
AP[®] Comparative Government and Politics

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 1

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Free-Response Question 1

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Question 1: Conceptual Analysis**4 points**

A Describe sovereignty. **1 point****Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:**

- Independent legal authority over a population in a particular territory
- The right and power of a state to govern itself without outside interference
- A government's power to apply rules within a territory
- The use or exercise of power by a government
- Supreme authority to enforce policies/laws/rules within a country

B Describe a way governments promote economic liberalization. **1 point****Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:**

- Privatizing of natural resources
- Privatizing of state-owned enterprises
- Reducing tariffs
- Joining a free trade agreement
- Creating special economic zones
- Joining an international organization with an economic focus (IMF, World Bank, or WTO)
- Decreasing taxes or subsidies
- Reducing government regulations

C Explain how economic liberalization policies can present challenges to sovereignty. **1 point****Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:**

- Foreign governments or multinational corporations (MNCs) can bring political or economic pressure to bear on countries, which would reduce a country's sovereignty as they have less control over their own economy.
 - A country may lose sovereignty when it has to comply with a supranational organization's trade policies that contradict previous trade policies.
 - Foreign direct investment may lead to new cultural influences that challenge a country's sovereignty by introducing beliefs or values that run counter to the country's traditions.
 - The economic development that results from economic liberalization policies can lead to environmental damage or wealth inequality, causing domestic backlash that challenges a country's sovereignty.
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| D | Explain why a government might adopt economic liberalization policies despite challenges to its sovereignty. | 1 point |
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Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:

- A government might adopt economic liberalization policies despite challenges to its sovereignty because these policies could improve domestic economic conditions, which increases legitimacy.
 - A government might adopt economic globalization policies to respond to domestic demands, thus gaining popular support for the ruling party.
 - Because extending a government's national influence internationally can in turn increase the government's prestige/power, a government might choose to adopt economic liberalization policies.
 - Such policies can lead to economic development, which can have the effect of reducing poverty in a country.
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Sample:

A.) Sovereignty is the capability of the state to create reform, enforce their laws, and regulate the functions of the state without interference from other forces, including other states, international organizations, or multinational companies. An example of this could be a state attempting to bring a citizen to trial for violation of their respective laws. If a state lacks sovereignty, then other forces like those mentioned previously could interrupt the state from holding such trial and justice could not occur. A state that does have sovereignty would be able to try a defendant and come to a verdict without interference.

B.) A way that governments can promote economic liberalization is through privatization of resources. Economic liberalization is the process by which a state's economy becomes more free, meaning that the government has less control over the resources and actions of the economy. Privatization is the process by which these aforementioned resources and economic actions are taken over by private companies or industries that are not controlled by the government. By handing over more resources to the private sector, the economy becomes more free by giving access to resources to free market forces where companies can compete freely in the marketplace for consumer demand. Therefore by privatizing, governments can economically liberalize by allowing the economy to become more free.

C.) Economic liberalization policies can present challenges to sovereignty because it leads to the state having less influence over the economic affairs that occur within its borders while outside forces like private corporations or multinational companies take over control of the economy. Multinational companies are companies that do business in many countries and are not controlled by an individual state. By giving more power to a multinational company, a state loses influence over the economy. Since the multinational is independent and controls the resources of the economy, then the state has less control over the economy and the actions taken in the country, which shows how economic liberalization techniques can present challenges to sovereignty.

D.) A government may adopt economic liberalization policies despite the challenges to sovereignty in order to join supranational organizations which can offer aid to countries' economies and lead to more economic growth. Supranational organizations, like the World Bank or the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are organizations with usually three or more members that are not controlled by individual countries, but give loans or money oftentimes to governments which help them develop their economies or pay for services for their citizens. To join one, countries must demonstrate that they are economically liberal by pursuing policies like privatization or open trade policies. These organizations' resources can aid poorer countries or help to enrich richer ones leading to more prosperous economic growth. So despite challenges to sovereignty, a government may pursue economic liberalization policies to join a supranational organization to help fuel economic growth.

