

2019

AP[®]

 CollegeBoard

AP[®] Comparative Government and Politics

Scoring Guidelines

Set 1

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.

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2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 2

3 points

One point is earned for correctly identifying an agent of political socialization.

Acceptable identifications may include:

- Family or parents
- Schools or education
- The media
- Peers
- Religions
- Political parties
- Associations or interest groups

One point is earned for correctly describing the process of political socialization.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

Learning political values, partisanship, ideology, or norms from an agent of political socialization

One point is earned for a correct explanation of how political socialization affects a regime's stability.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- Enhances regime legitimacy by instilling values or norms that align with regime support
- Enhances regime legitimacy by fostering a sense of nationalism or patriotism
- Undermines the regime by transmitting subversive or revolutionary ideas

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.

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2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 3

3 points

One point is earned for correctly defining civil society.

An acceptable definition includes:

- Civil society is the formal and informal organizations that are not part of the state apparatus but operate in public.
- Civil society is composed of organizations that are voluntary and autonomous self-governing groups created to advance their own causes.

One point is earned for correctly explaining one way in which civil society can strengthen democracy.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- By providing citizens the opportunity to express views
- By providing an opportunity to participate in government processes such as policy making
- By holding a state accountable by monitoring government actions

One point is earned for a correct explanation of why democracies restrict civil society.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- To limit violence to maintain democratic practices or public safety
- To prevent discrimination, hate speech, and the abuse of minority groups
- To prevent the violation of others' civil rights
- To limit concentration of power in the elite
- To protect national security
- To protect free or fair elections

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.

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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.

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2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 5

3 points

One point is earned for EACH correct explanation of a reason why an authoritarian state would allow citizens to criticize the government.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- To maintain legitimacy
- To prevent unrest
- To maintain the government's grip on power
- To build a favorable reputation in the international community
- To improve or shape policy

One point is earned for correctly describing a policy adopted by a specific country to restrict criticism of the government.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Restricting or monitoring Internet access
- Detaining or arresting dissenters
- Controlling or censoring media
- Passing laws that prevent or reduce criticism

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.

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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
 - produces a closed policy process that only reflects the views of the governing party
 - produces a more efficient decision-making process
 - 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
 - produces a more efficient decision-making process
 - creates policies intended to keep the party in power
- A two-party system
 - 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
 - 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
 - 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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2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

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.

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2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 7

5 points

Part (a):

One point is earned for correctly describing one reason that authoritarian regimes hold elections.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- To build internal or external legitimacy
- To help the regime maintain control or power
- To prevent unrest, build support for the system, or create the perception of representation
- To shape policies or leadership
- To build a favorable reputation in the international community

Part (b):

One point is earned for correctly explaining how presidential elections since 2000 strengthened or weakened democracy in Russia.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- Weakened democracy because of less competition
- Weakened democracy because there was no alternation of party control or top leadership
- Weakened democracy because voter fraud reduced legitimacy or political efficacy
- Weakened democracy because liberal parties were weakened
- Strengthened democracy because of stabilized parties
- Strengthened democracy because of increased legitimacy or political efficacy

Part (c):

One point is earned for correctly explaining how presidential elections since 2000 strengthened or weakened democracy in Mexico.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- Strengthened democracy because of more competition
- Strengthened democracy because of alternation of parties in power or development of multiparty system
- Strengthened democracy because of increased legitimacy or political efficacy
- Weakened democracy because of widespread fraud reducing legitimacy or political efficacy
- Weakened democracy because of the use of state resources in elections
- Weakened democracy because of the return of the formerly dominant party

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2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 7 (continued)

Part (d):

One point is earned for correctly identifying one factor other than elections that strengthens democracy.

Acceptable factors may include:

- Civil rights or civil liberties
- Civil society
- Independent judiciary
- Linkage institutions including media, interest groups, or political parties
- The establishment and adherence of rule of law
- Checks on power
- Governmental transparency

One point is earned for correctly explaining how that factor contributes to democracy.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- Increased political participation not related to voting
- Consideration of alternate viewpoints
- Increased protection of civil liberties
- Prevent concentration of governmental power
- Increased accountability of government officials
- Increased legitimacy or political efficacy

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.

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2019 SCORING GUIDELINES**

Question 8

5 points

Part (a):

One point is earned for correctly describing one difference in the age structure of China compared to that of Nigeria.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- China has an older population than Nigeria OR Nigeria has a younger population than China.
- There is a bulge in the middle age cohort in China, but not in Nigeria.

Note: Answers may also refer to an accurate comparison of particular age brackets.

Part (b):

One point is earned for correctly describing one governmental policy that influenced the age structure in China.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- The one-child policy reduced population growth and the number of children born.
- The one-child policy penalized most couples who had more than one child.
- The one-child policy limited the number of children per family.

Part (c):

One point is earned for correctly describing one economic consequence of the age structure of Nigeria.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- High dependency ratio because a significant portion of the population is young and unable to support itself, which places pressure on families
- High unemployment
- Budget pressures for more education spending or other social spending
- Large available workforce that can support economic growth and entrepreneurial activity

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2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 8 (continued)

Part (d):

One point is earned for correctly describing one economic consequence of the age structure of China.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- High dependency ratio since the large elderly population will need to be supported, which will put pressure on the working population and the state.
- Large current workforce to support economic growth.
- In the future the workforce will shrink, impacting economic growth.
- Resources are spent on smaller youth population, giving them educational opportunities that support economic growth.

Part (e):

One point is earned for correctly explaining a political consequence of having a disproportionately younger population structure.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- Discontent with the economic or political situation that affects the more liberal youth population leads to protests, regime or government change, or revolution.
- The large youth population may have political interests that diverge from the older generation's that could lead to support for specific political parties and affect voting patterns and election results.
- The large youth population could lead to an expansion of services and programs for young people in order to gain their support.
- The large youth population could pressure leaders to adopt policies reflecting the interests of the youth.
- With a large youth population, a significant number of citizens are not directly represented because they cannot vote, and their interests may not be heard.

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.