AP

CollegeBoard

AP Comparative Government and Politics
Scoring Guidelines

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		• **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	• Election of 2000
	    ○ Authoritarian–democratic
	    ○ Dominant party–multiparty
	 • Accept reforms made under Zedillo
	 • Transition from dominant party to multiparty
		• Calderon–Pena Nieto
		 • PAN–PRI

Nigeria	• Fourth Republic or Constitution of 1999 (or late 1990s) • Authoritarian and/or military rule to democracy	• Yar'Ardua–Jonathan (PDP–PDP) • Jonathan–Buhari (PDP–APC)

Russia	• 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

* 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.

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.

Question 3

3 points

One point is earned for correctly describing the cause of the regional differences in foreign investment.

Correct descriptions may include:
- Proximity to the United States and markets
- More industry or better infrastructure
- Incentives generated by NAFTA
- Dominance of neoliberal-oriented PAN in North

One point is earned for correctly describing one economic consequence of the regional differences in foreign investment.

A correct description may include:

North:
- Wealthier
- Stronger economic growth
- More jobs
- More infrastructure
- Higher wages
- Migration from South
- More maquiladoras
- More trade with the United States
- More economic dependence on the United States
- More skilled workforce

South:
- Poorer
- Fewer jobs
- Less infrastructure
- Lower wages
- Migration to the North
- Less skilled workforce

One point is earned for correctly describing one political consequence of the regional differences in foreign investment.

A correct description may include:

In the North:
- More support for PAN
- More politically conservative
- More public support for free market
- More pro-American

In the South:
- More support for the PRD
- More leftist
- More anti-NAFTA sentiment
- More anti-neoliberal protests
- More protectionist
- More anti-American
- More statist

Broad Consequence:
- Regional differences create political cleavages.

NOTE: Some language needs to refer to the region (e.g., not just "jobs" but more jobs in the North).

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.

Question 4

3 points

One point is earned for correctly identifying Christians, Jews, or Zoroastrians as a religious minority with a reserved seat in the Majles.

Note: No credit is earned for B'hai or Sunni.

One point is earned for EACH correct explanation of why Iran reserves seats for some minority groups.

Correct explanations may include:
- Cooption and giving representation to:
  - give a voice to some minorities
  - appease some minorities
  - gain support from some minorities
  - reduce tensions and political unrest
- External or internal legitimacy
- Respect for People of the Book
- Upholding constitutional protections of some religious rights

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.

Question 5

3 points

One point is earned for correctly defining rule of law.

An acceptable definition may include:
- Everyone, including the leaders, is accountable to the law.
- The law is applied consistently or universally.

One point is earned for correctly describing an institutional arrangement that promotes the rule of law in democratic regimes.

Correct descriptions may include:
- Independent judiciary
- Separation of powers
- Checks and balances
- Impeachment by legislature
- Vote of no confidence by legislature

One point is earned for correctly explaining why authoritarian regimes resist the rule of law.

Correct explanations may include:
- Fear of accountability
- Fear of regime change
- Fear of losing office
- To punish opposition
- To engage in corruption
- To engage in patronage

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.

Question 6

6 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for EACH correct description of a function of a cabinet.

Correct identifications and descriptions may include:
- Advise the chief executive
- Manage bureaucracy or oversee implementation of policy
- Suggest or develop policies
- Represent the interests of their department or government
- Provide information for the public
- Implement policy
- Allow specialization in certain policy areas

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly identifying parliament or legislature as the institution from which members of the cabinet are drawn.

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly describing how a cabinet is formed in a parliamentary system.

Correct descriptions may include:
- The leader of the majority party selects cabinet members.
- Members of parliament vote for investiture or confirmation.
- The leader of the majority builds coalitions with smaller parties.

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly explaining how the process of removing cabinet members differs in a parliamentary and presidential system.

Correct explanations may include:
- In a presidential system, the legislature removes cabinet members with a vote of impeachment; in a parliamentary system, the legislature removes cabinet members through a vote of no confidence.

Part (e): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly explaining why policy making is more efficient in a parliamentary system than in a presidential system.

Correct explanations may include:
- Fusion of legislative and executive power.
- Parliamentary systems do not have divided government.
- Leadership is able to enforce stronger party discipline.

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.

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Question 7

5 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly explaining how large-scale oil production has stimulated economic development in Nigeria.

Correct explanations may include:
- Generates revenue to fund programs which promote economic development
- Increases jobs
- Increases access to global economy
- Attracts foreign direct investment

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly explaining how large-scale oil production has limited economic development in Nigeria.

Correct explanations include:
- Dependence on one resource makes economy vulnerable to commodity price changes.
- Government reliance on oil revenues has led to corruption instead of economic investment.
- Export of raw materials with no processing and value added has little effect on industrialization.
- It generates regional and sectoral economic inequalities leading to uneven development.
- Increased piracy of oil tankers and vandalism of pipelines discourages investment.
- Causes environmental damage, which limits future development.

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly describing how the degree of central government control of oil and gas production differs between Nigeria and Russia.

Correct explanations include:
- Russia has more central government control over oil and gas production than Nigeria.
- Russian oil and gas companies are state-owned or controlled whereas Nigerian oil and gas companies are joint ventures with multinational corporations (MNCs).

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly describing a political consequence of oil production in Nigeria.

Correct explanations include:
- Social action by environmental groups.
- Exacerbates cleavages.
- Government corruption.
- Low accountability of the state.
- Limits democratic development.
- Increases revenue for public goods and services.
- Competition for political control over oil resources and revenues.
- MNCs exert pressure on governments for favorable policies.

Part (e): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly describing a different political consequence of oil production in Russia.

Correct explanations include:
- Supports state centralization of power.
- Resources used to strengthen one-party dominance.
- Russia uses resources as a foreign policy tool.
- Low accountability of the state.
- Limits democratic development.
- Politicized role of oligarchs.
- Government corruption.
- Increases revenue for public goods and services.
- Social action by environmental groups.

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.

Question 8

6 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for correctly identifying a governmental constraint on media freedom in China AND one point is earned for an explanation of how it helped sustain the authoritarian regime in the past decade.

Acceptable identifications may include:
- Government censorship
- State control of the media
- Prosecution or intimidation of journalists
- Denying entry to or expelling foreign journalists

Acceptable explanations may include:
- To prevent emergence of dissent or opposition
- To prevent challenges to regime legitimacy
- To maintain regime support
- To prevent mobilization of opposition

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly explaining why China has allowed some media freedom in the past decade.

Correct explanations include:
- Increasing legitimacy
- External pressure
- Allowing criticism of local officials
- Reducing corruption at the local or national level
- Difficulty in controlling the media, given modern technology

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly explaining how the media has helped sustain democracy in Mexico in the past decade.

Acceptable explanations may include:
- Providing a check on government actions
- Providing accountability
- Ensuring fair elections
- Ensuring a voice for the opposition
- Encouraging citizen participation

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly describing one nongovernmental constraint on media freedom in Mexico in the past decade.

Correct descriptions may include:
- Increased violence against journalists by nongovernmental actors
- Intimidation by drug cartels
- Consolidation of media by private owners
- Limited access to media such as the Internet

Part (e): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly explaining why democratic regimes place constraints on media.

Correct explanations of why constraints are necessary in a democracy may include:
- To protect minority rights
- To protect national security
- To prevent libel and slander
- To prevent the encouragement of violent activities
- To maintain moral standards

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.