
AP[®] Comparative Government and Politics

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 2

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Free Response Question 6

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AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 6

6 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for EACH correct description of a function of a bureaucracy in political systems.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Policy implementation or enforcement
- Connect or link government to people
- Provide policy makers with information
- Allow for specialization or expertise
- Deliver services to the public
- Promote greater efficiency
- Recruitment and training for government service
- Long-term stability for government

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for a correct identification of a way governments recruit civil servants in a merit-based bureaucracy.

Acceptable identifications may include:

- Civil service examinations
- Educational background
- Successful experience in field of expertise
- Candidates recruited based on their ability or qualifications

One point is earned for a correct explanation of how this method of recruitment can build legitimacy.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- Competence encourages legitimacy.
- Qualified civil servants build confidence.
- Process is viewed as fair and impartial.

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Question 6 (continued)

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for a correct identification of a way governments recruit civil servants in a non-merit-based bureaucracy.

Acceptable identifications may include:

- Clientelism or patronage
- Through birth, religion, ethnicity, gender, or region
- Nepotism
- Party loyalty, identification, or membership

One point is earned for a correct explanation of how this method of recruitment can build legitimacy.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- Groups receiving bureaucratic positions support the regime
- Strong civil service support for the regime
- Government policies more uniformly delivered or enforced

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

A score of dash (—) is earned for a blank or off-task answer.

Conceptual Analysis: We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes on question 6.

6. Bureaucracies can play a vital role in building legitimacy in political systems.
- (a) Describe two functions of a bureaucracy in a political system.
 - (b) Identify one way governments recruit civil servants in a merit-based bureaucracy. Explain how this method of recruitment can build legitimacy in a political system.
 - (c) Identify one way governments recruit civil servants in a non-merit-based bureaucracy. Explain how this method of recruitment can build legitimacy in a political system.

a) One function of ^a ~~the~~ bureaucracy is managing day-to-day responsibilities in running a state. Another function is providing the public with access to governmental services at a lower, more convenient level.

b) One way governments can recruit civil servants in a merit-based bureaucracy is through examinations assessing ~~the~~ prospective servants' skills and capabilities. This method can build legitimacy because it shows the public opportunity for advancement and upward mobility.

c) In non-merit-based bureaucracies, governments can recruit civil servants through nepotism and family. This method ~~may~~ can develop traditional legitimacy in a political system as the public sees continuity in government as increasingly legitimate over time.

Conceptual Analysis: We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes on question 6.

6B1

6. Bureaucracies can play a vital role in building legitimacy in political systems.
- (a) Describe two functions of a bureaucracy in a political system.
enforce laws influence policy create legitimacy of laws
 - (b) Identify one way governments recruit civil servants in a merit-based bureaucracy. Explain how this method of recruitment can build legitimacy in a political system.
 - (c) Identify one way governments recruit civil servants in a non-merit-based bureaucracy. Explain how this method of recruitment can build legitimacy in a political system.

a) The bureaucracy is there to enforce legislation that congress makes. They also have some influence on policy. They also create/increase or decrease legitimacy of that legislation because if they don't enforce the policy then the legitimacy decrease and same if they do enforce it, that legitimacy increases. They carry out ~~these~~ laws for ~~the~~ government.

b) They have to take a civil service exam to prove their knowledge and skill. They're chosen based on skill not on ~~who~~ who they know (patronage). if that bureaucrat is skilled and knows what they're doing then it ^{increases} creates legitimacy because they're not just doing it because their friend hired them ~~because~~. if a skilled & knowledgeable person supports and enforces something, other people will too.

c) Governments use patronage or patron clientelism to recruit people. ~~its~~ it's a job in exchange for favors. This decreases legitimacy because it's corrupt and the bureaucrat usually just agrees and does what the employer wants since they're getting benefits. It could

6B₂

sort of build/increase legitimacy for that party or leader
because all these people agree with that policy so it creates
unity.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

Conceptual Analysis: We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes on question 6.

6. Bureaucracies can play a vital role in building legitimacy in political systems.
- (a) Describe two functions of a bureaucracy in a political system.
 - (b) Identify one way governments recruit civil servants in a merit-based bureaucracy. Explain how this method of recruitment can build legitimacy in a political system.
 - (c) Identify one way governments recruit civil servants in a non-merit-based bureaucracy. Explain how this method of recruitment can build legitimacy in a political system.

A. A bureaucracy in a political system helps create laws + speak for the people.

B. ~~When~~ In a merit-based bureaucracy, governments recruit civil servants based on their merit. This includes things such as past achievements, reliability, experience, history, etc. This method of recruitment can build legitimacy in a political system as the bureaucrats are able to be trusted by the people.

C. In a non-merit-based bureaucracy, civil servants are voted in directly by the people. This method of recruitment can build legitimacy as the people voted them in so you know it's who they wanted to run the country.

