AP Comparative Government and Politics

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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Free Response Question 4

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Question 4

3 points

One point is earned for correctly identifying the PRI or the PAN as the political party of the Mexican president elected in the last 20 years.

One point is earned for correctly describing the electoral system used to select Mexico's president.

Acceptable descriptions include:
- First-Past-the-Post (FPTP)
- Plurality
- Most votes wins
- Winner-take-all system

One point is earned for correctly identifying one electoral reform and explaining why this reform made Mexico's presidential elections more competitive.

Acceptable identifications/explanations include:

Identification	Explanation
- Independent electoral institute (IFE/INE) - Sexenio or one-term limit - Media access or equal time rules - Campaign finance reform - Televised debates - Secret ballots - Voter identification cards - Federal Election Tribunal - Establishment of primary system	- Prevents fraud - Makes elections more fair - Increases number of candidates - Reduces clientelism or corruption - Legitimizes elections or voting - Creates greater transparency - Eliminates dedazo tradition

NOTE: Student must identify the reform and explain how that reform made elections more competitive. It is insufficient to just identify the reform.

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.

4. Identify the political party of a Mexican president elected in the last twenty years. Describe the elect_ used to select Mexico's president. Identify one electoral reform and explain why this reform made M __o s presidential elections more competitive.

Over the past 20 years many ~~presidential candidates~~ ~~wa~~ elected Mexican presidents have been from the party, PRI. Presidents in Mexico are elected democratically by a first-past-the-post vote. However, the candidate does not have to get a majority vote and there is no second round of voting between the top 2 candidates. Recently, an independent council was created to manage Mexican elections. This has led to less corruption in elections, and more free, mor fair elections.

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4. Identify the political party of a Mexican president elected in the last twenty years. Describe the elector used to select Mexico's president. Identify one electoral reform and explain why this reform made Me: presidential elections more competitive.

In 2000 PAN won the presidency from the PRI dominance through a first past the post own free & fair election. A political reform that has limited the presidents power within the gov is the sixenia or Mexicos term limit that means a president can only serve 1 term. Also

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4. Identify the political party of a Mexican president elected in the last twenty years. Describe the elector used to select Mexico's president. Identify one electoral reform and explain why this reform made Me presidential elections more competitive.

4C

Fox was apart of the PAN party of Mexico. The electoral system in mexico is a First-past-the-post system where the winner must win a majority ~~percentage~~ of the votes to become president. A recent reform is the majority of the votes system. This means the winner must win more than any other canidat, which increases the competitiveness of the election.

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AP® COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
2018 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 4

Overview

The intent of this question was to assess students' understanding of the presidential election system in Mexico and the impact of electoral reform on competition in presidential elections. The skills tested were descriptive and explanatory. Students had three specific tasks: to identify a political party that has held the presidency in the past twenty years; to describe the presidential electoral system in Mexico; and to identify a political reform to the Mexican presidential electoral system, then explain why that reform created greater political competition in Mexican presidential elections.

Sample: 4A
Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for identifying the party of a Mexican president in the last twenty years as PRI. The response correctly identifies one of the two parties that has held the presidency in Mexico in the last twenty years. An additional acceptable response would be PAN.

The response earned 1 point for describing the electoral system used to select Mexico's president as "first-past-the-post vote." The response correctly describes the electoral system used to select Mexico's president. Additional acceptable responses would include describing the voting system used to select Mexico's president as a plurality system, a winner-take-all system, or as a system where the most votes win.

The response earned 1 point for identifying as an electoral reform "an independent council … created to manage Mexican elections" and explaining that this reform has made Mexico's presidential elections more competitive by creating "less corruption in elections." The response correctly identifies as an electoral reform the creation of an independent electoral institution to supervise elections in Mexico and clearly explains that this reform made Mexico's presidential elections more competitive by reducing corruption in the electoral process. Additional acceptable responses would include identifying as an electoral reform a one-term limit for the president, which made Mexico's presidential elections more competitive by increasing the number of legitimate candidates, or equal time rules for candidate media access, which have made Mexico's presidential elections more competitive by making the elections more fair.

Sample: 4B
Score: 2

The response earned 1 point for identifying the party of a Mexican president in the last twenty years as PAN. The response correctly identifies one of the two parties that has held the presidency in Mexico in the last twenty years. An additional acceptable response would be PRI.

The response earned 1 point for describing the electoral system used to select Mexico's president as "first past the post … election." The response correctly describes the electoral system used to select Mexico's president. Additional acceptable responses would include describing the voting system used to select Mexico's president as a plurality system, a winner-take-all system, or as a system where the candidate with the most votes wins.

The response did not earn the point for identifying an electoral reform and explaining why the reform made Mexico's presidential elections more competitive. The response correctly identifies the "sexenio," in which "a president can only serve 1 term," as an electoral reform but does not clearly explain why this reform made Mexico's presidential elections more competitive. One acceptable response would be identifying as an electoral

reform a one-term limit for the president, which made Mexico's presidential elections more competitive by increasing the number of legitimate candidates. Other acceptable responses would include identifying the creation of an independent electoral institution to supervise elections in Mexico, and explaining that this reform made Mexico's presidential elections more competitive by reducing fraud in the electoral process, or equal time rules for candidate media access, which have made Mexico's presidential elections more competitive by making the elections more fair.

Sample: 4C
Score: 1

The response earned 1 point for identifying the party of a Mexican president in the last twenty years as PAN. The response correctly identifies one of the two parties that has held the presidency in Mexico in the last twenty years. An additional acceptable response would be PRI.

The response did not earn the point for describing the electoral system used to select Mexico's president. Although the response correctly identifies the electoral system used to select Mexico's president as "a First-past-the-post system," it incorrectly describes a first-past-the-post system as a "system where the winner must win a majority of the votes." Acceptable responses would include describing the voting system used to select Mexico's president as a plurality system, a winner-take-all system, or as a system where the most votes wins.

The response did not earn the point for identifying an electoral reform and explaining why the reform made Mexico's presidential elections more competitive. The response does not clearly explain why a reform made Mexico's presidential elections more competitive because it incorrectly identifies as an electoral reform "the majority of the votes system." One acceptable response would be identifying as an electoral reform the creation of an independent electoral institution to supervise elections in Mexico and explaining that this reform made Mexico's presidential elections more competitive by reducing fraud in the electoral process. Other acceptable responses would include identifying a one-term limit for the president, which made Mexico's presidential elections more competitive by increasing the number of legitimate candidates, or equal time rules for candidate media access, which have made Mexico's presidential elections more competitive by making the elections more fair.