AP® Comparative Government and Politics

Scoring Guidelines
Set 1

Question 1: Conceptual Analysis   4 points

(A)	Describe a function of an electoral regulatory organization (also called an election commission).	**1 point**

Acceptable descriptions include:

- An electoral regulatory organization can do any of the following:
    - set various rules about ballot access and competition.
    - oversee, monitor, or run elections.
    - Enforce campaign laws.
    - ensure ballot access for candidates.
    - provide opportunities for voters to vote.
    - establish voting locations, times, and technology.
    - count votes in elections.
    - Protect polling places.
    - set rules for campaign ads.

(B)	Describe an election rule that enhances political competition.	**1 point**

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Establishing quotas (regional, gender, or cultural).
- Establishing a proportional election system.
- Creating an independent election commission.
- Reducing qualifications for running in elections.
- Lowering the threshold for winning seats in the legislature.
- Allowing equal media access for all candidates.

(C)	Explain how electoral regulatory organizations contribute to democratization.	**1 point**

Acceptable explanations include:

- Electoral regulatory organizations contribute to democratization by:
    - managing the fairness of elections to improve electoral competition.
    - reducing voter fraud to increase the legitimacy of the results.
    - improving transparency to increase the public's trust in elections.
    - providing the possibility of alternation of power to increase government legitimacy or stability.
    - adhering to rule of law to promote government legitimacy.

(D)	Explain why an authoritarian political system would use an electoral regulatory organization.	**1 point**

Acceptable explanations include:

- Authoritarian political systems may use electoral regulatory organizations to:
    - limit opposition candidates from appearing on the ballot.
    - create the appearance of fairness/legitimacy.
    - solidify the ruling party's control.

Total for question 1   4 points

Question 2: Quantitative Analysis   5 points

(A) Using data in the table, identify the country with the lowest civil liberties score on the Democracy Index.   **1 point**

Acceptable identifications include:

- China

(B) Using data in the table, describe a trend in civil liberties in Nigeria from 2006 to 2021.   **1 point**

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Nigeria's index score increased from 3.5 in 2006 to 4.1 in 2021.
- The trend in civil liberties from 2006 to 2021 is that Nigeria's index score for the protection of civil liberties consistently increased.
- Nigeria's civil liberties score increased during this time period.

(C) Describe civil liberties.   **1 point**

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Civil liberties
  - are freedoms protected by the government
  - are freedoms protected from the government
  - may include the protection of:
    - freedom of speech
    - freedom of religion
    - freedom of the press

(D) Using data in the table, draw a conclusion about the protection of civil liberties in Mexico between 2006 and 2021.   **1 point**

Acceptable conclusions include:

- Civil liberties declined in Mexico because the government imposed restrictions on citizens.
- Civil liberties declined in Mexico because the government failed to provide protection to citizens.

(E) Explain how China's civil liberties score relates to governmental transparency.   **1 point**

Acceptable explanations include:

- The lack of transparency by the Chinese government enables the abuse of civil liberties in China.
- The low civil liberties score indicates that a lack of civil liberties in China makes it difficult for citizens to determine what the government is doing.
- Civil liberties in China are not very well protected. The Chinese government owns and censors the media, which means it does not provide information to citizens, leading to less transparency.

Total for question 2   5 points

Question 3: Comparative Analysis   5 points

(A)   Define economic liberalization.   **1 point**

Acceptable definitions include:

- The privatization of nationalized or government-owned industries
- Policies that reduce the government's role in the economy
- Policies that favor the free market
- The reduction of subsidies, tariffs, and other trade barriers
- Opening the economy to foreign direct investment (FDI)

(B)   Describe an economic liberalization policy in two different AP Comparative Government   **2 points**
and Politics course countries.

Acceptable descriptions include the following (max one point per country):

China
- Creating special economic zones
- Organizing the household responsibility system
- Encouraging foreign direct investment

Iran
- Reducing fuel subsidies
- Expanding trade with countries who do not have sanctions on Iran

Mexico
- Privatizing nationalized industries
- Partially privatizing Pemex
- Signing the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) or United States–Mexico
  –Canada Agreement (USMCA)

Nigeria
- Joining Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS) or African
  Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)
- Reducing fuel subsidies
- Empowering the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NPCC) to collaborate with
  foreign companies in joint ventures to extract and produce oil

Russia
- Privatizing nationalized industries

United Kingdom
- Privatizing nationalized industries
- Reducing regulations on business
- Creating policies to make the National Health Service (NHS) more efficient

Scoring Notes:
- Joining the World Trade Organization (WTO) is an acceptable response for China,
  Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, and the UK.
- Joining BRICS is an acceptable response for China, Iran, and Russia.

