AP Comparative Government and Politics

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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Question 2

3 points

One point is earned for correctly identifying the Conservative Party or Tories as the party with the majority of seats in the House of Commons.

One point is earned for correctly identifying the First-Past-the-Post (FPTP) or Single Member District (SMD) or plurality system or winner-take-all system as the electoral system in Great Britain.

One point is earned for a correct explanation of how the electoral system affects party representation in the House of Commons.

Correct explanations include:
- Promotes the dominance of two parties
- Overrepresentation of major parties
- Underrepresentation of minor or third parties, such as the Liberal Democrats or UK Independence Party (UKIP)
- Regional party representation in Parliament, such as the Scottish National Party (SNP)
- Increased representation of centrist parties

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.

2. Identify the party with the majority of seats in the House of Commons. Identify the electoral system Great Britain. Explain how the electoral system affects party representation in the House of Comm

2A

Currently, the party with the majority of seats in the House of Commons is the Conservative (Tories) Party. The electoral system for Great Britain is the parliamentary system and the members of parliament are strictly elected through single member district, FPTP pluralities. This system exaggerates the win for the two mainstream parties and makes it harder for third parties (like the Liberal Democrats) to hold more power.

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2. Identify the party with the majority of seats in the House of Commons. Identify the electoral sys
Great Britain. Explain how the electoral system affects party representation in the House of Con

2B

The current party with the majority of seats in the House of Commons is the Conservative Party. The electoral system in Great Britian is a first-past-the-post electoral system, ~~what~~ where a certain political party wins election and then nominates a party leader – the Prime Ministe Great Britians electoral system also determines party representation in the House of Commons. Proportional representation determines the amount of seats each party holds, depending on ~~what~~ ~~more~~ what per cent of the overall rote each party recieved.

2. Identify the party with the majority of seats in the House of Commons. Identify the electoral system in Great Britain. Explain how the electoral system affects party representation in the House of Commons

2C

The party with the majority of seats in the House of commons is the conservative party. The electoral system in great Brittain is Proportional representation. Proportional Representation affects party representation in the house of commons by most accurately ensuring that the percentage of votes for each party most closely matches the number of seats allotted to that respective party.

Question 2

Overview

The intent of this question was to assess students' knowledge of how the electoral system impacts party representation in the House of Commons in Great Britain. The skills tested were descriptive and explanatory. Students had three specific tasks: to identify the majority party in the House of Commons, to identify the electoral system in Great Britain, and to explain how the electoral system affects party representation in the House of Commons.

Sample: 2A
Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for correctly identifying the party with the majority of seats in the House of Commons as "the Conservative (Tories) Party." The response earned 1 point for correctly identifying the electoral system as "single member district, FPTP pluralities." The response earned 1 point for explaining how "[t]his system exaggerates the win for the two mainstream parties and makes it harder for third parties."

Sample: 2B
Score: 2

The response earned 1 point for correctly identifying the party with the majority of seats in the House of Commons as "the Conservative Party." The response earned 1 point for correctly identifying the electoral system as "first-past-the-post." The response did not earn a point for explaining how the electoral system affects party representation in the House of Commons.

Sample: 2C
Score: 1

The response earned 1 point for correctly identifying the party with the majority of seats in the House of Commons as "the conservative party." The response did not earn a point for correctly identifying the electoral system in Great Britain. The response did not earn a point for explaining how the electoral system affects party representation in the House of Commons.