
AP[®] Comparative Government and Politics

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 2

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Free-Response Question 1

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Question 1: Conceptual Analysis**4 points**

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

- Economic networks that are more interconnected
- A worldwide market with actors unconstrained by political borders
- The interconnectedness of countries through trade
- The unrestricted movement of workers, goods or capital internationally

B Describe a way that governments support economic globalization. **1 point****Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:**

- Joining a trade organization that supports economic globalization
- Decreasing tariffs
- Decreasing immigration restrictions
- Decreasing trade regulations/quotas/subsidies
- Encouraging foreign direct investment
- Improving infrastructure to encourage foreign direct investment
- Creating special economic zones
- Signing trade agreements with other countries

C Explain how multinational corporations (MNCs) can present challenges to state sovereignty. **1 point****Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:**

- The political or economic resources controlled by multinational corporations can make governments feel as though they have to agree with their norms/viewpoints, potentially challenging existing policies in the country.
- MNCs may have goals that conflict with domestic economic policies regarding things like labor, the environment, land rights, taxation, or the budget, and they may expect governments to align their domestic policies with these goals.
- MNCs can create situations in which countries compete with each other in order to gain the opportunity to have their investment in the country. This may cause countries to change their environmental regulations, lower labor standards, or give tax breaks.

D Explain why governments may encourage economic globalization despite the challenges it may present. **1 point****Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:**

- Governments may encourage economic globalization because it can increase GDP or citizens' quality of life, which can in turn increase a government's legitimacy.
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- While MNCs may create conflict with domestic economic policies (for example, regarding labor, the environment, land rights, taxation, or the budget), states may still encourage economic liberalization because the positive effects on individuals' standard of living outweighs these concerns in many developing countries.
 - If globalization leads to membership in international organizations like the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, or the World Trade Organization, it may increase a country's political and economic stability, despite the challenges the loss of sovereignty that may happen as a result of membership.
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Sample:

Economic globalization is the process that countries and organizations formulate their economies to **allow for investment, trade, and corporations from other countries to interact with their own.**

As part of economic globalization, a country will increase trade with other countries, invest and allow for investment in/from foreign companies, and open their economic borders.

Two ways that a government could help to support economic globalization could be to **lower tariffs** to **increase trade** with other countries and **allow for direct investment** from **foreign companies** into their own markets. Increasing trade with other countries helps to diversify an economy, and being able to receive foreign imports as well as send out your own exports to foreign countries will help in increasing economic globalization.

Multinational corporations can present challenges to state sovereignty because they introduce a lot of **foreign ideas and goods** into states that may result in some **backlash** as part of receiving the benefits and economic boost that a multinational corporation can offer. Multinational corporations can really help to stimulate the economy of states, but they can also provide with it globalization of ideas and people. In countries who are resistant to change or very set on tradition, it can cause fractures and lead to citizens **dissenting from the tradition in favor of global ideals**, therefore harming state sovereignty. Additionally, a country may be forced to give up some of its sovereignty to be a part of these multinational corporations and get their benefits. They may have to **bend to certain rules and regulations** set by these multinational corporations to be able to experience the benefits of them, forcing them to give up power to the organization, **harming their ability to govern without an outside source.**

Despite economic globalization having the chances of decreasing a state's sovereignty and causing political dissent, a government may encourage globalization because of the numerous benefits it may bring. Economic globalization allows for **increased trade** between your state and others, allowing you to send out resources you have too much of and importing materials you need more of. It allows for states who only have few of their own natural resources to trade with other states in order to get ones they are lacking. It also can help to **boost economies** as foreign states and organizations now are able to be involved with the country, and they can invest in the economy and provide jobs to help increase the state's revenue.

Sample:

- A. Economic globalization is the process by which a country opens its markets and gets more involved in trade with foreign countries. An example of this would be when China stopped its trade bans and opened up to the world markets and its economy boomed.
- B. One way that a government could support economic globalization is by decreasing tariffs, this would help because it would increase other countries motivation to trade with them.
- C. Multinational corporations can present challenges to state sovereignty because they can have regulations or demands that you have to satisfy to work with them and these demand or regulations take away your sovereignty because you are following the rules of another group.
- D. Governments may encourage economic globalization despite the challenges it may present because it opens a country up to a lot of opportunity and it allows for more markets and can help the economy.

Sample:

- A. Economic globalization is the process in which countries trade or export goods outside of their so that they have the chance to develop economically.
- B. A way that government can support economic globalization is through the joining of global organizations like the World Trade Organization.
- C. Multinational corporations can present challenges to state sovereignty by limiting businesses access and privatizing certain industries.
- D. Governments may encourage economic globalization despite the challenges it may present because it shows to other countries that they are willing to adapt so that their country may prosper as well as it shows the people of the country that the government is making changes so that they might have economic boosts.

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 economic globalization as “the process that countries and organizations formulate their economies to **allow for investment, trade, and corporations from other countries to interact with their own.**”

Part B Score: 1

The response earned 1 point for describing a way that governments support economic globalization as, “**lower tariffs to increase trade.**”

Part C Score: 1

The response earned 1 point for explaining how multinational corporations (MNCs) can present challenges to state sovereignty. The response explains that countries “may have to **bend to certain rules and regulations** set by these multinational corporations to be able to experience the benefits of them, forcing them to give up power to the organization.”

Part D Score: 1

The response earned 1 point for explaining why governments may encourage economic globalization despite the challenges it may present by stating, “It also can help to **boost economies** as foreign states and organizations ... can invest in the economy and provide jobs to help increase the states revenue.”

Sample: 1B

Score: 2

Part A Score: 0

The response did not earn a point for describing economic globalization because it focuses only on “a country” opening its markets, rather than a multiplicity of interconnected countries.

Part B Score: 1

The response earned 1 point for describing a way that governments support economic globalization as “decreasing tariffs.”

Question 1 (continued)**Part C Score: 1**

The response earned 1 point for explaining how multinational corporations (MNCs) can present challenges to state sovereignty. The response explains that MNCs “can have regulations or demands that you have to satisfy to work with them,” which can “take away...sovereignty” as the state is “following the rules of another group.”

Part D Score: 0

The response did not earn a point for explaining why governments may encourage economic globalization despite the challenges it may present. The response mentions that globalization “opens a country up to a lot of opportunity,” but it lacks specificity in explaining what these opportunities are, what “more markets” means, or how globalization “can help the economy.”

Sample: 1C**Score: 1****Part A Score: 0**

The response did not earn a point for describing economic globalization because “the process in which countries trade or export goods outside of their so that they have the chance to develop economically” is not a description of economic globalization.

Part B Score: 1

The response earned 1 point for describing a way that governments support economic globalization as, “joining of global organizations like the World Trade Organization.”

Part C Score: 0

The response did not earn a point for explaining how multinational corporations (MNCs) can present challenges to state sovereignty. The response does not make a link between MNCs “limiting businesses access and privatizing certain industries” with sovereignty.

Part D Score: 0

The response did not earn a point for explaining why governments may encourage economic globalization despite the challenges it may present. The response references, “that their country may prosper” and “they might have economic boosts,” but it lacks specificity in explaining any benefits of these effects that would motivate a government.