
AP[®] Comparative Government and Politics

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 2

Inside:

Free Response Question 7

- Scoring Guideline
- Student Samples
- Scoring Commentary

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 7

5 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for each correct description of a step in the process of selecting the British prime minister.

Acceptable steps include:

- Selection of prime minister by majority party or coalition
- Holding of national elections for members of the House of Commons
- Selection as party leader
- Appointment of prime minister by Queen
- Election as member of parliament

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct explanation of how the selection process for the British prime minister reflects a fusion of power.

Acceptable explanations include:

The selection of the prime minister is determined by the legislature.

- Prime minister is also a member of the legislative branch.
- The same party or coalition of parties controls both the legislature and the executive.

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of a step in the process of selecting the Mexican president.

Acceptable steps include:

- Selected by direct elections
- Selected by plurality or first-past-the-post (FPTP) or single-member district (SMD) election
- Elected by the people or the citizens
- Presidential candidate chosen in a party primary

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct explanation of how the selection process for the Mexican president reflects a separation of power.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- The legislature has no bearing on the outcome of presidential election.
- The executive and legislative branches are independent from each other.
- The legislative and executive branches have different sources of power.
- The president is not a member of the legislature.

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

A score of dash (—) is earned for a blank answer.

Country Context: We suggest that you spend approximately 40 minutes (20 minutes each) on question

7A

7. The selection process for the chief executive helps distinguish systems that fuse powers from systems with separate powers.
- Describe two steps in the process of selecting the British prime minister.
 - Explain how the selection process for the British prime minister reflects a fusion of power.
 - Describe the process of selecting the Mexican president.
 - Explain how the selection process for the Mexican president reflects a separation of power.

7.a. The first step in selecting the British Prime minister are the parliamentary elections, in which citizens vote in single member districts first past the post elections in order to choose their legislature directly. After the parliament has been chosen, the majority party (or whichever party is in charge) ~~selects the~~ appoints the prime minister.

b. The selection process for the British prime minister is entirely up to the House of Commons, ~~the~~ and its dominant party. The executive is literally chosen directly by the legislature, displaying both the powers of a legislature and an executive are fused in the ~~British~~ United Kingdom.

c. The Mexican president is directly elected by the people and must win a plurality of the vote in that election in order to become president.

d. A separation of powers is clearly evident within the selection process for the Mexican president, as he is ~~an~~ an official directly elected by the people without influence from the legislature or judiciary. This lack of a role of the legislature in selecting each new executive is a clear demonstration of separation of powers in Mexico.

Country Context: We suggest that you spend approximately 40 minutes (20 minutes each) on quest

7B

7. The selection process for the chief executive helps distinguish systems that fuse powers from separate powers.
- (a) Describe two steps in the process of selecting the British prime minister.
 - (b) Explain how the selection process for the British prime minister reflects a fusion of power.
 - (c) Describe the process of selecting the Mexican president.
 - (d) Explain how the selection process for the Mexican president reflects a separation of power.

a) Two steps in the process of selecting the British prime minister is after party wins majority in the house of commons someone from the winning party is chosen to become prime minister.

b) the selection process for the British prime minister reflects a fusion of power between house of commons and the individual parties participating in the house of commons.

c) the process of selecting the Mexican president is candidates run for election by campaigning and in a public vote by the people chooses who become president (person with most votes)

d) the selection process for the Mexican president reflects a separation of power because there is separation of power between parties and within them and the states.

Country Context: We suggest that you spend approximately 40 minutes (20 minutes each) on questi

7C

7. The selection process for the chief executive helps distinguish systems that fuse powers from systems with separate powers.
- (a) Describe two steps in the process of selecting the British prime minister.
 - (b) Explain how the selection process for the British prime minister reflects a fusion of power.
 - (c) Describe the process of selecting the Mexican president.
 - (d) Explain how the selection process for the Mexican president reflects a separation of power.

A. The two step process in selecting a British prime minister is one whenever a president gets to pick who they will nominate, next the citizens will vote on the prime minister. B. The election of British prime minister reflects fusion of power because there are different sides of what people believe in so it shows one can be more popular than the other. C. The process of selecting the Mexican president is based on plurality vote so whoever has the best percentage of many other parties get to be president. D. Because in Mexico history PRI has been the more popular party but PAN has come in so that PRI won't be so powerful which shows the separation of power.