(C) Explain how the impact of economic liberalization has led to the emergence of social movements in each of the two AP Comparative Government and Politics course countries described in part B. **2 points**

Acceptable explanations include the following (max one point per country):

China
- Economic liberalization has caused environmental degradation, which has led to movements and protests.
- Economic liberalization has led to protests for more political freedoms.

Iran
- Economic liberalization has led to protests against fuel subsidy reductions.
- Economic liberalization and growing inequality in wealth led to strikes for better working conditions and higher wages.

Mexico
- Economic liberalization and growing socioeconomic inequality have led to uprisings (Zapatista rebellion).
- Economic liberalization and the privatization of the oil industry led to protests.
- Economic liberalization and growing inequality in wealth led to strikes for better working conditions and higher wages.

Nigeria
- Economic liberalization and unjust methods of oil extraction have led to protests and the development of environmental movements (MEND / MOSOP).
- The presence of foreign-owned economic interests has motivated protests from groups focused on preserving Nigerian culture and/or religious values.

Russia
- Economic liberalization has led to protests against inequality and low standards of living.

United Kingdom
- Economic liberalization has led to environmental movements and protests.
- Economic liberalization has led to anti-globalization protests.
- Economic liberalization has led to labor union activism and strikes.

Total for question 3   5 points

Question 4: Argument Essay   5 points

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria	
Row A **Claim/Thesis** **(0–1 points)**	**0 points** Does not meet the criteria for one point.	**1 point** Responds to the prompt with a defensible claim or thesis that establishes a line of reasoning.
	Decision Rules and Scoring Notes	
	Responses that do not earn this point: • Only restate the prompt. • Do not make a claim that responds to the prompt.	**Responses that earn this point:** • Respond to the prompt rather than restating or rephrasing the prompt and establish a line of reasoning. • Provide a defensible claim or thesis that establishes a line of reasoning as to whether a multiparty system sustains political legitimacy better than a one-party or a dominant party system using one or more of the provided course concepts: stability, representation, and transfer of power.
	Examples that do not earn this point: **Restate the prompt** • *"A multi-party system is better at sustaining legitimacy."* • *"Countries with a one-party system, like China, are the best for sustaining political legitimacy."* • *"A dominant party system is better at sustaining legitimacy than a multi-party system."* **Do not respond to the prompt** • *"Nigeria has a multi-party system with over 30 political parties."* • *"Countries in this course have a variety of different party systems."*	**Examples that earn this point:** • *"A dominant party system is best at maintaining political legitimacy because the dominant party provides stability through policies/leadership that don't change."* • *"In a multiparty system, multiple parties receive seats in the legislature and representatives more closely reflect the viewpoints of citizens, giving citizens a strong sense of representation, which makes multiparty systems better at maintaining political legitimacy."* • *"A one-party system is best at maintaining political legitimacy because power does not transfer between political parties, and this increases stability and predictability in policymaking, increasing citizens' support for the government."*
	Additional Notes: • The claim or thesis must consist of one or more sentences that may be located anywhere in the response. • A claim or thesis that meets the criteria can be awarded the point whether or not the rest of the response successfully supports that line of reasoning.	

