
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 4

3 points

One point is earned for correctly describing one constitutional responsibility of the supreme leader in Iran.

An acceptable description may include:

- Appoints the head of the judiciary
- Appoints six members of the Guardian Council
- Is head of state
- Serves as the highest religious authority in government
- Implements jurist guardianship or ensures government conforms to Islamic Law
- Is head of armed forces or commander-in-chief
- Appoints members of the National Security Council
- Appoints members of the Expediency Council
- Is final arbiter of Islamic laws and values
- Declares war
- Appoints the head of the media

One point is earned for correctly describing the constitutionally defined relationship between the supreme leader and the Assembly of Experts.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

The Assembly of Experts can elect, monitor, or remove the supreme leader.

One point is earned for a correct description of the political relationship between the supreme leader and the Revolutionary Guard.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- The supreme leader leads the Revolutionary Guard and uses them to enforce Islamic rule.
- The supreme leader uses the Revolutionary Guard for patronage or elite recruitment.
- The Revolutionary Guard relies on the supreme leader to legitimize their actions.
- The supreme leader uses the Revolutionary Guard to assert authority or persecute opposition.
- The Revolutionary Guard provides physical protection to the supreme leader.
- The Revolutionary Guard protects the regime or political order under the supreme leader.

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.

4. Describe one constitutional responsibility of the supreme leader in Iran. Describe the constitutionally defined relationship between the supreme leader and the Assembly of Experts. Describe the political relationship between the supreme leader and the Revolutionary Guard.

~~The~~ One constitutional responsibility of the Supreme Leader of Iran is his "appointment of half of the Guardian Council." The Supreme Leader picks 6 clerics to represent religious views on the Guardian Council, while the ~~Head of the~~ Chief Attorney (who is appointed by the SL) appoints 6 lawyers/judges to represent legal authority on the Guardian Council. The Assembly of Experts, an 86-member popularly elected body elects a new Supreme Leader when the previous one dies (or is removed), and can also dismiss the Supreme Leader (basically they do moderate oversight of the Supreme Leader). The Revolutionary Guard is the subset of the Iranian military which focuses on domestic threats and maintaining order. The Supreme Leader can command the Revolutionary Guard (as he is technically the Commander-in-Chief) and can appoint senior officers.

4. Describe one constitutional responsibility of the supreme leader in Iran. Describe the constitutionally defined relationship between the supreme leader and the Assembly of Experts. Describe the political relationship between the supreme leader and the Revolutionary Guard. 4B

A constitutional responsibility of the supreme leader in Iran is acting as the Ayatollah. ~~and the Ayatollah~~ serves as the head of state and is responsible for ~~ensuring~~ the well-being of Iran's citizens and the preservation of the state. The relationship between the supreme leader and the Assembly of Experts is that the supreme leader appoints the members of the Assembly of Experts. The political relationship between the supreme leader and Revolutionary Guard is that the Revolutionary Guard serves through the instruction and ideologies of the supreme leader, maintaining order within the state and ensuring that all parties to Sharia Law.

4. Describe one constitutional responsibility of the supreme leader in Iran. Describe the constitutionally defined relationship between the supreme leader and the Assembly of Experts. Describe the political relationship between the supreme leader and the Revolutionary Guard.

The supreme leader in Iran ^{controls/approves} ~~controls~~ the ~~national~~ budget. ^{He/she} They decides where the money is allocated to and how much, then gets that "rubber stamped" by the Majles. The Assembly of Religious Experts has the power to check the supreme leader and to make sure that he follows sharia law ~~and also referred to as~~ ~~judicial system~~ is half chosen by the supreme leader according to the constitution. The Revolutionary Guard works with the supreme leader and provides him protection from those who oppose him. The politically will be on the same side of the spectrum and will work to protect the Islamic principles.

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2019 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 4

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 institutional and political distribution of power in Iran. The skill tested was descriptive. Students had three specific tasks: to describe one of the constitutional responsibilities of the supreme leader in Iran, to describe the constitutionally defined relationship between the supreme leader and the Assembly of Experts, and to describe the political relationship between the supreme leader and the Revolutionary Guard.

Sample: 4A

Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for correctly describing one of the constitutional responsibilities of the supreme leader as “appointment of half of the Guardian Council.” Additional acceptable descriptions include appointing the head of the judiciary, serving as head of state, serving as the highest religious authority in the government, implementing jurist guardianship or ensuring that the government conforms to Islamic law, acting as head of the armed forces or commander-in-chief, appointing members of the National Security Council, appointing members of the Expediency Council, appointing the head of the media, serving as the final arbiter of Islamic laws and values, and declaring war.

The response earned 1 point for correctly describing the constitutional relationship between the supreme leader and the Assembly of Experts: “The Assembly of Exports ... elects a new Supreme Leader when the previous one dies (or is removed).” Additional acceptable responses include that the Assembly of Experts appoints the new supreme leader, monitors the supreme leader, and removes the supreme leader.

The response earned 1 point for correctly describing the political relationship between the supreme leader and the Revolutionary Guard as “The revolutionary Guard ... focuses on domestic threats and maintaining order. The Supreme Leader can command the Revolutionary Guard.” Additional acceptable descriptions include that the supreme leader commands the Revolutionary Guard and uses them to enforce Islamic law, the supreme leader uses the Revolutionary Guard for patronage or elite recruitment, the supreme leader uses the Revolutionary Guard to assert authority or persecute opponents, the Revolutionary Guard relies on the supreme leader to legitimize their actions, the Revolutionary Guard protects the regime or political order under the supreme leader, and the Revolutionary Guard provides physical protection to the supreme leader.

Sample: 4B

Score: 2

The response earned 1 point for correctly describing one of the constitutional responsibilities of the supreme leader as “serves as Head of State.”

The response did not earn a point because it incorrectly describes the constitutional relationship between the supreme leader and the Assembly of Experts as “the supreme leader appoints the members of the Assembly of Experts,” which is incorrect.

The response earned 1 point for describing the political relationship between the supreme leader and the Revolutionary Guard as “the Revolutionary Guard serves through the instruction ... of the Supreme Leader ... ensuring that all pertain to Sharia Law.”

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2019 SCORING COMMENTARY**

Question 4 (continued)

Sample: 4C

Score: 1

The response incorrectly describes one of the constitutional responsibilities of the supreme leader as “controls /approves budget” and did not earn a point.

The response incorrectly describes the constitutional relationship between the supreme leader and the Assembly of Experts as “[t]he Assembly of Religious Experts is half chosen by the Supreme Leader” and did not earn a point.

The response earned 1 point for correctly describing the political relationship between the supreme leader and the Revolutionary Guard: “The Revolutionary Guard works with the supreme leader and provides him protection from those who oppose him ... and will work to protect the Islamic principles.”