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2019 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 7

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 how the British prime minister and the Mexican president are selected and how these two processes reflect both fusion and separation of power, respectively. Students had four specific tasks: to describe two steps in the process of selecting the British prime minister, to explain how the selection process for the British prime minister reflects a fusion of power, to describe the process of selecting the Mexican president, and to explain how the selection process for the Mexican president reflects a separation of power.

Sample: 7A

Score: 5

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for describing “parliamentary elections” as a step in the process of selecting the British prime minister.

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for describing “the majority party ... appoints a prime minister” as a step in the process of selecting the British prime minister. Additional acceptable descriptions include the selection of the party leader, the election to parliament of the potential prime minister, and the appointment of the prime minister by the Queen.

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for explaining how the selection process for the British prime minister reflects a fusion of power by stating that the “executive is literally chosen directly by the legislature.” Additional explanations include that the prime minister is also a member of the legislature and that the same party (or coalition of parties) controls both the legislature and executive branch as a result of this selection process.

In part (c) the response earned 1 point for describing the “Mexican president is directly elected by the people” as a step in the process of selecting the Mexican president. Additional acceptable descriptions include plurality vote, first-past-the-post, single-member district system, and the selection of presidential candidates in a party primary.

In part (d) the response earned 1 point for explaining how the selection process for the Mexican president reflects a separation of power by stating that “he is an official directly elected by the people, without influence from the legislature.” The response explains that the legislature has no say in the outcome of the presidential election. Additional explanations include that there are two separate elections for the executive and the legislature, that the president is not a member of the legislature, and that the legislature and the executive have different sources of power.

Sample: 7B

Score: 3

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for describing “after party wins majority in the house of commons” as a step in the process of selecting the British prime minister.

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for describing a step in the process of selecting the British prime minister as “someone from the winning party is chosen to become the prime minister.” Additional acceptable descriptions include the selection of the party leader, the election to parliament of the potential prime minister, and the appointment of the prime minister by the Queen.

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2019 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 7 (continued)

In part (b) the response did not earn a point for explaining that the selection process for the prime minister reflects a fusion of power by stating there is a “fusion of power between house of commons and the individual parties participating in the house of commons.” The response does not explain that the legislature selects the prime minister. Acceptable explanations include that the prime minister is also a member of the legislative branch and that the same party (or coalition of parties) controls both the legislature and executive branch as a result of this selection process.

In part (c) the response earned 1 point for describing “vote by the people” as a step in the process of selecting the Mexican president. Additional acceptable descriptions include plurality vote, first-past-the-post, single-member district system, and the selection of presidential candidates in a party primary.

In part (d) the response did not earn a point for explaining that the selection process for the prime minister reflects a separation of power by stating that “there is seperation of power between parties and within them and the states.” The response does not explain that the legislature and the executive have different sources of power. Acceptable explanations include that the president is not a member of the legislature and that the legislature has no say in the outcome of the presidential election.

Sample: 7C

Score: 1

In part (a) the response did not earn a point for describing “whoever is president gets to pick who they will nominate” as a step in the process of selecting the British prime minister. There is no president in the British political system.

In part (a) the response did not earn a point for describing “the citizens will vote on the prime minister” as a step in the process of selecting the British prime minister. In Great Britain, citizens vote for members of the House of Commons, but they do not directly vote for the prime minister. Acceptable descriptions include the election to parliament of the potential prime minister, holding of national elections for members of the House of Commons, the selection of the prime minister by the majority party or coalition, and the appointment of the prime minister by the Queen.

In part (b) the response did not earn a point for explaining that the selection process for the prime minister reflects a fusion of power as the “different sides of what people believe in.” The response does not explain that the same party (or coalition of parties) controls both the legislature and executive branches as a result of this selection process. Additional explanations include that the prime minister is also a member of the legislative branch and that the selection of the prime minister is determined by the legislature.

In part (c) the response earned 1 point for describing “based on plurality vote” as a step in the process of selecting the Mexican president. Additional acceptable descriptions include direct election by citizens, first-past-the-post, single-member district system, and the selection of presidential candidates in a party primary.

In part (d) the response did not earn a point for explaining that the selection process for the prime minister reflects a separation of power because the “PAN has come on” and the “PRI won’t be so powerful.” The response does not explain that the selection process for the Mexican president is independent of the selection process for the legislature. Acceptable explanations include that the legislature has no say in the outcome of the presidential election and that the president is not a member of the legislature.