
AP[®] Comparative Government and Politics

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 2

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Free Response Question 3

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AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 3

3 points

One point is earned for a correct description of the goal of sustainable development.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Economic growth or improvements in social welfare that can be maintained into the future
- Economic growth or improvements in social welfare while limiting environmental damage or degradation
- Economic growth or improvements in social welfare that manage natural and other resources so they are not used up

One point is earned for correctly identifying one sector of Nigeria's economy in which sustainable development has been a serious challenge.

Acceptable identifications may include:

- Nigeria's energy sector, such as the oil industry
- Nigeria's agricultural sector

One point is earned for a correct explanation of how economic factors influence environmental policy in Nigeria.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- Oil dependence or government reliance on rents discourages strict environmental regulations.
- Economic underdevelopment discourages strict environmental regulations.
- Foreign involvement or corruption in the oil industry complicates efforts to pass or enforce environmental policies.
- Overexploitation of resources led to the establishment of regulatory agencies or the passage of environmental laws.

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.

3. Describe the goal of sustainable development. Identify one sector of Nigeria's economy in which sustainable development has been a serious challenge. Explain how economic factors influence environmental policy in Nigeria.

The goal of sustainable development is to develop and grow the economy and nation while causing little damage to the environment, or doing the best to reduce damage to the environment. One sector in Nigeria's economy in which sustainable development is a challenge is their large oil industry. While Nigeria wishes they could do more to benefit the environment, oil is their largest industry and greatest economic resource, their environmental policy cannot restrict oil production without damaging the economy.

3. Describe the goal of sustainable development. Identify one sector of Nigeria's economy in which sustainable development has been a serious challenge. Explain how economic factors influence environmental policy in Nigeria.

The goal of sustainable development is for a nation to be able to sustain itself and not have to rely on foreign nations for aid in development. If a country is able to achieve the goal of sustainable development, they will be able to support themselves with their own economy. In Nigeria's economy, sustainable development has been a serious challenge in regards to its oil production. As a rentier state, Nigeria is unable to develop without the help of foreign investors seeking oil. Because Nigeria relies so heavily on oil production, their environment is struggling. They are so focused on getting enough money that they disregard many environmental problems. This leads to a significant lack of environmental policy. With this lack of environmental policy, Nigeria's environment has been declining significantly as increasing oil ~~production~~ production brings pollution. Another reason that sustainable development in Nigeria's economy is challenged is because of corrupt officials. These corrupt officials support massive oil production, but they take a lot of the money earned from oil ~~sales~~ sales for themselves. Because of this, oil production is not a sustainable sector of the economy because the profits are unreliable and corruptible.

3. Describe the goal of sustainable development. Identify one sector of Nigeria's economy in which sustainable development has been a serious challenge. Explain how economic factors influence environmental policy in Nigeria.

The goal of sustainable development is to make sure the environment is clean and safe to improve ~~best~~ efficiency. Nigeria's oil sector struggles with sustainable development. In Nigeria, revenues from the oil sector are not distributed evenly. The corrupt system leads to more oil pirates that attempt to harness oil illegally, and often times to the detriment of the environment. For these reasons, the water in the Niger Delta is heavily polluted, and the government is forced to create new environmental policy.

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2019 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 3

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 sustainable development and the economic factors that influence environmental policy in Nigeria. The skills tested were descriptive and explanatory. Students had three specific tasks: to describe the goal of sustainable development, to identify one sector of Nigeria's economy in which sustainable development has been a serious challenge, and to explain how economic factors influence environmental policy in Nigeria.

Sample: 3A

Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for describing the goal of sustainable development as “to develop and grow the economy and nation while causing little damage to the environment, or doing the best to reduce damage to the environment.” Additional acceptable responses include that the goal of sustainable development is economic growth or improvements in social welfare that can be maintained into the future, improvements in social welfare while limiting environmental degradation, and economic growth or improvements in social welfare that manage natural and other resources so they are not used up.

The response earned 1 point for identifying the “large oil industry” as a sector of Nigeria's economy in which sustainable development has been a serious challenge. An additional acceptable response is the agricultural sector.

The response earned 1 point for explaining that economic factors influence environmental policy in Nigeria because “oil is their largest industry and greatest economic resource, their environmental policy cannot restrict oil production without damaging the economy.” Additional acceptable explanations include that government reliance on rents discourages strict environmental regulations, economic underdevelopment discourages strict environmental regulations, foreign involvement or corruption in the oil industry complicates efforts to pass or enforce environmental policies, and overexploitation of resources leads to the establishment of regulatory agencies or passage of environmental laws.

Sample: 3B

Score: 2

The response did not earn a point for describing the goal of sustainable development as “for a nation to be able sustain itself and not have to rely on foreign nations for aid in development.” The response is vague and does not adequately describe the goal of sustainable development as economic growth or improvement in social welfare that can be maintained either into the future or with limited damage to the environment.

The response earned 1 point for identifying “oil production” as a sector of Nigeria's economy in which sustainable development has been a serious challenge. An additional acceptable response is the agricultural sector.

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Question 3 (continued)

The response earned 1 point for explaining that economic factors influence environmental policy in Nigeria because “Nigeria relies so heavily on oil production, their environment is struggling. They are so focused on getting enough money that they disregard many environmental problems. This leads to a significant lack of environmental policy.” The response explains that oil dependence discourages strict environmental regulations. Additional acceptable explanations include that government reliance on rents discourages strict environmental regulations, economic underdevelopment discourages strict environmental regulations, foreign involvement or corruption in the oil industry complicates efforts to pass or enforce environmental policies, and overexploitation of resources leads to the establishment of regulatory agencies or passage of environmental laws.

Sample: 3C

Score: 1

The response did not earn a point for describing the goal of sustainable development as “to make sure the environment is clean and safe to improve efficiency.” The response is vague and does not adequately describe the goal of sustainable development as economic growth or improvement in social welfare that can be maintained either into the future or with limited damage to the environment.

The response earned 1 point for identifying the “oil sector” as a sector of Nigeria’s economy in which sustainable development has been a serious challenge. An additional acceptable response is the agricultural sector.

The response did not earn a point for correctly explaining that economic factors influence environmental policy in Nigeria because the “corrupt system leads to more oil pirates that attempt to harness oil illegally, and often times to the detriment of the environment. For these reasons, the water in the Niger Delta is heavily polluted, and the government is forced to create new environmental policy.” The response is vague and does not correctly explain that corruption in the oil industry complicates efforts to pass or enforce environmental policies.