Sample:

A) Sovereignty is the states ability to remain independent without outside interference from other countries. To elaborate, lets say that in globalization, a country is planning to outsource to a smaller country. That country would not remain sovereign because its economy is now dependent on that larger country and can not maintain itself independently.

b) Governments can promote economic liberalization in a variety of ways. They could reduce tariffs which can allow more countries to trade with that specific state. It allows the course countries to participate in free market trade as seen when china opened its doors and promoted economic liberalization. This allowed for the country to participate in world trade and receive resources that might have been inadmissible to them.

c) Economic liberalization policies can present a challenge to sovereignty as the state that does accept the help of a larger state may become indebted and may not be able to function. To elaborate, the larger state will outsource work to a smaller state which provides jobs and income to the families of the smaller state. If the larger state leaves, those jobs then disappear and the smaller state can suffer the consequences.

d) A government might adopt economic liberalization policies despite the apparent challenges to its sovereignty because it allows the government to participate in international free-market trade.

Sample:

A. Sovereignty is the ability of a government to fully run their state. The government has full power over what occurs in the state and there is no external government or group that has control over the everyday operations of the state's territory.

B. Governments can promote economic liberalization by nationalizing industries to ensure that all power and revenue goes to themselves. By doing this, it is ensured that no other countries can attempt to make any type of purchase into a company or industry. This will free part of the economy and promote economic liberalization within the state.

C. Sovereignty can be greatly benefitted by the assistance of other countries. Allies can give resources to each other in order to diversify economies and help in a time of need. If there are no external forces assisting a state in their operations, power can be decreased because a state does not have what they require to succeed on a day to day basis.

D. A government may adapt economic liberalization policies in order to ensure there are no threats to the revenue that is given from certain industries. If economic liberalization policies are not in order, then a separate country could receive the majority of revenue that is generated from a state's industry. There is certainly a risk that is run while using economic liberalization policies, but some states believe that it is worth it in order to retain full authority over their goods and industries as well as their revenue.

Question 1

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Overview

NEW for 2025: The question overviews can be found in the *Chief Reader Report on Student Responses* on [AP Central](#).

Sample: 1A

Score: 4

Part A Score: 1

The response earned 1 point for describing sovereignty as, “the capability of the state to create reform, enforce their laws, and regulate the functions of the state without interference from other forces.”

Part B Score: 1

The response earned 1 point for describing a way governments promote economic liberalization as, “privatization of resources.”

Part C Score: 1

The response earned 1 point for explaining how economic liberalization policies can present challenges to sovereignty. The response explains, “Economic liberalization policies can present challenges to sovereignty because it leads to the state having less influence over the economic affairs that occur within its borders while outside forces like private corporations or multinational companies take over control of the economy.”

Part D Score: 1

The response earned 1 point for explaining why a government might adopt economic liberalization policies despite challenges to its sovereignty by stating, “A government may adopt economic liberalization policies despite the challenges to sovereignty in order to join supranational organizations which can offer aid to countries’ economies and lead to more economic growth.”

Question 1 (continued)**Sample: 1B****Score: 3****Part A Score: 1**

The response earned 1 point for describing sovereignty as, “the states ability to remain independent without outside interference from other countries.”

Part B Score: 1

The response earned 1 point for describing a way governments promote economic liberalization by stating, “They could reduce tarrifs which can allow more countries to trade with that specific state.”

Part C Score: 1

The response earned 1 point for explaining how economic liberalization policies can present challenges to sovereignty. The response explains, “the state that does accept the help of a larger state may become indebted and may not be able to function.”

Part D Score: 0

The response did not earn a point for explaining why a government might adopt economic liberalization policies despite challenges to its sovereignty. The response explains that adopting economic liberalization policies makes sense “because it allows the government to partiicpate in international free-market trade,” but it does not explain what the benefit of participating in international free-market trade would be to the government and why adopting it would be worth the sacrifice of its sovereignty.

Sample: 1C**Score: 1****Part A Score: 1**

The response earned 1 point for describing sovereignty as, “The government has full power over what occurs in the state and there is no external government or group that has control over the everyday operations of the state’s territory.”

Part B Score: 0

The response did not earn a point for describing a way governments promote economic liberalization because it incorrectly describes “nationalizing industries to ensure that all power and revenue goes to themselves,” as economic liberalization.

Part C Score: 0

The response did not earn a point for explaining how economic liberalization policies can present challenges to sovereignty. The response “Allies can give resources to each other in order to diversify economies and help in a time of need” does not explain a challenge to sovereignty.

Part D Score: 0

The response did not earn a point for explaining why a government might adopt economic liberalization policies despite challenges to its sovereignty. The response discusses “revenue that is given from certain industries,” which is not relevant to sovereignty.