

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2013 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 3

3 points

One point is earned for a correct description of the difference between a revolution and a coup d'état.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- A revolution is an uprising of the masses, and a coup d'état is conducted by military forces.
- A revolution encompasses a large number of people, while a coup d'état comprises few individuals.
- Revolutions result in regime change, and a coup d'état often leads to military rule.
- Revolutions involve fundamental change, and a coup results in change of leadership.
- Revolutions often last for long periods of time, and a coup d'état occurs over a short period of time.

Note: Difference must be along the same trait.

One point is earned for correctly identifying **Nigeria** as the country where there has been several successful coups d'état.

One point is earned for correctly describing a political consequence of coups d'état in Nigeria.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Loss of legitimacy of government.
- Great political instability because of the coups.
- Government controlled by military for a number of years.
- Hindered development of democratic institutions.
- Reduced trust in military.
- A formal effort to reduce incentives for coups d'état such as:
 - establishing a new constitution in 1999
 - the election of former general Obasanjo as the first president under the new constitution
 - enactment of a law that forced the retirement of military officers who had held political office.

Note: The timeline for political consequence has to be accurate.

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

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

3. Describe one major difference between a revolution and a coup d'état. Identify a country in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course where there have been several successful coups d'état in the past 50 years. Describe a political consequence of the coups d'état in the country you identified.

A revolution is an overthrow of a ~~country's~~^{regime's} basic institutions whereas a coup d'état is an overthrow of a regime's leader, not its institutions. Nigeria has experienced several coup d'états over the past 50 years, most resulting in military dictatorships, suppressed civil liberties and rights, and political uprisings in which the dictator ~~is~~ was overthrown in yet another coup d'état. Coup d'états ultimately result in less legitimacy because people don't believe their government is stable enough to hold another one off. Such is the case in Nigeria.

3. Describe one major difference between a revolution and a coup d'état. Identify a country in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course where there have been several successful coups d'état in the past 50 years. Describe a political consequence of the coups d'état in the country you identified.

A revolution is usually led by the people and usually forms a government based on the people's rule whereas a coup d'état is a military led rebellion and will inevitably form a military state usually authoritarianism. In Nigeria a coup d'état is the military way of keeping the government legitimate. These military coups usually cause more problems than solutions but they often, in Nigeria at least do ultimately form a new republic.

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The major difference between a revolution and a coup d'état is a coup d'état advocates the overthrow of a nation's basic institutions whereas a revolution doesn't. In the past 50 years, Nigeria has had several successful coup d'états. A political consequence is Nigeria's government has less legitimacy and is much more unstable than if there weren't ~~several~~ several successful coup d'états.

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2013 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 3

Overview

The intent of this question was to assess students' understanding of revolution and coup d'état and to describe the real-world results of coups d'état in a specific country. The skills tested were conceptual and descriptive. The students had three specific tasks: to describe one major way that a revolution differs from a coup d'état, to identify the country studied in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course that has experienced several successful coups d'état in the past half century, and to describe one political result of the coups in this country.

Sample: 3A

Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for correctly describing a difference between revolution and coup d'état by stating that a "revolution is an overthrow of a regime's basic institutions whereas a coup d'état is an overthrow of a regime's leader, not its institutions."

The response earned 1 point for correctly identifying Nigeria as the country studied in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course that has experienced several successful coups d'état in the past 50 years.

The response earned 1 point for describing a correct political consequence of coups d'état in Nigeria by stating that often military coups in Nigeria resulted "in military dictatorships, suppressed civil liberties and rights".

Sample: 3B

Score: 2

The response earned 1 point for correctly describing a difference between revolution and coup d'état by stating that a "revolution is usually Led [*sic*] By [*sic*] the people", while describing a coup d'état as a "military led rebellion".

The response earned 1 point for correctly identifying Nigeria as the country studied in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course that has experienced several successful coups d'état in the past 50 years.

The response did not earn a point for its description of a political consequence of coups d'état in Nigeria because the description is incorrect.

Sample: 3C

Score: 1

The response did not earn a point for its description of a major difference between revolution and coup d'état because the description is incorrect.

The response earned 1 point for correctly identifying Nigeria as the country studied in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course that has experienced several successful coups d'état in the past 50 years.

The response did not earn a point for its description of a political consequence of coups d'état in Nigeria because the description is incorrect.