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria		
Row B Evidence (0–2 points)	**0 points** Does not meet the criteria for one point.	**1 point** Provides <u>one</u> piece of specific and relevant evidence from a course country relevant to one of the course concepts in the prompt.	**2 points** Provides <u>two</u> pieces of specific and relevant evidence from one or more course countries relevant to one or more of the course concepts in the prompt.
	Decision Rules and Scoring Notes		
	Responses that do not earn points: • Do not provide any accurate evidence. • Provide evidence that is not relevant to the course concepts in the prompt.	**Responses that earn 1 or 2 points:** • Provide specific and relevant evidence from required course countries, relevant to the course concepts in the prompt.	
	Examples that do not earn points: **Provide evidence that is not specific** • *"Nigeria has been stable in recent years."* **Provide evidence that is not relevant to course concepts in the prompt** • *"Liz Truss was chosen as prime minister after Boris Johnson by members of the party."*	**Examples of acceptable specific and relevant evidence (one example is one piece of evidence):** • *"The United Russia Party has dominated Russia for many years with limitation on dissent and strong government authority, providing the country with political stability."* • *"In China's one-party system, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)'s authority and consistency has provided the country with policy stability for decades."* • *"Mexico, UK and Nigeria have multiparty systems, allowing many parties and coalitions to represent a wide range of political views."* • *"Nigeria has a multiparty system, with smaller parties earning seats in the legislature and representing various ethnic groups."* • *"The United Kingdom has a multiparty system and smaller parties, including regional parties, that earn seats in the legislature, representing minority interests."* • *"Mexico, UK and Nigeria have had multiple peaceful transfers of power between political parties."*	
	Additional Notes • A response does not need to earn the point in Row A to earn points in Row B. • A response does not need to explain the relationship between the evidence and the claim or thesis to earn points in Row B. (That explanation is evaluated in Row C.)		

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria	
Row C Reasoning **(0–1 points)**	**0 points** Does not meet the criteria for one point.	**1 point** Explains how or why the evidence supports the claim or thesis

Decision Rules and Scoring Notes	
Responses that do not earn this point: • Include evidence but offer no reasoning to connect the evidence to the claim or thesis. • Restate the prompt without explaining how the evidence supports the claim or thesis.	**Responses that earn this point:** • Explain the relationship between the evidence provided and the claim or thesis.
Examples that do not earn points: • *"Peaceful transfers of power in Mexico provide stability."* • *"China's one-party system has limited citizen efficacy, which creates low legitimacy."* • *"Russia's dominant party systems never enjoy public support and thus have low legitimacy."*	**Examples of reasoning that explain how evidence supports the claim or thesis:** • *"Frequent changes in policy direction from different parties in power produce instability, which can undermine regime legitimacy."* • *"Countries with a one-party dominant system typically have electoral rules and/or constitutional provisions in place creating this system. The stability that these rules bring to the regime increases its legitimacy."* • *"Representation of a variety of interests and groups increases citizens' trust in the government, which helps the government maintain legitimacy."* • *"A peaceful transfer of power between different parties sustains the legitimacy of a regime."* • *"Transfers of power are more infrequent in one-party systems, which can allow for more policy continuity and experienced office holders, increasing legitimacy."*
Additional Notes: • To earn this point, the response must have a defensible claim or thesis (earned the point in Row A). • The explanation of the relationship between one piece of evidence and the claim or thesis is sufficient to earn this point.	

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria	
Row D Responds to Alternate Perspectives **(0–1 points)**	**0 points** Does not meet the criteria for one point.	**1 point** Responds to an opposing or alternate perspective using refutation, concession, or rebuttal.
	Decision Rules and Scoring Notes	
	Responses that do not earn this point: - Restate the opposite of the claim or thesis. - May identify or describe an alternate perspective but do not refute, concede, or rebut that perspective.	**Responses that earn this point:** Must describe an alternate perspective AND refute, concede, or rebut that perspective.
	Examples of responses that do not earn the point: **Restate the opposite of the claim or thesis** *"A dominant party system is not better at maintaining political legitimacy."* **Describe an alternate perspective but do not refute, concede, or rebut that perspective** *"The other side would argue that a multiparty system is better at maintaining political legitimacy than a dominant party system, but it is not."*	**Examples of acceptable responses to an alternate perspective may include:** *"Some say that a one-party state is better at maintaining legitimacy because policies are consistent over time, but this argument is wrong because one-party states lack electoral competition, which decreases representation and undermines political legitimacy."* *"While people may argue a multiparty state is better at maintaining legitimacy because multiple viewpoints are represented, multiparty states may result in unstable coalitions that actually decrease support for the regime."* *"Many political scientists believe that a dominant party state is better at maintaining legitimacy because there is more stability, but election rules reducing competition could cause governments to lose legitimacy over time."*
	Additional Notes - To earn this point, the response must have a defensible claim or thesis (earned the point in Row A). - Responses that demonstrate an incorrect understanding of the alternate perspective do not earn this point.	