

2017

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AP Comparative Government and Politics

Free-Response Questions

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2017 AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Section II

Time—1 hour and 40 minutes

Directions: You have 100 minutes to answer five short-answer concept questions, one conceptual analysis question, and two country context questions. Unless the directions indicate otherwise, respond to all parts of all eight questions. It is suggested that you take a few minutes to plan and outline each answer. We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes total on questions 1 through 5, 30 minutes on question 6, and 40 minutes total on questions 7 and 8. These suggested times do not reflect the weight of the questions as part of your AP exam score. In your responses, use substantive examples where appropriate.

Short-Answer Concepts: We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes total on questions 1 through 5.

1. Explain how a regime change differs from a change in government. Describe one example of a regime change since 1990 in a country studied in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course. Describe one example of a change in government since 2010 in a country studied in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course.
2. Identify the party with the majority of seats in the House of Commons. Identify the electoral system in Great Britain. Explain how the electoral system affects party representation in the House of Commons.
3. There is a greater concentration of foreign investment in the north of Mexico than in the south. Describe one cause of the regional differences in foreign investment. Describe one economic consequence of the regional differences in foreign investment. Describe one political consequence of the regional differences in foreign investment.
4. Identify a religious minority that has one or more reserved seats in the Majles. Explain two reasons why Iran reserves seats for some minority groups.
5. Define the term “rule of law.” Describe an institutional arrangement that promotes the rule of law in democratic regimes. Explain why authoritarian regimes resist the rule of law.

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Conceptual Analysis: We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes on question 6.

6. Cabinets are important institutions of the executive branch.
- (a) Describe two functions of a cabinet.
 - (b) Identify the institution from which members of the cabinet are drawn in a parliamentary system.
 - (c) Describe how a cabinet is formed in a parliamentary system.
 - (d) Explain how the process of removing cabinet members differs in parliamentary and presidential systems.
 - (e) Explain why policy making is more efficient in a parliamentary system than in a presidential system.

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Country Context: We suggest that you spend approximately 40 minutes (20 minutes each) on questions 7 and 8.

7. Oil and natural gas play a significant role in the global economy. The production and export of these commodities also have economic and political consequences within energy-producing countries such as Nigeria and Russia.
- (a) Explain how large-scale oil production has stimulated economic development in Nigeria.
 - (b) Explain how large-scale oil production has limited economic development in Nigeria.
 - (c) Describe how the degree of central government control of oil and gas production differs between Nigeria and Russia.
 - (d) Describe one political consequence of oil production in Nigeria.
 - (e) Describe a different political consequence of oil and gas production in Russia.

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8. The media serves an important function in all political systems.
- (a) Identify one governmental constraint on media freedom in China in the past decade AND explain how it helps sustain the authoritarian regime in China.
 - (b) Explain why China has allowed some media freedom in the past decade.
 - (c) Explain how the media helps sustain democracy in Mexico.
 - (d) Describe one nongovernmental constraint on media freedom in Mexico in the past decade.
 - (e) Explain why democratic regimes place constraints on media.

STOP
END OF EXAM