

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2016 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 6

7 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of how participation in elections is different in democratic regimes and authoritarian regimes.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Competitive, free, or fair elections versus restricted elections, not free or fair
- Lack of a choice in authoritarian regimes
- Multiparty versus single dominant party
- Government formation based on electoral results in democratic regimes
- Vetting of potential candidates in authoritarian regimes
- Executive accountability in democratic regimes
- Intimidation of opponents and dissidents in authoritarian regimes
- Use of state resources for incumbents in authoritarian regimes

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of how participation through social media is different in democratic regimes and authoritarian regimes.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Users of social media confront restrictions in authoritarian regimes
- Users of social media can freely post, discuss, or criticize in democratic regimes
- Social media is the only space for participation in some authoritarian regimes

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of how participation in civil society is different in democratic regimes and authoritarian regimes.

Correct descriptions may include:

- Plurality of options and experiences in democratic regimes, less regulated, less harassed in democratic regimes
- Higher degree of monitoring/restriction of civil society in authoritarian regimes
- More state infiltration of civil society in authoritarian regimes
- Creation of bogus civil society groups by authoritarian regimes
- Registration and vetting of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to a greater degree in authoritarian regimes

Note: Since the test taker is not asked to explain a difference in (a), (b), and (c), just describing two different things is acceptable.

Part (d): 2 points

One point is earned for a correct explanation of why people participate politically in democratic regimes.

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Question 6 (continued)

Acceptable explanations may include:

- To influence policy or voice support for government OR the opposition
- Efficacy
- To have their voices heard
- Civic duty

One point is earned for a correct explanation of why people participate politically in authoritarian regimes.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- Coercion
- Intimidation
- Personal benefits such as power or wealth
- To influence policy
- To air grievances
- To show support for government

Part (e): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct explanation of why authoritarian regimes allow certain forms of political participation.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- To gain internal or external legitimacy
- To provide an escape valve for discontent
- To build support for a policy or regime
- To intimidate opponents
- To give an illusion of influence
- To provide a mechanism for accountability

Part (f): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct explanation of why democratic regimes restrict certain forms of political participation.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- To address concerns about unrest and instability
- To protect minority rights
- To balance competing rights and interests
- To ensure a qualified electorate
- To ensure national security
- To allow efficiency in policymaking

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

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

6A 142
Conceptual Analysis: We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes on question 6.

6. Forms of political participation vary in both democratic and authoritarian regimes.
- (a) Describe how participation in elections is different in democratic regimes and authoritarian regimes.
 - (b) Describe how political participation through social media is different in democratic regimes and authoritarian regimes.
 - (c) Describe how participation in civil society is different in democratic regimes and authoritarian regimes.
 - (d) Explain why people participate politically in democratic regimes. Explain why people participate politically in authoritarian regimes.
 - (e) Explain why authoritarian regimes allow certain forms of political participation.
 - (f) Explain why democratic regimes restrict certain forms of political participation.

a) In democratic regimes, citizens can choose whether they want to vote or not, and they choose whom they want to vote for. Authoritarian regimes heavily restrict the voters' ~~choice~~ freedom of choice, and they choose who said voters are voting for.

b) Democratic regimes allow citizens to criticize, advocate, or otherwise speak freely about candidates and government leaders on social media. Authoritarian regimes do not allow any criticism, and monitor all aspects of social media for potential "law-breakers."

c) Democratic regimes allow any one to form interest groups and communicate with the government. Authoritarian regimes rarely allow even interest groups to form, let alone participate in government.

d) People participate in democratic regimes because they feel that their voice can make a difference, and because they have the

choice and freedom to do so. People participate in authoritarian regimes because they are forced to.

e) Authoritarian regimes allow political participation in order to have political legitimacy. For example, China's government exists as a "democracy," however, the Communist Party has all the real power.

f) Democratic regimes restrict certain forms of political participation in order to maintain order and democracy. PACS can donate only a certain amount of money to a candidate's campaign so that they do not get an unfair advantage.

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

GB
1 of 2

6. Forms of political participation vary in both democratic and authoritarian regimes.
- (a) Describe how participation in elections is different in democratic regimes and authoritarian regimes.
 - (b) Describe how political participation through social media is different in democratic regimes and authoritarian regimes.
 - (c) Describe how participation in civil society is different in democratic regimes and authoritarian regimes.
 - (d) Explain why people participate politically in democratic regimes. Explain why people participate politically in authoritarian regimes.
 - (e) Explain why authoritarian regimes allow certain forms of political participation. *Hundred Flowers Campaign*
 - (f) Explain why democratic regimes restrict certain forms of political participation.

a) Political participation is different in democratic regimes because when it comes to voting in democratic regimes the ballot ~~is~~ offers various individuals from which someone can vote on. While in a authoritarian regime you are ~~allowed~~ only allowed to select one leader from one party or other time the leader is chosen for you by governing national bodies.

b) In democratic regimes people ^(citizens) are allowed to express opinions and judge freely only social media through political participation. While in authoritarian regimes citizens aren't always allowed to express their own opinions on social media through political participation.

c) Participation in civil society in democratic regimes allows citizens to protest on the streets as long as it's peaceful and write letters of complaint to government officials. But civil society in authoritarian regimes does not exist citizens are prohibited from conducting protests at the risk of execution or complaining about their government at the risk of being jailed, executed, or exiled.

d.) People participate politically in democratic regimes because they are encouraged to do so or because they feel a civic duty to do so for their country. People participate in an authoritarian regime because they are told to do so more often than not. If they don't participate at times

e.) Authoritarian regimes may allow certain forms of political participation to encourage their citizens to participate in government. For example when China launched the Hundred Flowers Campaign encouraging Chinese citizens and artists to be creative and to paint, draw, and sculpt. The government even encouraged citizens to criticize them to a certain extent.

f.) Democratic regimes restrict certain forms of political participation to avoid citizens trying to ~~interfere~~ intervene with governmental issues such as legislature. Great Britain has been a withstanding democracy for over 300 years but even they limit the political participation of their people by not allowing them to form interest groups. They do this so as not to create a roadblock and make it easier to write and pass legislature without people intervening. Great Britain has no interest groups.

