

2023

AP[®]



AP[®] Comparative Government and Politics

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 2

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Free-Response Question 1

- Scoring Guidelines**
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- Scoring Commentary**

Question 1: Conceptual Analysis**4 points**

(A) Describe the concept of the state. **1 point****Acceptable descriptions include:**

- Political organizations (or set of formal rules or institutions) that have at least two of the following:
 - sovereignty (internal and/or external)
 - control over people
 - a defined territory
 - international recognition
 - governing institutions
 - a permanent population

Note: an acceptable response must contain at least two of the elements of the description to earn credit. Responses that only refer to people are not enough to earn credit.

(B) Describe one difference between a state and a nation. **1 point****Acceptable descriptions include:**

- A state has sovereignty, while a nation is not considered sovereign and lacks control over its people.
- A state refers to specific territory, while a nation is defined by a group of people, not a specific piece of territory.
- A state refers to institutions, while a nation refers to people with commonalities such as race, language, religion, ethnicity, and political identity.

(C) Explain one reason why a state might fail. **1 point****Acceptable explanations include:**

- A state might fail because it loses legitimacy and the support of its people.
 - A state might fail because it lacks capacity or is unable to meet the essential needs of its people, such as providing security.
 - A state might fail due to significant cleavages if they lead to conflict and civil war.
 - A state might fail if it is too weak to stop an invasion, war, or other takeover by an outside actor.
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(D) Explain why multinational states might face challenges in establishing legitimacy. **1 point**

Acceptable explanations include:

- Multinational states may have difficulty establishing legitimacy because people affected by existing cleavages might feel excluded from the political process and do not support the state.
- Multinational states might face challenges in establishing legitimacy because there are conflicting interests and competition among groups.
- Multinational states might face challenges in establishing legitimacy because there is pressure from neighboring countries that sense government weakness and vulnerability.

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 state is the highest ~~governing~~ form of government consisting of a permanent population, governing body, territory to inhabit, and sovereignty both locally and internationally, meaning its existence and power is recognized.

B) A state is a broader term in which territory, permanent population, and a government is required, whereas a nation describes a collective of people who associate with each other based upon different factors such as race, ethnicity, or religion. For example, a state may be composed of different nations.

C) A state may fail due to a loss of territory, in which bordering states may encroach and take land, resulting in the state dissolving. This could also result in a lack of sovereignty as international actors might not recognize the state without territory.

D) Multinational states might face challenges in establishing legitimacy as each nation is separately associated (religiously, ethnically, etc). So they have differing wants and needs that make unity difficult to achieve. If a nation doesn't feel properly represented, as might happen when a state is balancing multiple nations, they might not agree with a state's right to rule them, harming legitimacy.

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 state is the concept that the people living within the same region of land ~~at~~ ~~in~~ share many common similarities with each other. This could include language, religion, ethnicity, and other cultural factors that create the identity of the people in a particular state.

B. While not all states are internationally recognized, nations do receive international recognition by large groups such as NATO and the EU.

C. A state might fail if the ~~people of that~~ state's government loses its legitimacy from the people. If the people of a state do not believe their government is using its powers for the will of the people, then the people may protest and call to overthrow ~~the~~ and replace the current government in power.

D. Multinational states might face challenges in establishing legitimacy because different cultures within these multinational states may have conflicting beliefs in how the government should use its powers. Differing opinions and perspectives in religion or other cultural factors ~~may~~ could make it difficult for a government to establish legitimacy when trying to appeal to all sides of the spectrum.

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 state is a segment of a country that is self governed as well as being governed by country. Officials of the state are appointed by ~~those in the state~~ citizens in the state and are allowed certain roles by the government.

(B) A state is a portion of a country that has been split from other states and is allowed to govern itself following the constitution. A nation is a country ~~that is governed by one government~~ with one government controlling the entire country.

(C) A state may fail because it allows different areas of a country to govern themselves under the constitution. These areas may have different beliefs than others, causing the country to become divided.

(D) Multination states may face challenges in establishing legitimacy because ~~the~~ the separation of the people allows for the influence of different cultures and morals. When the people have different ideals and morals they are difficult to govern. They may want different things and the government may find it difficult to make all the people happy. When the people do not get what they want they feel like the government is ignoring them, this causes them to distrust the government, leading to lowered legitimacy.

Page 2

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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 the ability of students to describe and explain. Students were expected to describe the concept of the state, then to describe a difference between a state and a nation. Students then needed to explain one reason why a state might fail. Finally, students were expected to explain why multinational states might face challenges in maintaining legitimacy.

Sample: 1A

Score: 4

(A) The response earned 1 point for describing a state as “the highest form of government consisting of a permanent population, governing body, territory to inhabit, and sovereignty both locally and internationally, meaning its existence and power is recognized.”

(B) The response earned 1 point for describing the difference between a state and a nation by stating, “A state is a broader term in which territory, permanent population, and a government is required, whereas a nation describes a collective of people who associate with each other based upon different factors such as race, ethnicity, or religion.”

(C) The response earned 1 point for explaining why a state may fail by stating that “due to a loss of territory, in which bordering states may encroach and take land, resulting in the state dissolving.” The statement about the loss of international recognition is not sufficient to have earned the point.

(D) The response earned 1 point for explaining why multinational states might face challenges in establishing legitimacy by stating, “If a nation doesn’t feel properly represented, as might happen when a state is balancing multiple nations, they might not agree with a state’s right to rule them, harming legitimacy.”

Sample: 1B

Score: 2

(A) The response did not earn a point for describing the concept of the state because “the people living within the same region of land ... common similarities ... include language, religion, ethnicity” does not correctly describe a defined region and does not attempt to describe a second characteristic.

(B) The response did not earn a point for describing the difference between a nation and a state because it incorrectly describes “states are internationally recognized, nations do receive international recognition.”

(C) The response earned 1 point for explaining why a state might fail as “the state’s government loses its legitimacy from the people. If the people of a state do not believe their government is using its powers for the will of the people, then the people may protest and call to overthrow and replace the current government in power.”

Question 1 (continued)

(D) The response earned 1 point for explaining why multinational states might face challenges in establishing legitimacy. It states, “Differing opinions and perspectives in religion or other cultural factors could make it difficult for a government to establish legitimacy when trying to appeal to all sides of the spectrum.”

Sample: 1C

Score: 1

(A) The response did not earn a point for describing the concept of a state because it incorrectly describes a state as “a segment of a country that is self governed as well as being governed by country.”

(B) The response did not earn a point for describing the difference between a nation and a state because it incorrectly states, “A state is a portion of a country that has been split from other states ... A nation is a country with one government controlling the entire country.”

(C) The response did not earn a point for explaining one reason why a state might fail because it incorrectly states, “A state may fail because it allows different areas of a country to govern themselves ... These areas may have different beliefs than others, causing the country to become divided.”

(D) The response earned 1 point for explaining why multinational states might face challenges in establishing legitimacy by stating, “When the people have different ideals and morals they are difficult to govern. They may want different things and the government may find it difficult to make all the people happy.”