AP[®] Comparative Government and Politics

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary
Set 1

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Free Response Question 6

- **☑** Student Samples

AP® COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS 2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 6

6 points

Part (a):

One point is earned for correctly describing a type of party system.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- In a single-party system, only one party is allowed to exist and hold power.
- In a dominant-party system, one party controls the government, although other parties exist.
- In a two-party or two-plus-party system, only two parties hold power.
- In a multiparty system, three or more parties are electorally competitive and/or hold power.

One point is earned for correctly explaining how that type of party system influences policy making.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- A single-party system
 - o produces a closed policy process that only reflects the views of the governing party
 - o produces a more efficient decision-making process
 - o creates policies intended to keep the party in power
- A dominant-party system
 - produces a closed policy process that only reflects the views of the governing party
 - o produces a more efficient decision-making process
 - o creates policies intended to keep the party in power
- A two-party system
 - o integrates opposing viewpoints into the policy process that can lead to instability or gridlock
 - integrates opposing viewpoints into the policy process that can require negotiation and compromise
 - encourages centrist policies
- A multiparty system
 - o integrates multiple viewpoints into the policy process that can lead to instability or gridlock
 - integrates multiple viewpoints into the policy process that require negotiation and compromise
 - o gives voice to minority, ethnic, or regionalist parties in the policy process

Part (b):

One point is earned for correctly describing a type of party system.

See acceptable descriptions in Part (a).

One point is earned for correctly explaining how that type of party system influences policy making.

See acceptable explanations in Part (a).

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Question 6 (continued)

Part (c):

One point is earned for correctly explaining how a party system is influenced by the type of electoral system.

Acceptable explanations include:

- In a proportional representation (PR) system, the percentage of votes roughly translates into the percentage of seats, allowing more parties or smaller parties to gain seats.
- In a PR system, the use of multimember districts allows more parties or smaller parties to gain seats.
- In a single-member district (SMD) system, only one party can win any given seat, preventing smaller, minor, or third parties from winning.
- An SMD system encourages strategic voting, favoring larger parties.

Part (d):

One point is earned for correctly explaining how regime change can lead to a change in the type of party system.

Acceptable explanations include:

- Countries that transition from authoritarian to democratic are more likely to hold free and fair elections that permit a change from a single-party to a two-party or multiparty system.
- Countries that transition from democratic to authoritarian are more likely to ban opposition parties or rig elections in favor of the governing party.
- Regime change may level the playing field and permit opposition parties to be electorally competitive.
- Countries change the constitution or the fundamental laws structuring the government in a way that transforms the party system.

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.

- 6. There are different types of party systems around the world.

 (a) Describe one type of party system. Explain one way that type of party system influences policy making.

 (b) Describe another type of party system. Explain one way that type of party system influences policy making.

 (c) Explain how a country's party system is influenced by the type of electoral system in the country.

 - (d) Explain how regime change can lead to a change in the type of party system in a country.

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d) A regime change usual generals a change in idealogy brassically differe to the original regime, meaning the pasy stassers can	forced into voting for larger ones, less they throw away this vote.
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	easily change. For instancy an authoritarian takeour usually will

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lead to a single party systems, where other parties are silenced or bonnes
Lead to a single party systems, where other parties are silenced or bonnes to allow the dominat party to more officially change policies. Manually
a Transition to democrary would most likely lead to a multiple party
Bystem, where different ideas can compete in elections to determine the
willof The people.
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- 6. There are different types of party systems around the world.
 - (a) Describe one type of party system. Explain one way that type of party system influences policy making.
 - (b) Describe another type of party system. Explain one way that type of party system influences policy making.
 - (c) Explain how a country's party system is influenced by the type of electoral system in the country.
 - (d) Explain how regime change can lead to a change in the type of party system in a country.

a) Multiparty system. this party can make policy making more difficult in that multiple positions and appinious
the being heard and accounted by so when one
party duel not agree it can more bourned redition on
MMONT EVER IS Mappening Very difficulty
b) one party dominance. One party dominance means one
parry has control so their policipes have an
tasier time passing, although a proportion of citizens may not agree or are even being accounted to 1, since
there is only one party in charge it is mear decision.
c) a country's party system can omperation be influenced
by the exectoral system by whether or not the
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party is going to be able to control what the votors
See, the if the country votes por portionally or by onea
then their opinions as more likely to be represented

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IN the national sign scale like in Binnian where the
people vote bether representative to parallament but
IN russia where it is one-party dominant the people
have less representation and awareness to vote differently
al) a regime change can lead to a Change in the
party system because the quiernment is changing
overan, when the government is transitioning
from one regime to another, new customs may be
putin place such as nopresontational proportional
representation where areas WIII be able to
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beliers and controls. Or, a regime changean
Change the parry system making it less democratic
Which could mean a one party dominance
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a) I type of party system is the two party system.
This leads to a lot of juision in ideology in policy
making, making it harder to pass laws.
b) Another type of party system is the multiparty
system. This can lead to partles Forming alliances
when making policies.
c) Proportional Representation leads to multiparty
systems, while single-member districts lead to
two party systems
2) A regime could change the electoral system
of a country, leading to a new party system

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AP® COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS 2019 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 6

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 party systems and electoral systems, as well as the relationships of those two types of systems with policy making and regime change. The skills tested were descriptive and explanatory. Students had six specific tasks: to describe two different types of party systems, to explain the effect of each of those party system types on policy making, to explain how an electoral system influences a party system, and to explain how regime change influences party systems.