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6C 10/2
Conceptual Analysis: We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes on question 6.

6. Forms of political participation vary in both democratic and authoritarian regimes.
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 - (b) Describe how political participation through social media is different in democratic regimes and authoritarian regimes.
 - (c) Describe how participation in civil society is different in democratic regimes and authoritarian regimes.
 - (d) Explain why people participate politically in democratic regimes. Explain why people participate politically in authoritarian regimes.
 - (e) Explain why authoritarian regimes allow certain forms of political participation.
 - (f) Explain why democratic regimes restrict certain forms of political participation.

Ⓐ Participation in elections differs dramatically in democratic regimes and authoritarian regimes.

For example, in democratic regimes citizens vote usually for political candidates at the national, state, and local levels of government. While in authoritarian regimes there's a lot less options and elections for civilians. Usually, in authoritarian regimes individuals can only vote at the national ~~level~~ election. Overall in democratic regimes there is a lot more involvement in politics for individuals than in authoritarian regimes.

Ⓑ Political Participation drastically differs in democratic regimes and authoritarian regimes. In democratic regimes, on social media such as Twitter, Facebook, etc. citizens are encouraged to post who they voted for and their interests. While in authoritarian regimes individuals aren't expected to post anything about their thoughts and it is astounding how in democratic regimes people express freely their political opinions, but it is not tolerated in authoritarian regimes.

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6C 2012

- (C) Civil Society in democratic regimes is very popular as individuals are able to freely exhibit their ideas and concerns. However, in authoritarian regimes a lot less is allowed to be expressed; this is why more and more countries are moving towards democracy.
- (d) People participate for countless reasons in democratic regimes; whether it'd be to change local leaders in politics or whether it'd be to voice about who should be president, whereas in authoritarian regimes participation is primarily over the national government.
- (e) Authoritarian regimes allow certain political participation for their citizens to avoid turning into a dictatorship.
- (f) Democratic regimes allow certain political participation to hear new voices and to address issues. Also, democratic regimes want more people to vote; so by increasing political participation, voting numbers will rise.

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2016 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 6

Overview

The intent of this question was to assess how political participation differs in authoritarian and democratic regimes, why people participate in these regimes, and why authoritarian regimes allow political participation and democratic regimes restrict political participation. The skills tested were conceptual and analytical: to describe and explain. Students had seven specific tasks: to describe how political participation in elections, social media, and civil society differ in democratic and authoritarian regimes (three tasks); to explain why people participate politically in democratic and authoritarian regimes (two tasks); to explain why participation is allowed in authoritarian regimes; and to explain why democratic regimes restrict political participation.

Sample: 6A

Score: 7

The response earned 1 point for part (a) by correctly describing that “in democratic regimes, citizens ... choose whom they want to vote for. Authoritarian regimes heavily restrict the voters’ freedom of choice.” The response earned 1 point for part (b) by correctly describing that “democratic regimes allow citizens to ... speak freely about candidates and government leaders on social media. Authoritarian regimes do not allow any criticism.” The response earned 1 point for part (c) by describing that “democratic regimes allow anyone to form interest groups. ... Authoritarian regimes rarely allow even interest groups to form.” The response earned 2 points in part (d) for correctly explaining that people in democratic regimes participate “because they feel that their voice can make a difference” and that “people participate in authoritarian regimes because they are forced to.” The response earned 1 point in part (e) for correctly explaining that “authoritarian regimes allow participation in order to have political legitimacy.” The response earned 1 point in part (f) for correctly explaining that democratic regimes restrict participation by limiting “a certain amount of money to a candidates [sic] campaign so that they do not get an unfair advantage.”

Sample: 6B

Score: 4

The response earned 1 point for part (a) by correctly describing when “voting in democratic regimes the ballot offers various individuals. ... While in authoritarian regime you are only allowed to select one leader.” The response earned 1 point for part (b) by correctly describing how “in democratic regimes people (citizens) are allowed to express opinions and judge freely. ... While in authoritarian regimes citizens aren’t always allowed to express their own opinions.” The response did not earn a point for part (c). The response earned 2 points in part (d) for correctly explaining that people in democratic regimes participate “because they feel a civic duty” and in authoritarian regimes “because they are told to do so.” The response did not earn a point for part (e) or (f).

Sample: 6C

Score: 2

The response did not earn a point for part (a). The response earned 1 point for part (b) by correctly describing how “in democratic regimes people express freely their political opinions, but it is not tolerated in authoritarian regimes.” The response did not earn a point for part (c). The response earned 1 point for part (d) by correctly explaining that people participate in democratic regimes “to change local leaders.” The response did not earn a point for part (e) or (f).