

**AP<sup>®</sup> COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**  
**2014 SCORING GUIDELINES**

**Question 6**

**5 points**

**Part (a): 1 point**

One point is earned for correctly identifying a function of a legislature that is common to both democratic and authoritarian regimes.

Acceptable identifications include:

- Representation
- Passing laws or budgets

**Part (b): 1 point**

One point is earned for a correct explanation of how a function of a legislature can strengthen democracy.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- Responds to public demand for legislative action
- Allows for clear and open debate about policy
- Facilitates compromise between factions
- Legislates to extend political rights or civil liberties
- Restricts power of executive

**Part (c): 2 points**

One point is earned for EACH correct description of ways a legislature can be controlled in an authoritarian regime.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Manipulates election rules for parties and voters
- Controls election results
- Creates a dominant or single party system
- Appoints representatives
- Limits legislative meeting time
- Limits or restrain debate of opposing views
- Limits or prohibit changes to executive proposals
- Co-opts or represses dissenting legislators
- Prohibits legislative oversight

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**Question 6 (continued)**

**Part (d): 1 point**

One point is earned for a correct explanation of why authoritarian regimes maintain legislatures.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- To maintain political legitimacy
- To establish the pretense of popular support
- To respond to international pressure
- To provide a forum for superficial debate
- To recognize cleavages in an effort to reduce tension
- To support government propaganda
- To build party support or compliance

A score of zero (0) is earned for an attempted answer that earns no points.

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

6 A 1  
Conceptual Analysis: We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes on question 6.

6. Legislatures are important institutions in both authoritarian and democratic regimes.
- (a) Identify a function of a legislature that is common to both democratic and authoritarian regimes.
  - (b) Explain how a function of a legislature can strengthen democracy.
  - (c) Describe two ways a legislature can be controlled in an authoritarian regime.
  - (d) Explain why authoritarian regimes maintain legislatures.

Both democratic and authoritarian legislatures are responsible for ~~legislative~~ policy articulation. They create laws that the president may or may not have the power to later reject.

~~The~~ The function of a legislature ~~can~~ can strengthen democracy by giving a voice to the ~~the~~ people, particularly when citizens serve as no constituents who vote the ~~representative~~ legislators in to office.

Authoritarian regimes can experience their legislature being controlled by being subject to getting their policies and decisions vetoed or rejected by the executive powers.

The legislature may also be controlled limiting the <sup>participation</sup> ~~representation~~ of various parties in being represented. This restricts opposing views of oppressed minorities from being exposed so publicly.

Legislatures are still maintained in authoritarian ~~regime~~ regimes to keep a sense of representation.

6A.2

ADDITIONAL ANSWER PAGE FOR QUESTION 6.

and fairness for its citizens, although  
this may sometimes be no more than an  
illusion.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.



Conceptual Analysis: We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes on question 6.

6 B, 1

6. Legislatures are important institutions in both authoritarian and democratic regimes.
- (a) Identify a function of a legislature that is common to both democratic and authoritarian regimes.
  - (b) Explain how a function of a legislature can strengthen democracy.
  - (c) Describe two ways a legislature can be controlled in an authoritarian regime.
  - (d) Explain why authoritarian regimes maintain legislatures.

a) upholding the constitution

B) The legislative function that can strengthen democracy comes from the separation of powers that a legislature promotes, in which the legislature can check the powers of the executive and lessen the tyranny of the executive branch.

c) Two ways a legislature can be controlled in an authoritarian regime is giving the power the executive the power to dissolve the legislature, and allowing the executive to appoint officials to legislative positions, rather than having them popularly elected.

D) Authoritarian regimes maintain legislatures to ensure that the government as a whole consolidates ample powers, rather than giving all the power to an individual. Also, having a legislature enhances the legitimacy of an authoritarian regime because ~~therefore~~ a population is more likely

ADDITIONAL ANSWER PAGE FOR QUESTION 6.

to believe in the will of a body of government officials rather than ~~one executive~~ the will of one executive leader, because a large governmental body ~~is~~ is ~~apparently~~ ostensibly less prone to corruption and tyranny than a single individual running a country.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.



