
AP Comparative Government and Politics

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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Free Response Question 5

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AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2018 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 5

3 points

One point is earned for a correct description of a reason why both democratic and authoritarian regimes use coercion to govern.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- To ensure compliance or uphold law and order
- To assert the authority of the state

One point is earned for a correct description of one alternative to the use of coercion to govern in both democratic and authoritarian regimes.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Cooptation of key social actors
- Elections to reinforce legitimacy
- Appeals to nationalist identity
- Appeals to traditional or charismatic authority
- Provision of representation to key social actors
- Propaganda appeals for support
- Economic redistribution
- Incentives for compliance

One point is earned for a correct explanation of why authoritarian regimes do not rely exclusively on coercion to govern.

Acceptable explanations include:

- To maintain legitimacy and support from internal or external actors
- International pressures
- Fear of civil unrest
- High cost of repression
- Moral reservations on use of force

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.

5. Describe one reason both democratic and authoritarian regimes use coercion to govern. Describe one : 5A
to the use of coercion to govern in both democratic and authoritarian regimes. Explain why authoritarian
do not rely exclusively on coercion to govern.

One reason democratic and authoritarian regimes use coercion to govern is because it is easy to control the masses under the threat that they/their families will be hurt if they don't cooperate or adjust to the expectations of their society. One alternative to the use of coercion to govern in both democratic and authoritarian regimes is the use of bribes, where government officials will offer money to citizens and other people in high ranks in exchange for cooperation and compliance. Authoritarian regimes do not rely exclusively on coercion to govern because if ~~the~~ the threat of violence is too strong and the oppression of the people becomes too unbearable, authoritarian regimes risk having to deal with an uprising from within that has lots of popular support, as well as having to answer to international organizations and other countries for their actions against their citizens.

5. Describe one reason both democratic and authoritarian regimes use coercion to govern. Describe one alternative to the use of coercion to govern in both democratic and authoritarian regimes. Explain why authoritarian regimes do not rely exclusively on coercion to govern.

One reason both democratic and authoritarian regimes use coercion to govern is to demonstrate the government's authority over the state's policy and citizens. Coercion is the use of violence ~~and force~~ while governing. In both regimes, the use of violence, which creates fear, can allow the government to maintain control over its people. One alternative to the use of coercion to govern in both democratic and authoritarian regimes could be allowing the citizens the freedom to choose if they want to participate in politics, rather than forcing them to.

Authoritarian regimes do not rely exclusively on coercion to govern because then ~~the government~~ the government will have no legitimacy and the citizens could organize a rebellion to overthrow the government.

5. Describe one reason both democratic and authoritarian regimes use coercion to govern. Describe one alternative to the use of coercion to govern in both democratic and authoritarian regimes. Explain why authoritarian regimes do not rely exclusively on coercion to govern.

One reason both democratic and authoritarian regimes use coercion to govern is because it helps the government gain trust from its people and appear more legitimate. One alternative these regimes could use ~~is~~ instead of coercion is to hold local level elections or referendums. Even though authoritarian ^{governments} could be corrupt in using these, they appear more legitimate to the citizens. ~~these regimes~~ Authoritarian regimes do not only rely on coercion to govern because they still need complete control in their higher levels of government, just as China has.

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2018 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 5

Overview:

The intent of this question was to assess students' understanding of coercion, how democratic and authoritarian regimes use coercive strategies, and why these regimes seek alternatives to coercion. The skills tested were conceptual and analytical. Students had three specific tasks: to describe why regimes use coercion; to describe alternatives to the use of coercion; and to explain why authoritarian regimes do not rely exclusively on coercive strategies.

Sample: 5A

Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for describing that “regimes use coercion to govern ... because it is easy to control the masses under the threat that they/their families will be hurt if they don’t cooperate or adjust to the expectations of their society.” The response demonstrates an understanding of how coercion enables the state to enforce conformity with its expectations. Additional acceptable responses could have focused on the need of the state to assert its authority or to uphold the rule of law.

The response earned 1 point for the description of “the use of bribes, where government officials will offer money to citizens and other people in high ranks in exchange for cooperation and compliance.” The response demonstrates an understanding of how regimes use material incentives to induce compliance. Additional acceptable responses include appeals to national identity, propaganda appeals for support, and cooptation of key social actors.

The response earned 1 point for the explanation that “[a]uthoritarian regimes do not rely exclusively on coercion ... because if the threat of violence is too strong and the oppression of the people becomes too unbearable, authoritarian regimes risk having to deal with an uprising from within.” The response explains that coercive strategies may result in civil unrest. Additional acceptable responses include a need to maintain legitimacy internally and externally, a fear of international pressure, and the high cost of repression.

Sample 5B

Score: 2

The response earned 1 point for the description of how regimes use coercion: “to demonstrate the governments [*sic*] authority over the state’s policy and citizens. ... In both regimes, the use of violence, which creates fear, can allow the government to maintain control.” The response is clear with regard to how coercion demonstrates state power and authority and enables the state to keep power. Additional acceptable responses could have included the need to uphold law and order or the need to ensure compliance with state policy.

The response did not earn a point for describing an alternative to the use of coercion. The statement “allowing the citizens the freedom to choose if they want to participate in politics” does not represent an alternative to the use of coercion to govern.

The response earned 1 point for the explanation that “the government will have no legitimacy and the citizens could organize a rebellion to overthrow the government.” The response is clear regarding the potential dangers to an authoritarian regime of relying solely on coercion as a governing strategy. Additional acceptable

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Question 5 (continued)

responses could have included a need to maintain legitimacy internally and externally, a fear of international pressure, and the high cost of repression.

Sample 5C

Score: 1

The response did not earn a point for describing a reason why democratic and authoritarian regimes might use coercion. The statement “because it helps the government gain trust from it’s [*sic*] people and appear more legitimate” does not reflect an understanding of the use of coercion on a population.

The response earned 1 point for the description of “hold[ing] local level elections or referendums. Even though authoritarian governments could be corrupt in using these, they appear more legitimate to the citizens.” The response demonstrates an understanding of how democratic and authoritarian regimes might use elections to win support. Additional acceptable responses include appeal to national identity, propaganda appeals for support, and cooptation of key social actors.

The response did not earn a point for explaining why authoritarian regimes do not rely exclusively on coercion. The statement “because they still need complete control in their higher levels of government” does not explain why authoritarian states cannot exclusively rely on coercion.