
AP[®] Comparative Government and Politics

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 1

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Free Response Question 3

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Question 3: Comparative Analysis**5 points**

(a) Define civil liberties. **1 point****Acceptable definitions include:**

- Guarantees of personal freedoms that government cannot restrict without due process.
- Individual rights protected by law from unjust governmental action.

(b) Describe two different examples of constraints on civil liberties, each one used by a different AP Comparative Government and Politics course country. **2 points****Acceptable descriptions include (max one point per country):**

- In the United Kingdom, libel laws constrain freedom of speech/press by punishing speech or media deemed ‘harmful’ to individuals or the government.
- In the United Kingdom, anti-terrorism laws allow restrictions of privacy by giving the government access to citizens’ private information.
- In the United Kingdom, anti-terrorism laws allow arrest and deportation of individuals deemed ‘terrorists’ without due process constraining freedom of movement and expression.
- In the United Kingdom, mass public surveillance cameras restrict privacy by giving the government information on the movement and location of citizens without their consent.
- In Russia, the law concerning foreign agents/NGOs restricts freedom of assembly and petition by disallowing/disbanding/forcing registration of citizen organizations deemed ‘hostile’ to the government.
- In Russia, government ownership/violence against the media restrict freedom of the press.
- In Russia, anti-terrorism laws restrict freedom of religion by defining some religious organizations as ‘extremist.’
- In Russia, laws prohibiting/allowing discrimination against LGBT citizens restrict privacy, assembly, or expression.
- In China, crackdown/arrest/restrictions of protests constrain freedom of expression, assembly, or speech.
- In China, restrictions/cooption of religious organizations constrain freedom of religion.
- In China, restrictions/cooption of national/ethnic identity movements constrain freedom of expression.
- In China, the hukou system constrains freedom of movement by eliminating benefits to those who move without permission.
- In China, social credit system/ranking restricts freedom of expression, speech, assembly, and/or movement by categorizing individuals based on adherence to party principles.

- In Nigeria, Sharia law in the North leads to restrictions on sex, homosexuality, women, and on freedom of religion, expression, or movement.
- In Nigeria, government/military violence against media restricts press freedom.
- In Nigeria, laws prohibiting/allowing discrimination against LGBT citizens restrict privacy, assembly, or expression.
- In Nigeria, curfews constrain freedom of movement.
- In Mexico, police/security force violence against media/politicians/citizens restricts freedom of press and expression.
- In Mexico, crackdowns on protests deemed ‘threatening’ constrain freedom of assembly, petition, or expression.
- In Mexico, corruption weakens protections against violations of civil liberties.
- In Iran, Sharia law leads to restrictions on sex, homosexuality, women, and on freedom of religion, expression, or movement.
- In Iran, censorship of films, media, or the internet or restrictions on freedom of press or expression.
- In Iran, state-sanctioning of demonstrations/use of guards against protests and gatherings constrain assembly, expression, speech.

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- (c)** For each of the two AP Comparative Government and Politics course countries described in part (b), explain how the constraints on civil liberties have influenced popular support for the government. **2 points**

Acceptable explanations include (max one point per country):

- Constraints may influence popular support if they are supported by a majority of people who believe the constraints will secure stability and security.
- Constraints may or may not influence popular support if they are only affecting marginalized/minority groups, and not affecting substantial or influential portions of the population.
- Constraints may influence popular support if opposed by the international community.
- Constraints may produce a loss in popular support if opposed by the majority of citizens or a vocal, active minority.
- Constraints may produce a loss in popular support if opposed by active popular media.
- Constraints may produce a loss in popular support if they are affecting a substantial or influential portion of population.
- Constraints may influence popular support by creating fear, which suppresses citizens’ willingness to oppose the government.

Total for question 3 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.

- 3a) Civil liberties are the ^{essential} rights and ~~protections~~ protections that citizens have from the government. These civil liberties are supposed to be guaranteed to a country's individuals, and protect them from the government.
- 3b) In Russia, the government places a constraint on the freedom of the ~~press~~ ^{press}, for almost all of the country's television channels are state-owned. This presents a constraint on an essential civil liberty because the government dictates what news is broadcasted to its citizens. In China, the government constrains the freedom of the media, for China's extensive surveillance and social credit system suppresses ~~and~~ any criticism of the government whether it is communicated in person or on ~~social~~ social media.
- 3c) In Russia, the state-controlled television channels have decreased support for the government because independent journalists and news channels cannot freely speak their opinions. This constraint makes it more difficult for Russia's citizens to listen to news from a lens other than Putin's government, which makes Russia very authoritarian, and increases citizens' dissatisfaction. In China, the surveillance

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.

