

**AP<sup>®</sup> COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**  
**2013 SCORING GUIDELINES**

**Question 4**

**3 points**

**One point** is earned for a correct definition of political legitimacy.

Acceptable definitions of political legitimacy include:

- Citizens believe the government has the right to rule.
- Political legitimacy is the popular and voluntary acceptance of an authority.

**One point** is earned for a correct description of a source of political legitimacy for the office of the president in Russia.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Popular election.
- Constitution gives the president the right to rule, which people view as legitimate.
- Constitution limits the president's power, which people view as legitimate.

**One point** is earned for a correct description of a different source of political legitimacy for the office of the supreme leader in Iran.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- God/Allah-given right to rule.
- Theocratic right to interpret Sharia law (jurist guardianship).
- Constitutional authority to rule over other institutions.
- Assembly of Religious Experts (if linked to religion, popular election of assembly or constitution).

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.

4. Define political legitimacy. Describe one source of political legitimacy for the office of the president in Russia. Describe a different source of political legitimacy for the office of the supreme leader in Iran.

Political legitimacy is the state's right to rule, as determined by the people. The president in Russia may be considered legitimate because ~~the~~ the office is chosen through <sup>direct</sup> elections by the people. The supreme leader in Iran may be considered legitimate because of the citizens' strong belief in shariah law and the concept of jurist's guardianship, which says that only clerics such as the supreme leader are capable of interpreting Islamic law and making decisions based on it.

4. Define political legitimacy. Describe one source of political legitimacy for the office of the president in Russia. Describe a different source of political legitimacy for the office of the supreme leader in Iran.

Political legitimacy is the right of someone <sup>office</sup> to exercise political authority. Russia's president has political legitimacy through the electoral process; the people vote him in, and give him the power. In Iran, the supreme leader's political authority, and thus legitimacy is written into their constitution.

4. Define political legitimacy. Describe one source of political legitimacy for the office of the president in Russia. Describe a different source of political legitimacy for the office of the supreme leader in Iran.

Political legitimacy is the right the people give the government to rule. One source of political legitimacy in Russia is that Putin's party supports him and they are widely supported by the people along with his charisma. One source of political legitimacy in the supreme leader of Iran is Sharia Law, ~~Islamic Law~~

# AP<sup>®</sup> COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

## 2013 SCORING COMMENTARY

### Question 4

#### Overview

The intent of the question was for students to examine political legitimacy and to consider the different sources of legitimacy associated with the offices of the president of Russia and the supreme leader of Iran. The skills tested were conceptual and descriptive: to define and describe. Students had three specific tasks: to define political legitimacy, to describe one source of political legitimacy for the office of the president of Russia, and to describe a different source of political legitimacy for the office of the supreme leader of Iran.

#### Sample: 4A

##### Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for correctly defining political legitimacy as “the state’s right to rule, as determined by the people.”

The response earned 1 point for describing “direct elections by the people” as a source of political legitimacy for the office of the president of Russia.

The response earned 1 point for describing a different source of political legitimacy for the office of the supreme leader of Iran as “the concept of jurist’s guardianship, which says that only clerics such as the supreme leader are capable of interpreting Islamic law and making decisions based on it.”

#### Sample: 4B

##### Score: 2

The response did not earn a point for defining political legitimacy.

The response earned 1 point for describing “the electoral process; the people vote him in” as a source of political legitimacy for the office of the president of Russia.

The response earned 1 point for describing how “the Supreme leader’s [*sic*] political authority, and thus legitimacy is written into their constitution” is a different source of political legitimacy for the office of the supreme leader of Iran.

#### Sample: 4C

##### Score: 1

The response earned 1 point for correctly defining political legitimacy as “the right the people give the government to rule.”

The response did not earn a point for describing a source of political legitimacy for the office of the president of Russia.

The response did not earn a point for the identification of sharia law as a different source of political legitimacy for the office of the supreme leader of Iran because no description is provided.