
AP Comparative Government and Politics

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2017 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 1

3 points

One point is earned for a correct explanation of how a regime change differs from a change in government.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- A regime change has occurred when the type of political system has changed. This is different from a change in government, which occurs when leaders or parties move in and out of office.
- Regime changes involve complete transformation of the political system from one type to another, whereas governmental change involves replacement of individual leaders or political parties.

One point is earned for a correct description of an example of a regime change in the AP Comparative and Politics core countries since 1990.

One point is earned for a description of an example of a change in government in the AP Comparative and Politics core countries since 2010.

Any of the examples below earn 1 point:

Country	Regime change since 1990	Government change since 2010*
China		Hu Jintao–Xi Jinping
Great Britain		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brown–Cameron/Clegg (Labour–Conservative/Lib Dem) (Labour–Coalition Control)• Cameron/Clegg–Cameron (Conservative/Lib Dem–Conservative) (Coalition–Conservative)• Cameron–May (Conservative–Conservative)
Iran		Ahmadinejad–Rouhani
Mexico	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Election of 2000<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Authoritarian–democratic◦ Dominant party–multiparty• Accept reforms made under Zedillo• Transition from dominant party to multiparty	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Calderon–Pena Nieto• PAN–PRI
Nigeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fourth Republic or Constitution of 1999 (or late 1990s)• Authoritarian and/or military rule to democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yar’Adua–Jonathan (PDP–PDP)• Jonathan–Buhari (PDP–APC)

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2017 SCORING GUIDELINES**

Question 1 (continued)

Russia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• USSR to Russian Federation• Communist party state to electoral authoritarianism/semiauthoritarian regime/illiberal or procedural democracy/competitive authoritarianism• Constitution of 1993• Transitional democracy reverting to authoritarianism; transitional democracy to hybrid regime/illiberal democracy; multiparty to dominant party	Medvedev–Putin
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* Student can identify a new leader only and earn the point for government change.

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.

COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Section II

Time—1 hour and 40 minutes

1 A

Directions: You have 100 minutes to answer five short-answer concept questions, one conceptual analysis question and two country context questions. Unless the directions indicate otherwise, respond to all parts of all eight questions. It is suggested that you take a few minutes to plan and outline each answer. We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes total on questions 1 through 5, 30 minutes on question 6, and 40 minutes total on questions 7 and 8. These suggested times do not reflect the weight of the questions as part of your AP exam score. In your responses, use substantive examples where appropriate.

@ 9:15
Short-Answer Concepts: We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes total on questions 1 through 5.

1. Explain how a regime change differs from a change in government. Describe one example of a regime change since 1990 in a country studied in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course. Describe one example of a change in government since 2010 in a country studied in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course.

A regime change differs from a change in government in that ^{all of} the ruling body and its corresponding practices ^{and governing character} ~~are~~ in a regime is changed. ~~The~~ An example is a change from an authoritarian regime to a democratic regime. Contrastly, a change in government represents a change in leadership or party. This may be the succession of one president to the next or a new party.

One example of a regime change is Mexico's transition from an authoritarian government to a procedural democracy. This change is significant because the country is exhibiting greater democratic ideas, such as more civil and political freedoms. One change in government can be seen with the election of Buhari in Nigeria to presidency. This change in rule ~~was~~ demonstrated a new leadership ~~from~~ from previous president Jonathan Jonathan.

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COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

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Section II

Time—1 hour and 40 minutes

Directions: You have 100 minutes to answer five short-answer concept questions, one conceptual analysis question and two country context questions. Unless the directions indicate otherwise, respond to all parts of all eight questions. It is suggested that you take a few minutes to plan and outline each answer. We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes total on questions 1 through 5, 30 minutes on question 6, and 40 minutes total on questions 7 and 8. These suggested times do not reflect the weight of the questions as part of your AP exam score. In your responses, use substantive examples where appropriate.

Short-Answer Concepts: We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes total on questions 1 through 5.

1. Explain how a regime change differs from a change in government. Describe one example of a regime change since 1990 in a country studied in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course. Describe one example of a change in government since 2010 in a country studied in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course.

A regime change is the change in the rules and principles that guide leaders and governing institutions. This differs from a change in government which simply changes the leaders in power. One example of a regime change since 1990 would be ~~in 1999 when the South African~~ ~~of Mandela was established with the drafting of a new constitution.~~ One example of a change in government since ~~2010~~ would be in 1991 when the fall of the Soviet Union led to the rise of Boris Yeltsin, the drafting of a new constitution, and the establishment of the Russian Federation. One example of a change in government since 2010, would be the rise of Xi Jinping to the Presidency in 2013. This transition to a new generation of leaders in China also marked a change in the government.

COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Section II

Time—1 hour and 40 minutes

1C

Directions: You have 100 minutes to answer five short-answer concept questions, one conceptual analysis question and two country context questions. Unless the directions indicate otherwise, respond to all parts of all eight questions. It is suggested that you take a few minutes to plan and outline each answer. We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes total on questions 1 through 5, 30 minutes on question 6, and 40 minutes total on questions 7 and 8. These suggested times do not reflect the weight of the questions as part of your AP exam score. In your responses, use substantive examples where appropriate.

Short-Answer Concepts: We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes total on questions 1 through 5.

1. Explain how a regime change differs from a change in government. Describe one example of a regime change since 1990 in a country studied in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course. Describe one example of a change in government since 2010 in a country studied in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course.

A regime change occurs when the basic ideals, laws, and institutions of a state change, but a government change only occurs when new people lead the state. A regime change rarely happens and is difficult to do successfully, however changes in government are quite common. One example of a regime change since 1990 was in Nigeria when Goodluck Jonathan, the incumbent was replaced by President Buhari, the current president of Nigeria. One example of a change in government since 2010 was the election of 2015 election in the UK. Theresa May took over as the prime minister and the conservative party became the majority party in the House of Commons.

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2017 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 1

Overview

The intent of this question was to assess students' understanding of the differences between regime change and a change in government. The skills tested were explanatory and descriptive. Students had three specific tasks: to explain the difference between regime change and change in government, to describe one example of a regime change since 1990 in a country studied in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course, and to describe one example of change in government since 2010 in a country studied in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course.

Sample: 1A

Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for correctly explaining the difference between regime change and a change in government, "A regime change differs from a change in government in that the ruling body and all of its corresponding practices and governing character in a regime is changed. ... Contrastly [*sic*], a change in government represents a change in leadership or party." The response earned 1 point for correctly describing regime change since 1990 as "Mexico's transition from an authoritarian government to a procedural democracy." The response earned 1 point for correctly describing a change in government since 2010 as "the election of Buhari in Nigeria."

Sample: 1B

Score: 2

This response did not earn a point for explaining the difference between regime change and a change in government. The response earned 1 point for correctly describing regime change since 1990 as "in 1991 when the fall of the Soviet Union led to the rise of Boris Yeltsin, the drafting of a new constitution, and the establishment of the Russian Federation." The response earned 1 point for correctly describing a change in government since 2010 as "the rise of Xi Jinping to the Presidency in 2013."

Sample: 1C

Score: 1

The response earned 1 point for correctly explaining the difference between regime change and a change in government, "A regime change occurs when the basics [*sic*] ideals, laws, and institutions of a state change, but a government change only occurs when new people lead the state." The response did not earn a point for correctly describing regime change since 1990. The response did not earn a point for correctly describing a change in government since 2010.