1B**

**Score: 3**

(A) The response did not earn a point for describing a regime because it incorrectly states, “A regime is the group or people holding political power of a nation/state.”

(B) The response earned 1 point for describing one difference between authoritarian regimes and democratic regimes as “democratic regimes have transparency ... in authoritarian regimes there is little to no transparency.”

(C) The response earned 1 point for explaining that authoritarian regimes maintain legitimacy “by holding elections ... elections makes the people feel they have more of a say and gives authoritarian regimes more legitimacy.”

(D) The response earned 1 point for explaining, “Citizens in an authoritarian regime might turn out to

### Question 1 (continued)

vote to show their support for another candidate, because even if they won't win, if lots of people show support, it has the potential to snowball into further action against the authoritarian regime.”

**Sample: 1C**

**Score: 2**

(A) The response did not earn a point for describing a regime because it incorrectly states, “A regime is a state that can keep its current form of government running even if the leader of the regime were to not be in office.”

(B) The response earned 1 point for describing one difference between authoritarian regimes and democratic regimes by stating, “Authoritarian regimes use rule by law whereas democratic regimes use rule of law.”

(C) The response did not earn a point for explaining how authoritarian regimes maintain legitimacy. It incorrectly states, “by using coercion & force to scare citizens into obeying them.”

(D) The response earned 1 point for explaining why citizens in an authoritarian regime would turn out to vote by stating, “It could be because they believe that elections are free & they believe they are making a difference by voting.”