
AP[®] Comparative Government and Politics

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 1

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Free Response Question 2

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AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 2

3 points

One point is earned for correctly identifying an agent of political socialization.

Acceptable identifications may include:

- Family or parents
- Schools or education
- The media
- Peers
- Religions
- Political parties
- Associations or interest groups

One point is earned for correctly describing the process of political socialization.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

Learning political values, partisanship, ideology, or norms from an agent of political socialization

One point is earned for a correct explanation of how political socialization affects a regime's stability.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- Enhances regime legitimacy by instilling values or norms that align with regime support
- Enhances regime legitimacy by fostering a sense of nationalism or patriotism
- Undermines the regime by transmitting subversive or revolutionary ideas

A score of zero (0) is earned for an attempted or off-task answer that earns no points.

A score of (—) is earned for a blank.

2. Identify an agent of political socialization. Describe the process of political socialization. Explain how socialization affects a regime's stability.

2A

One agent of political socialization is family. Political socialization is the process through which a person obtains their political views. This can happen through a variety of means such as the media or family or education. Political socialization is a major factor in identifying the power and authority of a ruling government. In powerful or more authoritative regimes, brainwashing is a tool used to divert the population from free thinking. On a smaller scale, this is shown through Russia and the Nazi program as well as propaganda in China. Through the brainwashing technique, governments can solidify their popularity and establish a sense of nationalism with their people creating an effective and powerful regime.

2. Identify an agent of political socialization. Describe the process of political socialization. Explain how political socialization affects a regime's stability.

2B

An agent of political socialization can be just about anything, but a good example would be the radio. If you are a teen driving in the car with a parent, and you have nothing to do other than listen to their radio station, you begin understanding things. What you hear, whether it be a left opinion or a right one, may make sense to you, but that doesn't matter much. What matters more is the fact that your parent, this figure you have always looked up to, listens and agrees to this radio station. That causes the radio to influence your way of ~~the~~ political thinking, which is political socialization. A stable regime has media outlets that affect people in that same way under a positive light. Even if radio stations can be argumentative, they do not insult the government or in any way try to undermine it, since that would have the power to disrupt the stability.

2. Identify an agent of political socialization. Describe the process of political socialization. Explain how socialization affects a regime's stability.

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An agent of political socialization is social media. The process of political socialization is the transfer of ideas from a source to another person by influencing through words or actions. This affects the regime's stability by testing the current government's legitimacy. By sharing ideas so freely to influence one another, the people's interests go above the trust in their government. This would ultimately lead to a decline in legitimacy, ~~or vice versa~~. A rise in legitimacy could also occur, especially in a democratic regime. This is due to the fact that the people are allowed to voice these concerns on referendums or even protests.

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2019 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 2

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Overview

The intent of this question was to assess students' understanding of political socialization and how it affects regime stability. The skills tested were descriptive and explanatory. Students had three specific tasks: to identify an agent of political socialization, to describe the process of political socialization, and to explain how political socialization affects regime stability.

Sample: 2A

Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for correctly identifying the family as an agent of political socialization. Additional acceptable identifications include school or education, media, peers, religion, political parties, and associations or interest groups.

The response earned 1 point for correctly describing the process of political socialization as “the process through which a person obtains their political views.” Other acceptable descriptions include the transmission or learning of political values, partisanship, ideology, or norms from an agent of political socialization.

The response earned 1 point for explaining that “through the brainwashing technique governments can solidify their popularity and establish a sense of nationalism with their people creating an effective and powerful regime.” Another acceptable explanation is that political socialization enhances a regime’s legitimacy by instilling values or norms that align with regime support or that political socialization undermines the regime by transmitting subversive or revolutionary ideas.

Sample: 2B

Score: 2

The response earned 1 point for correctly identifying the radio (a form of media) as an agent of political socialization. The response could also have earned the point for identifying a parent as an agent of political socialization. Additional acceptable identifications include school or education, peers, religion, political parties, and associations or interest groups.

The response earned 1 point for describing the process of political socialization as learning “that your parent, this figure you have always looked up to, listens and agrees to this radio station” and that “causes the radio to influence your way of political thinking.” Other acceptable descriptions include the transmission or learning of political values, partisanship, ideology, and norms from an agent of political socialization.

The response did not earn a point for explaining that a “stable regime has media outlets that affect people in the same way under a positive light. Even if radio stations can be argumentative, they do not insult the government, or in any way try to undermine it, since that would have the power to disrupt the stability” because this describes what the media does but does not explain how the media affects regime stability. An acceptable explanation is that political socialization enhances regime legitimacy by fostering a sense of nationalism or patriotism.

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Question 2 (continued)

Sample: 2C

Score: 1

The response earned a point for correctly identifying social media as an agent of socialization. Additional acceptable identifications include family or parents, school or education, peers, religion, political parties, and associations or interest groups.

The response did not earn a point for describing the process of political socialization as “the transfer of ideas from a source to another person by influencing through words or actions” because the use of the word “ideas” by itself does not convey the concept of political values or norms. A correct response could include the transmission or learning of political values, ideology, or norms from an agent of political socialization.

The response did not earn a point for explaining that political socialization affects a regime’s stability by “testing the current government’s legitimacy. By sharing ideas so freely to influence one another, the people’s interests go above the trust in their government” because the response talks about “ideas” which are not clearly values or norms, and the “current government” is not the same as a “regime,” which means the underlying rules about how a state exercises power.