
AP[®] Comparative Government and Politics

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 1

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AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 1

3 points

One point is earned for correctly describing one power of the British prime minister.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Introducing legislation
- Calling for or initiating a referendum
- Appointing the cabinet, Lords, or other government officials
- Calling an election
- Responsibility for diplomatic or foreign relations
- Implementing policy
- Acting as head of government
- Representing the government in Question Time

One point is earned for correctly describing one way the British parliamentary system restrains the power of the prime minister.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Votes of no confidence
- Not passing a bill
- Question Time

One point is earned for a correct explanation of how parliamentary systems enhance the power of the prime minister in the policy-making process.

Acceptable explanations may include:

Support of a majority party government means that it will be easier for the prime minister to advance her or his policy agenda.

A score of zero (0) is earned for an attempted or off-task answer that earns no points.

A score of (—) is earned for a blank.

COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

1A

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. Describe one power of the British prime minister. Describe one way that the British parliamentary system restrains the power of the prime minister. Explain how parliamentary systems enhance the power of the prime minister in the policy-making process.

call for snap election
vote of no confidence
must have a majority

The British prime minister can call for a snap election; if they are polling well / have a lot of support, a snap-election can be held to ~~restart~~ essentially re-start their term. ~~There~~ The parliamentary system restrains the power of the prime minister through question time and votes of no confidence. Other opposing parties can call for a vote of no confidence if the current prime minister is not doing well, and if the prime minister loses the vote of no confidence, he/she can lose his/her position as prime minister. The parliamentary system enhances the prime minister's power in the policy-making process because the prime minister's party must have a majority in parliament. As the prime minister's party members will be more likely to support his/her proposed policies, having them as a majority in parliament makes it much easier for the prime minister's legislation to be supported.

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COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Section II

Time—1 hour and 40 minutes

1 B

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. Describe one power of the British prime minister. Describe one way that the British parliamentary system restrains the power of the prime minister. Explain how parliamentary systems enhance the power of the prime minister in the policy-making process.

The British Prime minister is commander-in-chief.

The parliament restrains the power of the prime minister with votes of no confidence to vote them out.

Because the PM is from the majority party, the legislature tends to have the same aims and goals as the PM, so policy-making has less gridlock and it is easier for the PM to achieve his or her policy-making goals.

COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

1C

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. Describe one power of the British prime minister. Describe one way that the British parliamentary system restrains the power of the prime minister. Explain how parliamentary systems enhance the power of the prime minister in the policy-making process.

One power of the British Prime Minister is to meet with foreign powers and sign foreign treaties or agreements. The parliamentary system hinders the prime minister in Britain because unlike the chief executive of ~~the~~ a presidential system the Prime Minister has very little influence over the legislative process and can be voted out with a vote of no confidence. The parliamentary system helps the PM because as prime minister their party must have a majority of the members of Parliament

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2019 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 1

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

Overview

The intent of this question was to assess students' understanding of the prime minister's power in parliamentary regimes. The skills tested were descriptive and explanatory. Students had three specific tasks: to describe one power of the British prime minister, to describe one way the British parliamentary system restrains the power of the prime minister, and to explain how parliamentary systems enhance the power of the prime minister in the policy-making process.

Sample: 1A

Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for describing the power to “call for a snap election” as a power of the British prime minister. Additional acceptable descriptions include introducing legislation; calling for or initiating a referendum; appointing the cabinet, Lords or other government officials; responsibility for diplomatic or foreign relations; implementing policy; acting as head of government; and representing the government in Question Time.

The response earned 1 point for describing “question time and votes of no confidence” as ways the British parliamentary system restrains the power of the prime minister. Another acceptable description is not passing a bill.

The response earned 1 point for explaining, “As the prime minister’s party members will be more likely to support his/her proposed policies, having them as majority in parliament makes it much easier for the prime minister’s legislation to be supported.” The response clearly explains that the prime minister is a member of the majority party and has its support; therefore, it will be easier to advance his or her policy agenda

Sample: 1B

Score: 2

The response did not earn a point for describing a power of the British prime minister as “commander-in-chief.” The queen is the actual commander in chief. Acceptable descriptions include proposing legislation; appointing the cabinet, Lords, or other government officials; calling for or initiating a referendum; calling an election; responsibility for diplomatic or foreign relations; implementing policy; acting as head of government; and representing the government in Question Time.

The response earned 1 point for describing “votes of no confidence” as one way the British parliamentary system restrains the power of the prime minister. Other acceptable descriptions are not passing a bill and Question Time.

The response earned 1 point for explaining that parliamentary systems enhance the power of the prime minister “[b]ecause the PM is from the majority party” and “so policy-making has less gridlock and it is easier for the PM to achieve his or her policy-making goals.” The response clearly explains that the prime minister has the support of the majority party and that this allows the prime minister to advance her or his policy agenda.

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2019 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 1 (continued)

Sample: 1C

Score: 1

The response earned 1 point for describing the power “to meet with foreign powers and sign foreign treaties or agreements” as a power of the prime minister. Additional acceptable descriptions include introducing legislation; appointing the cabinet, Lords, or other government officials; calling for or initiating a referendum; calling an election; implementing policy; acting as head of government; and representing the government in Question Time.

The response did not earn a point for describing, “unlike the chief executive of a presidential system the Prime Minister has very little influence over the legislative process and can be voted out with a vote of no confidence” as one way the British parliamentary system restrains the power of the prime minister. Even though the response mentions votes of no confidence, the first statement shows lack of understanding of the role of the prime minister in the legislative process as well as of the chief executive in a presidential system. Acceptable descriptions are votes of no confidence, not passing a bill, and Question Time.

The response did not earn a point for explaining, “their party must have a majority of the members of Parliament.” The response does not adequately explain that the prime minister has the support of the majority party and that this means that it will be easier to advance her or his policy agenda.