3c continued) and social credit system also has a negative influence on the popular support for the government because there is essentially no place or social media outlet where china's citizens can express their opinions without fear of being punished by the government. ~~The~~ The controlled environment that China has created in daily life and on social media has increased dislike for the government, ~~decreasing~~ decreasing the amount of ~~support~~ support for the government.

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.

Civil liberties can be defined as the freedoms of civilians which protect the livelihoods of the people, and their way of life. Two countries that ~~have~~ have constraints on civil liberties are Russia and China. They both have restrictions ~~on~~ of the media presented to the citizens, but more so China. The great fire wall has almost the rest of the world's media cut off from the citizens in China. They have their own bubble of media which is controlled by China's government. The government can choose what the people can and cannot see. ~~With~~ With this power, the government can restrict any criticism of itself, which makes any opposition to the government silent and quiet. With no opposing side the constraint influences popular support for the government because only the good things are said, none of the ~~bad~~ criticism is ever seen. Russia's constraint on civil liberties is privacy of its citizens. Russian hackers can access cameras and listening devices of citizens so the government can keep an eye on them. Russians do not have the right to privacy. With this said, Russian citizens have to stay loyal to the government because of the dangers of the Russian police. This constraint on civil liberties has influenced the popular support of Putin and the Russian government.



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

- a) Civil liberties in Nigeria and Iran are very similar. They are both very theoretically covered as are their civil rights.
- b) A constraint on civil liberties in Iran has to do with their close following of the Quran since it restricts women's rights. A constraint on civil liberties in Nigeria also comes from religion and regional autonomy with their clashes with the North.
- c) In Iran, this causes women to not really have a say so they are not in great favor of the system. And in Nigeria the people of the North are not pleased with how they are being treated, so therefore they do not show support.

Question 3

Comparative Analysis

Overview

The intent of this question was to assess students' understanding of the concept of civil liberties and their ability to describe and explain the impact of constraints on civil liberties in countries studied in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course. The skills tested were descriptive and explanatory. Students had three specific tasks: to define civil liberties, to describe two different examples of constraints on civil liberties in two different countries studied in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course, and to explain how these constraints have influenced popular support for the government in those two countries.

Sample: 3A

Score: 5

The response earned 1 point in part (a) for a correct definition of civil liberties: "Civil liberties are the essential rights and protections that citizens have from the government. These civil liberties are supposed to be guaranteed to a country's individuals."

The response earned 1 point in part (b) for correctly describing state control of media as a constraint on civil liberties in Russia: "the government dictates what news is broadcasted." The response earned 1 point for describing Chinese surveillance and the social credit system as a constraint on civil liberties because it "suppresses any criticism of the government whether it is communicated in person or on social media."

The response earned 1 point in part (c) for a correct explanation of how state-controlled media and restrictions on journalists in Russia have decreased popular support for the government: "This constraint makes it more difficult for Russia's citizens to listen to news from a lens other than Putin's government, which ... increases citizens' dissatisfaction." The response earned a second point for a correct explanation of how citizens' inability to "express their opinions without fear" (due to surveillance and the social credit system) in China has "increased dislike ... decreasing the amount of support for the government."

Sample: 3B

Score: 3

The response did not earn a point in part (a) for the definition of civil liberties because it does not mention the role of government or the state. "[L]ively hoods" and "way of life" are not clear references to civil liberties.

The response earned 1 point in part (b) for correctly describing government censorship in China as a constraint on civil liberties: "The government can choose what the people can and cannot see." The response earned 1 point for correctly describing government surveillance in Russia as a constraint on the citizens' right to privacy and for describing Russian censorship of the media: "They both have restriction of the media."

The response earned 1 point in part (c) for explaining the impact of China's media censorship on popular support by stating that "the government can restrict any criticism of itself, which makes any opposition to the government silent and quiet ... the constraint influences popular support." The response did not earn a second point because it does not accurately explain an effect of Russian government surveillance on popular support. That citizens have to "stay loyal to the government" is vague and does not directly indicate feelings of support.

Question 3 (continued)

Sample: 3C

Score: 1

The response did not earn a point in part (a) because it does not provide a definition of civil liberties. The examples from the two countries are not related to civil liberties.

The response earned 1 point in part (b) for correctly describing a constraint on civil liberties in Iran: “their close following of the Quran since it restricts womens rights.” The response did not earn a second point because the constraint identified for Nigeria is not specifically described: “A constraint on civil liberties in Nigeria also comes from religion and reginoal autonomy with their clashes with the North.”

The response did not earn any points in part (c). The explanation for Iran is too vague to earn a point: “In Iran, this creates women to not really have a say so they are not in great favor of the system.” It is not clear how women do not have a say and why this would affect their support. The explanation for Nigeria did not earn a point. It is too vague and not tied to a violation of civil liberties: “And in Nigeria the people of the North are not pleased with how they are being treated, so therefore they do not show support.”