6C1

Conceptual Analysis: We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes on question 6.

6. Legislatures are important institutions in both authoritarian and democratic regimes.
- (a) Identify a function of a legislature that is common to both democratic and authoritarian regimes.
  - (b) Explain how a function of a legislature can strengthen democracy.
  - (c) Describe two ways a legislature can be controlled in an authoritarian regime.
  - (d) Explain why authoritarian regimes maintain legislatures.

a) In both democratic and authoritarian regimes, the legislature functions as an important ~~part~~ <sup>part</sup> of government because it creates laws and checks the power of the head.

b) A legislature can strengthen democracy because it allows the citizens to have a voice in issues and their vote essentially matters.

c) A legislature can be controlled in an authoritarian regime by ignoring the voices of the citizens. Rules, laws and orders are enacted strictly under the views of the government—they call the shots. Another way it can be controlled is by having specific people/parties on the legislature. This will ensure that the authoritarian regime's views will continue and it follows their views.

6C2

ADDITIONAL ANSWER PAGE FOR QUESTION 6.

d) Authoritarian regimes maintain legislatures because it is still a necessary part of the government. It is where they meet, gather and discuss what they must do to rule and guide the people under them.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.



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## 2014 SCORING COMMENTARY

### Question 6

#### Overview

The intent of this question was for students to comparatively analyze the function of a legislature in both authoritarian and democratic regimes. The skills tested were descriptive and analytical. Students had five specific tasks: to identify a function of a legislature that is common to both democratic and authoritarian regimes, to explain how a function of a legislature can strengthen democracy, to describe two ways a legislature can be controlled in an authoritarian regime, and to explain why authoritarian regimes maintain legislatures.

#### Sample: 6A

##### Score: 5

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for identifying a function of a legislature that is common to both democratic and authoritarian regimes as “they create laws.”

In part (b) the response earned 1 point by explaining how the function of a legislature to allow “constituents who vote the legislators in to [sic] office” strengthens democracy by “giving a voice to the people.”

In part (c) the response earned 1 point by describing a way that an authoritarian regime can control a legislature, by “getting their policies and decisions vetoed or rejected by the executive powers.”

In part (c) the response earned 1 point for describing a way that an authoritarian regime can control a legislature as by “limiting the participation of various parties in being represented.”

In part (d) the response earned 1 point for explaining that authoritarian regimes maintain legislatures “to keep a sense of representation and fairness for its citizens, although this may sometimes be no more than an illusion.”

#### Sample: 6B

##### Score: 4

In part (a) the response earned no points for identifying a function of a legislature that is common to both democratic and authoritarian regimes.

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for explaining how the function of a legislature to “check the powers of the executive” strengthens democracy because it can “lessen the tyranny of the executive branch.”

In part (c) the response earned 1 point for describing a way that an authoritarian regime can control a legislature as by “giving the executive the power to dissolve the legislature.”

In part (c) the response earned 1 point for describing that a way that an authoritarian regime can control a legislature is by “allowing the executive to appoint officials to legislative positions, rather than having them popularly [sic] elected.”

In part (d) the response earned 1 point for explaining that authoritarian regimes maintain legislatures as it “enhances the legitimacy of an authoritarian regime because a population is more likely to believe in the will of a body of government officials rather than the will of one executive leader.”

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**Question 6 (continued)**

**Sample: 6C**

**Score: 2**

In part (a) the response earned no points for identifying a function of a legislature that is common to both democratic and authoritarian regimes.

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for explaining how the function of a legislature, which “allows the citizens to have a voice in issues,” strengthens democracy because “their vote essentially matters.”

In part (c) the response earned 1 point for describing that a way an authoritarian regime can control a legislature “is by having specific people/parties on the legislature.”

In part (c) the response earned no points for describing a second way that an authoritarian regime can control a legislature.

In part (d) the response earned no points for explaining why authoritarian regimes maintain legislatures.