
AP[®] Comparative Government and Politics

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 1

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AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

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Question 8

5 points

Part (a):

One point is earned for correctly describing one difference in the age structure of China compared to that of Nigeria.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- China has an older population than Nigeria OR Nigeria has a younger population than China.
- There is a bulge in the middle age cohort in China, but not in Nigeria.

Note: Answers may also refer to an accurate comparison of particular age brackets.

Part (b):

One point is earned for correctly describing one governmental policy that influenced the age structure in China.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- The one-child policy reduced population growth and the number of children born.
- The one-child policy penalized most couples who had more than one child.
- The one-child policy limited the number of children per family.

Part (c):

One point is earned for correctly describing one economic consequence of the age structure of Nigeria.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- High dependency ratio because a significant portion of the population is young and unable to support itself, which places pressure on families
- High unemployment
- Budget pressures for more education spending or other social spending
- Large available workforce that can support economic growth and entrepreneurial activity

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Question 8 (continued)

Part (d):

One point is earned for correctly describing one economic consequence of the age structure of China.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- High dependency ratio since the large elderly population will need to be supported, which will put pressure on the working population and the state.
- Large current workforce to support economic growth.
- In the future the workforce will shrink, impacting economic growth.
- Resources are spent on smaller youth population, giving them educational opportunities that support economic growth.

Part (e):

One point is earned for correctly explaining a political consequence of having a disproportionately younger population structure.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- Discontent with the economic or political situation that affects the more liberal youth population leads to protests, regime or government change, or revolution.
- The large youth population may have political interests that diverge from the older generation's that could lead to support for specific political parties and affect voting patterns and election results.
- The large youth population could lead to an expansion of services and programs for young people in order to gain their support.
- The large youth population could pressure leaders to adopt policies reflecting the interests of the youth.
- With a large youth population, a significant number of citizens are not directly represented because they cannot vote, and their interests may not be heard.

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.

8. The population pyramids illustrate the age and sex structure of China's and Nigeria's populations.
- Using the population pyramids, describe one difference in the age structure of China compared to that of Nigeria.
 - Describe one governmental policy that influenced the age structure in China.
 - Describe one economic consequence of the age structure of Nigeria.
 - Describe one economic consequence of the age structure of China.
 - Explain a political consequence of having a disproportionately younger population structure.

A) One difference in the age structure of China compared to that of Nigeria is that China has a much older population than Nigeria does with less young people to support them. This is the result of various governmental policies in China that resulted in this.

B) The one child policy in China which said that each family in China could only have one child was the main influence in China's age structure. This meant that the older generation would be much larger than the current one so in the future there will be a lack of workers available to fill jobs and support the older generation.

C) An economic consequence of the age structure in Nigeria is that the economy is really growing fast, [with all that young labor and resources available people are invested in Nigeria's economy and are excited for the future.]

D) One economic consequence of the age structure in China is that there will be a decline in the fast growing economy that they used to have. The reason for this is because

ADDITIONAL ANSWER PAGE FOR QUESTION 8

of the lack of younger people that exist in China that would otherwise be around to fill the jobs of the older people who are now old enough to start retiring. There will be a huge labor shortage which is why China reversed it's one child policy.

E) A political consequence for having a disproportionately younger population is that [when politicians pass laws it would be more aimed towards pleasing the younger generation.] Most other countries have more old people so they focus on things they would like like health care and in the U.S. Social Security. In Nigeria it's more focused on jobs and the economy.

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8. The population pyramids illustrate the age and sex structure of China's and Nigeria's populations.
- Using the population pyramids, describe one difference in the age structure of China compared to that of Nigeria.
 - Describe one governmental policy that influenced the age structure in China. ✓
 - Describe one economic consequence of the age structure of Nigeria.
 - Describe one economic consequence of the age structure of China.
 - Explain a political consequence of having a disproportionately younger population structure.

A) China's population ~~majority~~ ^{majority} lies in the group of people 40-44 years old, while Nigeria's lies in the group of people 0-4 years old.

B) One policy that influenced this was [the "one-child policy"] which prevented families from having over one child to keep population under control.

C) [With more children, Nigeria requires more resources in order to properly care them,] so poverty becomes ~~of~~ more prominent due to a short supply of these resources.

D) One economic consequence in China is the growing older population that will retire and no longer provide to the ~~strong~~ economy. [Because there will be more older people than young people, the young people ~~will~~ have the responsibility of generating more revenue to makeup for the lack of input from the older ones.]

E) A political consequence of having a disproportionately younger population structure is the lower number of voter turnout at elections because most of the population isn't old enough to vote, causing less competition and weakening democracy.

8. The population pyramids illustrate the age and sex structure of China's and Nigeria's populations.
- (a) Using the population pyramids, describe one difference in the age structure of China compared to that of Nigeria.
 - (b) Describe one governmental policy that influenced the age structure in China.
 - (c) Describe one economic consequence of the age structure of Nigeria.
 - (d) Describe one economic consequence of the age structure of China.
 - (e) Explain a political consequence of having a disproportionately younger population structure.

a) One difference between the population structure of China compared to that of Nigeria is that [China's population ~~is~~ is ^{largely} concentrated in the ages of 40 to 49 while Nigeria's ~~pop~~ population is heavily ~~more~~ younger, ~~being concentrated from~~ largely concentrated in the ages of 0 to 4. China has an older population compared to that of Nigeria.

b) The One Child Policy has influenced the age structure in China.

c) One economic consequence of Nigeria's age ~~struct~~ structure is that it lacks a long lasting strong workforce ~~since~~ since most of its population is younger ~~than~~ than 10 year old Nigeria's

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workforce is ~~sa~~ small, ~~and lacks a large~~ with a small life expectancy_e which shrinks it as well.

d) One economic consequence of China's age structure [its ^{large} aging population that will not be supported by the new and ~~smaller~~ slightly smaller workforce,] less people are having kids meaning that china's workforce will shrink.

e) A political consequence of having a disproportionately younger ^{population} ~~workforce~~ is having a small working class. with such a young affects the size of the working class. Usually having a largely young population makes the working class smaller since the majority of the population is underage and not able to work.