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2019 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 6

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 the role of the bureaucracy in political systems. The skills tested were descriptive and explanatory. Students had three specific tasks: to describe two functions of a bureaucracy in a political system, to identify one way governments recruit civil servants in a merit-based bureaucracy and explain how this method of recruitment can build legitimacy in a political system, and to identify one way governments recruit civil servants in a non-merit-based bureaucracy and explain how this method of recruitment can build legitimacy in a political system.

Sample: 6A

Score: 6

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for describing “managing day-to-day responsibilities of running a state” and earned 1 point for describing “providing the public with access to governmental services” as two functions of a bureaucracy in a political system. The response, while brief, adequately demonstrates an understanding of functions that a bureaucracy carries out. Additional acceptable responses include greater efficiency and providing policymakers with information.

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for identifying one way governments recruit civil servants in a merit-based bureaucracy by stating, “One way governments can recruit civil servants in a merit-based bureaucracy is through examinations assessing prospective servants’ skills and capabilities.” The response clearly demonstrates an understanding of what merit entails. Other acceptable responses include successful experience in a field of expertise and educational background.

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for explaining, “This method can build legitimacy because it shows the public opportunity for advancement and upward mobility.” This explanation clearly links a merit-based system to increased legitimacy. Other acceptable responses include that competence encourages legitimacy and that qualified civil servants build confidence.

In part (c) the response earned 1 point for identifying one way governments recruit civil servants in a non-merit-based bureaucracy by stating that “governments can recruit civil servants through nepotism and family.” This response exhibits a clear understanding of what a non-merit-based bureaucracy might entail. Additional acceptable responses include religious ties, party loyalty, and clientelism.

In part (c) the response earned 1 point for explaining, “This method can develop traditional legitimacy ... as the public sees continuity in government as increasingly legitimate over time.” This response explains a link between the method of non-merit-based bureaucracy recruitment and increasing legitimacy. An additional acceptable response is that groups receiving bureaucratic positions support the regime.

Sample: 6B

Score: 4

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for describing that the functions of a bureaucracy in a political system include that “[t]he bureaucracy is there to enforce legislation that congress makes.” A bureaucracy implements and enforces policy. It does not create policy, which, as the response notes, is the domain of the legislative branch. The description “[t]hey also have some influence on policy” is too vague to receive credit without further support. Other acceptable responses include delivering services to the public and promoting greater efficiency.

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Question 6 (continued)

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for identifying one way governments recruit civil servants in a merit-based bureaucracy by stating, “They have to take a civil service exam to prove their knowledge and skill.” The response clearly demonstrates an understanding of what merit entails. Other acceptable responses include successful experience in a field of expertise and educational background.

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for explaining that “they’re not just doing it because their friend hired them. If a skilled & knowledgeable person supports and enforces something, other people will too.” This explanation clearly links a merit-based system to increased legitimacy by noting that competence promotes legitimacy. Other acceptable responses include that the process is viewed as fair and impartial and that qualified civil servants build confidence.

In part (c) the response earned 1 point for identifying one way governments recruit civil servants in a non-merit-based bureaucracy by stating, “Governments use patronage or patron clientelism to recruit people.” This response exhibits a clear understanding that a non-merit-based selection may involve a quid pro quo relationship. Additional acceptable responses include nepotism, party loyalty, and religious affiliation.

In part (c) the response did not earn a point for explaining, “This decreases legitimacy because its corrupt and the bureaucrat usually just agrees and does what the employer wants since they’re getting benefits. It could sort of build/ increase legitimacy for that party or leader because all these people agree with the policy so it creates unity.” This response first explains why legitimacy would decrease, rather than increase, as the question calls for. Then, the response overstates “in absolute terms that all people would support the regime.” An acceptable response is strong civil service support for the regime.

Sample: 6C

Score: 2

In part (a) the response did not earn any points for describing two functions of a bureaucracy in a political system as “a political system helps create laws & speak for the people.” The response describes a legislature and not a bureaucracy. Acceptable responses include greater efficiency and delivering services to the public.

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for identifying one way governments recruit civil servants in a merit-based bureaucracy by stating that “governments recruit civil servants based on their merit. This includes things such as past achievements, reliability, experience, history, etc.” This response connects successful experience in a related bureaucratic field as a valid example of merit. Additional acceptable responses include civil service examinations and educational background.

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for explaining, “This method of recruitment can build legitimacy in a political system as the bureaucrats are able to be trusted by the people.” This explanation clearly links a merit-based system to increased legitimacy by noting that competence promotes trust. An additional acceptable response is that qualified civil servants build confidence.

In part (c) the response did not earn a point for identifying one way governments recruit civil servants in a non-merit-based bureaucracy by stating that “civil servants are voted in directly by the people.” Bureaucracies are not staffed through elections. Acceptable responses include clientelism, nepotism, and party loyalty.

In part (c) the response did not earn a point for explaining, “This method of recruitment can build legitimacy as the people voted them in so you know it’s who they wanted to run the country.” Bureaucracies are not staffed through elections. Acceptable responses include strong civil service support for the regime and groups receiving bureaucratic positions will support the regime.