AP · CollegeBoard

AP® Comparative Government and Politics
Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary
Set 1

Inside:

Free Response Question 2

☑ **Scoring Guideline**

☑ **Student Samples**

☑ **Scoring Commentary**

Question 2: Quantitative Analysis   5 points

(a)   Using the data in the graph, identify the country that is the SECOND least corrupt.   **1 point**

An identification includes the following:

- China

(b)   Using the data in the graph, describe a similarity or difference for Russia and Nigeria in terms of the Human Development Index (HDI) score or Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) score.   **1 point**

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Russia and Nigeria have similar CPI scores.
- Russia is perceived as slightly less corrupt than Nigeria according to the CPI.
- Russia is more developed than Nigeria according to the HDI.
- Nigeria is less developed than Russia according to the HDI.

(c)   Describe one component of the Human Development Index.   **1 point**

Acceptable descriptions include:

- The HDI is an index that includes indicators of per capita income, life expectancy, and education (or average years of schooling), which are predictors of greater human development.
- Per capita income is one of the measures in the HDI because higher incomes are associated with greater human development.
- Life expectancy is one of the measures in the HDI because longevity is an indicator of higher quality of life.
- Educational attainment is one of the measures in the HDI because higher levels of education are related to greater human development.

(d)   Using the data in the graph and your knowledge of AP Comparative Government and Politics, draw a conclusion about how perceived corruption relates to HDI.   **1 point**

Acceptable conclusions include:

- Despite comparably high levels of corruption in Mexico, Russia, and China on the CPI scores, there is also a similarly high level of human development in these countries according to their HDI score; it would seem there is a weak relationship between CPI and development.
- There is a strong relationship between high-HDI countries and CPI score because the UK has a high CPI score and the other countries, which are not developed, have much lower CPI scores.
- There is a strong relationship between low-HDI countries and CPI scores because Nigeria has a low CPI score and other countries that are more developed have higher HDI scores.

(e) Explain how the United Kingdom's regime type is related to the CPI score. **1 point**

Acceptable explanations include:

- Consolidated democracies tend to have lower levels of corruption because they can punish corruption via elections.
- Consolidated democracies tend to have less corruption (or perception of corruption) because policymaking in consolidated democracies is more transparent.
- Because consolidated democracies have strong protections of civil rights (like freedom of the press), corruption is usually brought to light and eliminated.
- Consolidated democracies tend to have lower perceptions of corruption because the judicial system usually has a great deal of autonomy, which enables it to effectively prosecute corruption.

Total for question 2 **5 points**

Question 1   Question 2   Question 3   Question 4
   ○   ●   ○   ○

Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

a) The second least corrupt country is China.

b) Russia is significantly more developed than Nigeria. This can be seen from the graph because Russia has a HDI score of roughly 0.8 which is significantly higher than Nigeria's score of roughly 0.5.

c) One of the three components of the HDI is life expectancy. This is a set of data for a country that states how long the average person from that country should be expected to live. This is used in the HDI because countrys with ~~high~~ longer living citizens are ~~that~~ more developed on the whole.

d) Perceived corruption and the HDI are not extremely strongly related but some ~~sort~~ relationship does exist. Less corrupt countries tend to be better developed as shown by the example of the UK & conversely the example of Nigeria. However, this is not always the case as can be seen in Russia & Nigeria's similar scores in the CPI but wide difference in HDI. ~~A possible~~

e) The UK is a consolidated democracy. This regime type is especially transparent because the core of power is taken from popular sovereignty. Because the people have so much power in the UK, there is more transparency & greater levels of transparency facilitate a higher CPI score. Furthermore, the parliamentary system of the UK →

Page 6

Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

e) (continued) & especially the concept of Parliamentary sovereignty whereby the law is easily & rapidly altered by the ruling government makes accountability extremely easy in the U.K. When a policy goes poorly it is obvious who is to blame & if someone or some policy is seen as corrupt it is fairly easy for the voters to remedy the situation at the next election.

Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

The second least corrupt country is China. One difference between Russia and Nigeria in terms of the Human Development Index (HDI) is that Russia has a much higher HDI score with 0.8 than Nigeria's score of around 0.52. Russia has very secure health and living conditions for a majority of the people whereas people in Nigeria suffer from all sorts of diseases, lack of healthcare, and lack of basic needs. One component of that goes into consideration when computing the Human Development Index score is access to basic living requirements like food, water, and shelter. The higher and easier the access the higher the score and the lower and harder it is to access basic needs the lower the score. One conclusion that can be drawn between the relationship between perceived corruption and HDI is that ~~the more likely a country is more corrupt, the lower the HDI~~ the lower the corruption perceptions score, the lower the HDI score. This is because if a government is more likely to be corrupt, the more likely its people will not be served well meaning ~~they~~ their basic need requirements will likely not be a priority of the government causing many health and humanity issues due to a lack of leadership and funds. Since the UK has a high corruption perception score, that means that the UK is the least corrupt out of the countries on the chart. The UK's parlimentary system has ensured for centuries limited corruption and that politicians focus on important topics and not allow people who shouldn't be in office win elections.

Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

(a) China.

(b) Bicamerial legislatures

(c) Employment Rates

(d) They are directly proportional.

(e) No

Question 2
Quantitative Analysis

Overview

The intent of this question was to assess students' ability to interpret, describe, and draw conclusions from quantitative data presented in a graph. The chart presented data from the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) and the Human Development Index (HDI) for the countries Mexico, Russia, Iran, Nigeria, China, and the United Kingdom. The skills tested were the interpretation of quantitative data, descriptive, analytical, and explanatory. Students had five specific tasks: to identify the country with the second lowest level of corruption, according to the graph; to describe a similarity or difference in terms of the HDI or CPI scores for Russia and Nigeria, using the data in the graph; to describe one component of the Human Development Index; to draw a conclusion, based on the data in the graph and knowledge of AP Comparative Government and Politics, as to the relationship between perceived corruption and HDI; and to explain how the United Kingdom's regime type is related to its CPI score.

Sample: 2A
Score: 5

The response earned 1 point in part (a) for correctly identifying "China" as the country that is the second least corrupt.

The response earned 1 point in part (b) for correctly describing a similarity or difference between Russia and Nigeria in terms of the HDI score or CPI score by stating, "Russia is significantly more developed than Nigeria."

The response earned 1 point in part (c) for correctly describing one component of the HDI by stating, "One of the three components of the HDI is life expectancy. This is a set of data for a country that states how long the average person from that country should be expected to live."

The response earned 1 point in part (d) for using the data in the graph and knowledge of AP Comparative Government and Politics to draw a conclusion about how perceived corruption relates to HDI by stating, "Perceived corruption and the HDI are not extremely strongly related but some relationship does exist. Less corrupt countries tend to be better developed as shown by the example of the UK and conversely the example of Nigeria. However, this is not always the case as can be seen in Russia and Nigeria's similar scores in the CPI but wide difference in HDI."

The response earned 1 point in part (e) for correctly explaining how the United Kingdom's regime type is related to the CPI score by stating, "The UK is a consolidated democracy. This regime type is especially transparent" and "if someone or some policy is seen as corrupt it is fairly easy for the voters to remedy the situation at the next election."

Sample: 2B
Score: 3

The response earned 1 point in part (a) for correctly identifying "China" as the country that is the second least corrupt.

The response earned 1 point in part (b) for correctly describing a similarity or difference for Russia and Nigeria in terms of the HDI score or CPI score by stating that "Russia has a much higher HDI score with 0.8 than Nigeria's score of around 0.52."

Question 2 (continued)

The response earned 1 point in part (c) for correctly describing one component of the HDI by stating, "One component of that goes into consideration when computing the Human Development Index score is access to basic living requirements like food, water, and shelter. The higher and easier the access the higher the score and the lower and harder it is to access basic needs the lower the score."

The response did not earn a point in part (d) because it fails to use the data in the graph and knowledge of AP Comparative Government and Politics to draw a conclusion about how perceived corruption relates to HDI.

The response did not earn a point in part (e) because it fails to explain how the United Kingdom's regime type is related to its CPI score.

Sample: 2C
Score: 1

The response earned 1 point in part (a) for correctly identifying "China" as the country that is the second least corrupt.

The response did not earn a point in part (b) because it does not correctly describe a similarity or difference for Russia and Nigeria in terms of the HDI score or CPI score.

The response did not earn a point in part (c) because it does not correctly describe one component of the HDI.

The response did not earn a point in part (d) because it does not use the data in the graph and knowledge of AP Comparative Government and Politics to draw a conclusion about how perceived corruption relates to HDI.

The response did not earn a point in part (e) because it does not correctly explain how the United Kingdom's regime type is related to its CPI score.