

2018

AP[®]  CollegeBoard

AP Comparative Government and Politics

Free-Response Questions

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**2018 AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Section II

Time—1 hour and 40 minutes

Directions: You have 1 hour and 40 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. Identify a country in the AP Comparative Government course that uses proportional representation as a part of its electoral system. Explain how legislative seats are allocated in a proportional representation system. Describe the impact of proportional representation electoral rules on a party system.
2. Describe one way in which the Iranian government discriminates against women. Describe one way in which the Iranian government treats men and women equally. Explain how gender discrimination undermines democratic principles.
3. Identify two indicators of democracy. Describe when a democracy is considered consolidated.
4. Identify the political party of a Mexican president elected in the last twenty years. Describe the electoral system used to select Mexico's president. Identify one electoral reform and explain why this reform made Mexico's presidential elections more competitive.
5. Describe one reason both democratic and authoritarian regimes use coercion to govern. Describe one alternative to the use of coercion to govern in both democratic and authoritarian regimes. Explain why authoritarian regimes do not rely exclusively on coercion to govern.

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

6. Social and economic cleavages often divide society and can have both positive and negative political consequences.
 - a. Identify one social cleavage and one economic cleavage that commonly occur in societies.
 - b. Explain how leaders can use cleavages to strengthen a government's hold on power.
 - c. Explain how cleavages can undermine regime stability.
 - d. Describe one action governments take to address the negative consequences of the social cleavage identified in (a).
 - e. Describe a different action governments take to address the negative consequences of the economic cleavage identified in (a).

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

7. Nigeria and Russia both have constitutionally established federal systems.
- a. Describe one difference between a federal system and a unitary system.
 - b. Explain one common reason why both Nigeria and Russia adopted a federal system.
 - c. Describe two disadvantages of federalism in Nigeria.
 - d. Describe one institutional change that has limited federalism in Russia since 2000.
 - e. Explain why the Russian government has limited federalism since 2000.

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Country	GDP per Capita, PPP (2014)	Environmental Performance Index* Score, 2014	10-Year Improvement in Environmental Performance Index
China	\$7,593	43	2.6%
Great Britain	\$45,603	77	3.4%
Mexico	\$10,362	55	7.94%
Nigeria	\$3,185	39	3.73%

Source: World Bank (GDP per capita at purchasing power parity PPP)

*Environmental Performance Index is an aggregation of 20 indicators reflecting national level environmental data for 166 countries. Higher EPI scores indicate better environmental performance.

8. Using the table and your knowledge of comparative politics, complete the tasks below.
- Identify the country from the table with the poorest environmental performance in 2014.
 - Write a statement that describes the relationship between environmental performance in 2014 and the level of economic development.
 - Describe one cause of the relationship between environmental performance and the level of economic development.
 - Explain why Great Britain had the highest Environmental Performance Index score in 2014 but one of the lower rates of improvement in environmental performance over time.
 - Describe one political response by Chinese citizens to their country's environmental problems.
 - Describe one policy response by the Chinese government to the country's environmental problems.

STOP

END OF EXAM