AP®

AP® Comparative Government and Politics

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 2

Inside:

Free-Response Question 2

☑ **Scoring Guidelines**

☑ **Student Samples**

☑ **Scoring Commentary**

Question 2: Quantitative Analysis   5 points

(A)	Using the data in the graph, identify the country with the lowest level of trust from 2016 to 2021.	**1 point**

An acceptable identification includes:

Russia

(B)	Using the data in the graph, describe a change in the level of trust in Mexico from 2017 to 2021.	**1 point**

Acceptable descriptions include:

- The level of trust in Mexico rose from 50 in 2017 to nearly 60 in 2021.
- The level of trust in Mexico increased.
- The level of trust in Mexico increased by almost 10 points from 2017 to 2021.

(C)	Describe political stability.	**1 point**

Acceptable descriptions include:

- The durability of a political regime over time.
- The ability of a government to provide for the needs of its people to maintain the public's confidence in the institution of the state over time.
- A state is politically stable when it can endure threats to its sovereignty.

(D)	Using the data in the graph, draw a conclusion about China's policies in maintaining political stability.	**1 point**

Acceptable conclusions include:

- Chinese citizens have high levels of trust in the Chinese government because the government has successfully focused on economic growth to maintain political stability.
- Chinese citizens have high levels of trust in the government because the government has effectively censored the media to maintain political stability.

(E)	Explain what the data in the graph imply about corruption in Russia.	**1 point**

Acceptable explanations include:

- The data in the graph imply that there are high levels of corruption because Russian citizens are unlikely to trust a corrupt government.

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 country with the lowest levels of trust from 2016 to 2021 is Russia.

(B) The change in level of trust in the Mexican government was an increase of about 10 percentage points from 2017 to 2021. ~~Mexican~~

~~(C) Political stability refers to a the level of stability in a state which is comprised of many factors including~~

(C) Political stability refers to the amount of order there is within. It refers to the amount of respect people have for the law as well as the government.

(D) From the data in the graph, it can be inferred that China has very ~~good~~ sound policies at maintaing political stability. This is because ~~the graph~~ in one of the main reasons for political instability is citizens' negative perception of the government or citizens' distrust of the government. Since the graph says that ~~most citizens~~ a ~~higher~~ relatively higher percentage Chinese citizens trust the government, we can conclude that China's policies for maintaing political stability, such as media censorship, are quite effective.

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

Q5358/4

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.

(E) According to the graph, Russia has ~~very~~ relatively low levels of trust in the government amongst its citizens. When citizens don't trust their government leaders, it's mostly because they suspect them of corruption. It is likely that corruption is quite high in Russia, since the citizens don't seem to trust the government to rule honestly.

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0030780

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 country with the lowest level of trust from 2016 to 2021 is Russia.

b) The level of trust in Mexico from 2017 to 2021 changed from 50 to 59 according to the Trust Index Barometer. This means that Mexico's level of trust increased steadily over the course of 2017 to 2021.

c) Political stability is when the form of government of a state is not likely to change, and has maintained legitimacy with its people.

d) The graph indicates that China has the highest level of trust and has maintained a score between 60 and 80. We can conclude that this means that China's policies have maintained political stability because its citizens have continued trust in China which means they must accept its authority.

e) The data in the graph implies that Russia is perceived as corrupt. This is because Russia has the lowest level of trust and has continued to decrease. If people aren't trusting Russia's institutions, businesses, media, and NGOs, then that must mean Russia has high levels of corruption.

Page 3

0023501

Q5358/3

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- Russia

B- There has been a slight increase of trust in mexico

C- Political stability is the level at which a ~~feaura~~ regiem is able to retain power ~~and~~ retain trust in the people and limit internal state political conflict as much as possible.

D- Chinas recent policies are causing slight fluxuations in their political stability, dropping initially from 2016 to 2017, slightly increasing it from 2018 to 2020 and then another decline after. This highlights how while ~~people are still having over~~ general political stabdb is high, people trust is being slightly questioned with recent policies

E- Russia is generally the lowest of the countries in terms of trust which highlights how corruption has been and remains in Russia as people naturally see Russia with little trust, only maxing out at 40%.

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0015825

QS358/3

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, explain, and draw conclusions from quantitative data on public trust levels across four AP countries presented in a graph. The question also was designed to assess students' ability to make connections across the concepts of trust, political stability, and corruption. Students were presented with a graph displaying numbers for the Trust Index Barometer for China, Mexico, the United Kingdom, and Russia. The graph showed the scores for these four countries from 2015 to 2021. Students were expected to be able to correctly identify the country with the lowest level of trust from 2016 to 2021. Students were also expected to correctly describe a change in the level of public trust in Mexico from 2017 to 2021. Students were then expected to correctly describe the concept of political stability. The next prompt asked students, using data from the graph, to draw a conclusion about China's policies in maintaining political stability. Students were expected to reference a specific policy that China has pursued to bolster political stability. Finally, students were asked to explain what the data in the graph implied about corruption in Russia. Students were expected to demonstrate understanding that high levels of corruption negatively influence the degree of public trust in government.

Sample: 2A
Score: 4

(A) The response earned 1 point for identifying Russia as the country in the graph with the lowest level of trust from 2016 to 2021.

(B) The response earned 1 point for describing the change in the level of trust in Mexico from 2017 to 2021 as "an increase of about 10 percentage points."

(C) The response did not earn a point because it does not provide an accurate description of political stability.

(D) The response earned 1 point for drawing a conclusion about China's policies in maintaining political stability using the data in the graph, by stating that "China's policies for maintaining political stability, such as media censorship, are quite effective."

(E) The response earned 1 point for explaining what the data in the graph imply about corruption in Russia by stating, "It is likely that corruption is quite high in Russia, since the citizery don't seem to trust the government to rule honestly."

Sample: 2B
Score: 4

(A) The response earned 1 point for identifying Russia as the country with the lowest level of trust from 2016 to 2021.

Question 2 (continued)

(B) The response earned 1 point for describing a change in the level of trust in Mexico from 2017 to 2021 as "Mexico's level of trust increased steadily over the course of 2017 to 2021."

(C) The response earned 1 point for accurately describing political stability. The response correctly describes the "form of government of a state" as "not likely to change," indicating that the state is durable.

(D) The response did not earn a point for drawing a conclusion about China's policies in maintaining political stability. It explains that China has high levels of trust, but it does not provide any reasoning for how a specific policy used by China to maintain stability can help explain those high levels of trust.

(E) The response earned 1 point for successfully linking the low levels of trust in Russia with high levels of corruption, by stating, "If people aren't trusting Russia's institutions, businesses, media, and NGOs, then that must mean Russia has high levels of corruption."

Sample: 2C
Score: 2

(A) The response earned 1 point for identifying Russia as the country in the graph with the lowest level of trust from 2016 to 2021.

(B) The response earned 1 point for describing the change in level of trust in Mexico from 2017 to 2021 as an "increase of trust in Mexico."

(C) The response did not earn a point for describing political stability because there is no indication of durability over time.

(D) The response did not earn a point for drawing a conclusion about China's policies in maintaining political stability using the data in the graph. The response does not describe a policy that helped China maintain political stability.

(E) The response did not earn a point for explaining what the data in the graph imply about corruption in Russia. While an attempt is made, the response does not accurately connect the data to corruption in Russia.