Sample: 6A Score: 6

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for describing that a "single party system is a system in which there is one sole party which is dominant in the country." Additional acceptable responses include descriptions of a dominant-party system, a two-party system, or a multiparty system.

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for explaining that a single-party system makes "the passage of legislation much easier, due to a unified policy goal shared by the party resulting in the government easily agreeing on legislation to pass." Additional acceptable responses include that policies are created to keep the party in power and that policies only reflect the views of the governing party.

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for describing that "[a] multiparty system is characterized by multiple parties competing for power in the government." Additional acceptable responses could describe a dominant-party system, a single-party system, or a two-party system.

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for explaining that a multiparty system "usually results in legislative gridlock due to disagreements between parties." Additional acceptable responses include that multiparty systems integrate multiple viewpoints in the policy process, which requires negotiation and compromise, and they give voice to minority, ethnic, or regionalist parties in the policy process.

In part (c) the response earned 1 point for explaining that, in a first-past-the-post system, "a first past the post system, like in the UK, results in two parties dominating due to smaller party supporters being forced into voting for larger ones less they throw away their vote." An additional acceptable response is that in a proportional representation system, more parties are able to gain seats because the percentage of votes roughly translates into the percentage of seats.

In part (d) the response earned 1 point for explaining that "an authoritarian takeover usually will lead to a single party systems, where other parties are silenced or banned" and "a transition to democracy would most likely lead to a multiple party system, where different ideas can compete in elections to determine the will of the people." An additional acceptable response is that transitions from democracies to authoritarian regimes can lead to the banning of opposition parties and a single-party system.

Sample: 6B Score: 3

In part (a) the response did not earn a point for a description. The response "Multiparty system" is the correct identifier, but it does not offer a description of that system. An acceptable response could describe a dominant-party system, a two-party system, or a multiparty system.

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Question 6 (continued)

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for explaining that multiparty systems "can make policy making more difficult in that multiple positions and oppinions are being heard and accounted for so when one party does not agree it can make passing legislation or what ever is happening very difficult." Additional acceptable responses include that the integration of multiple voices into the policy process requires compromise and negotiation and that multiparty systems give voice to minority, ethnic, or regionalist parties in the process.

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for describing a dominant-party system as one in which "one party has control" and "there is only one party in charge." Additional acceptable responses could describe a single-party system, a two-party system, or a multiparty system.

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for explaining that, in a dominant-party system, "policies have an easier time passing ... since there is only one party in charge it is their decision." Additional acceptable responses include that policies only reflect the views of the governing party and that policies are designed to keep the governing party in power.

In part (c) the response did not earn a point for the explanation "if the country votes proportionately or by area then their opinions as more likely to be represented in the national scale." This does not address how an electoral system influences a party system. An acceptable response is that in a proportional representation system, more parties are able to gain seats because the percentage of votes roughly translates into the percentage of seats.

In part (d) the response did not earn a point for the explanation "a regime chang can change the party system making it less democratic which could mean a one-party dominance system where not all citizens are represented and able to participate." This does not address the effects on party systems clearly enough. An acceptable response is that transitions from democracies to authoritarian regimes can lead to the banning of opposition parties and a single-party system.

Sample: 6C Score: 1

In part (a) the response did not earn a point for a description. The response "two party system" is the correct identifier, but it does not offer a description of that system. An acceptable response would be a description of a dominant-party system, a two-party system, or a multiparty system.

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for explaining that a two-party system "leads to a lot of division in ideology in policy making, making it harder to pass laws." Additional acceptable responses include that the integration of multiple voices into the policy process requires compromise and negotiation and that two-party systems encourage centrist parties.

In part (b) the response did not earn a point for a description. The response "multiparty system" is the correct identifier, but the response does not offer a description of that system. Acceptable responses include that the integration of multiple voices into the policy process requires compromise and negotiation and that multiparty systems give voice to minority, ethnic, or regionalist parties in the process.

In part (b) the response did not earn a point for the explanation that a multiparty system "can lead to parties Forming alliances when making policies" because this does not describe how a party system influences policy making. An acceptable response is that policies only reflect the views of the governing party or policies are designed to keep the governing party in power.

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Question 6 (continued)

In part (c) the response did not earn the point. The explanation that proportional representation systems "leads to multiparty systems, while single-member districts lead to two party systems" does not address how an electoral system influences a party system. An acceptable response is that in a proportional representation system, more parties are able to gain seats because the percentage of votes roughly translates into the percentage of seats.

In part (d) the response did not earn the point. The explanation that "[a] regime could change the electoral system of a country, leading to a new party system" is too vague and does not explain how a regime change influences a party system. An acceptable response is that transitions from democracies to authoritarian regimes can lead to the banning of opposition parties and a single-party system.