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2019 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 8

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 how age structure impacts economic and political systems. The skills tested were descriptive and explanatory. Students had five specific tasks: to describe one difference between the age structure of China and the age structure of Nigeria, to describe one governmental policy that has influenced the age structure in China, to describe one economic consequence of the age structure in Nigeria, to describe one economic consequence of the age structure in China, and to explain a political consequence of having a disproportionately younger population.

Sample: 8A

Score: 5

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for correctly describing one difference in the age structures as “China has a much older population than Nigeria.” Additional acceptable descriptions include that Nigeria has a younger population than China and that China has more people in the middle-aged cohort than Nigeria.

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for correctly describing a government policy as “The one child policy in China which said that each family in China could only have one child.” Additional acceptable descriptions include that the one-child policy reduced population growth and that the one-child policy penalized families who had more than one child.

In part (c) the response earned 1 point for describing one economic consequence of the age structure in Nigeria as “with all that young labor and reasources available people are invested in Nigeria’s economy.” Additional acceptable descriptions include that the large youth population leads to high unemployment or that the large youth population will place pressure on the government to provide social spending on programs such as education.

In part (d) the response earned 1 point for describing one economic consequence of the age structure in China: “There will be a huge labor shortage.” Additional acceptable descriptions include that there will not be enough workers to support the larger, dependent elderly population and that currently there is a large workforce to support economic growth.

In part (e) the response earned 1 point for explaining one political consequence of the disproportionately younger population structure as “when polititians pass laws it would be more aimed towards pleasing the younger generation.” Additional acceptable explanations include discontent with the economic situation, which could lead the large youth population to protest, and that the large youth population could support new candidates and parties that reflect their interests.

Sample: 8B

Score: 3

In part (a) the response did not earn a point for correctly describing a difference between the age structure of China and Nigeria. The statement “China’s population majority lies in the group of people 40–44 years old” did not earn a point because it incorrectly describes a majority of China’s population as between the ages of 40 and 44. Some acceptable descriptions include that China has an older population than Nigeria and that Nigeria has a younger population than China.

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Question 8 (continued)

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for correctly describing a government policy as “the ‘one-child policy,’ which prevented families from having over one child.” Additional acceptable descriptions include that the one-child policy reduced population growth and that the one-child policy penalized families who had more than one child.

In part (c) the response earned 1 point for describing one economic consequence of the age structure in Nigeria as “[w]ith more children, Nigeria requires more resources in order to properly aid them.” Additional acceptable descriptions include that the large youth population leads to high unemployment and that the large youth population provides the workforce to support a growing economy.

In part (d) the response earned 1 point for describing one economic consequence of the age structure in China: “Because there will be more older people than young people, the young people will have the responsibility of generating more revenue.” Additional acceptable descriptions include that there will not be enough workers in the future and that currently there is a large workforce to support economic growth.

In part (e) the response did not earn a point for explaining a political consequence of a disproportionately younger population. The statement that “A political consequence of having a disproportionately younger population structure is the lower number of voter turnout” did not earn a point because voter turnout does not include ineligible voters and would not be affected by a large youth population. Some acceptable explanations include discontent with the economic situation, which could lead the large youth population to protest, and that the large youth population could lead to an expansion of government services for young people.

Sample: 8C

Score: 2

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for correctly describing one difference in the age structures as “China’s population is largely concentrated in the ages of 40 to 49 while Nigeria’s population is heavily younger.” Additional acceptable descriptions include that Nigeria has a younger population than China and that China’s population is older than Nigeria’s.

In part (b) the response did not earn a point for a description of one governmental policy that influenced the age structure in China. The statement that the “One Child Policy has influenced the age structure in China” did not earn a point because it identifies the one-child policy but does not describe it. Some acceptable descriptions include that the one-child policy reduced population growth and that the one-child policy penalized families who had more than one child.

In part (c) the response did not earn a point for describing one economic consequence of the age structure in Nigeria. The statement “it lacks a long lasting strong workforce since most of its population is younger than 10 year old Nigeria’s workforce is small” did not earn a point because it inaccurately describes the size of Nigeria’s workforce. Some acceptable descriptions include that the large youth population leads to high unemployment and that the large youth population will place pressure on the government to provide social spending on programs such as education.

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Question 8 (continued)

In part (d) the response earned 1 point for describing one economic consequence of the age structure in China as “its large aging population that will not be supported by the new and smaller workforce.” Additional acceptable descriptions include that there will not be enough workers in the future and that currently there is a large workforce to support economic growth.

In part (e) the response did not earn a point for explaining a political consequence of a disproportionately younger population. The statement that “a disproportionately younger population affects the size of the working class” did not earn a point because it explains an economic and not a political consequence. Some acceptable explanations include discontent with the economic situation, which could lead the large youth population to protest, and that the large youth population could lead to an expansion of government services for young people.