



## **AP<sup>®</sup> Comparative Government and Politics 2005 Sample Student Responses**

### **The College Board: Connecting Students to College Success**

The College Board is a not-for-profit membership association whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the association is composed of more than 4,700 schools, colleges, universities, and other educational organizations. Each year, the College Board serves over three and a half million students and their parents, 23,000 high schools, and 3,500 colleges through major programs and services in college admissions, guidance, assessment, financial aid, enrollment, and teaching and learning. Among its best-known programs are the SAT<sup>®</sup>, the PSAT/NMSQT<sup>®</sup>, and the Advanced Placement Program<sup>®</sup> (AP<sup>®</sup>). The College Board is committed to the principles of excellence and equity, and that commitment is embodied in all of its programs, services, activities, and concerns.

Copyright © 2005 by College Board. All rights reserved. College Board, AP Central, APCD, Advanced Placement Program, AP, AP Vertical Teams, Pre-AP, SAT, and the acorn logo are registered trademarks of the College Entrance Examination Board. Admitted Class Evaluation Service, CollegeEd, Connect to college success, MyRoad, SAT Professional Development, SAT Readiness Program, and Setting the Cornerstones are trademarks owned by the College Entrance Examination Board. PSAT/NMSQT is a registered trademark of the College Entrance Examination Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Other products and services may be trademarks of their respective owners. Permission to use copyrighted College Board materials may be requested online at: <http://www.collegeboard.com/inquiry/cbpermit.html>.

**Visit the College Board on the Web: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).**

**AP Central is the official online home for the AP Program and Pre-AP: [apcentral.collegeboard.com](http://apcentral.collegeboard.com).**

a. Russia is more developed than China. While the largest sector of China's economy is industry, with almost half the largest sector of Russia's economy by GDP is service. China also has a larger percent GDP in agriculture, indicating that it is still dependent on hard labor ~~in~~ rather than the minds of its people. Service generally requires more education than the other sectors and is always the last to develop, and since Russia's percent GDP is highest there, it indicates that Russia is more developed than China. Furthermore, the high literacy rate in Russia, 98%, in comparison to the lower rate in China, 81.5%, implies that Russia is further along in terms of education and equality. The high literacy rate in Russia indicates the high level of importance given to education, which is a true indicator of development. Now that the Russians have the necessities for living (food, water, housing, job) they can afford to concentrate on the education of their future generations. Literacy means access to the written ideas of others, and the fact that even Russian women have a ~~97%~~ 97% literacy rate suggests that there is no longer a male dominated society from the past. However, the disparity in the general literacy rate and female literacy rate in China indicates that a certain level of repression still exists and that women are still not being treated equally as men. This denial of equal opportunity to all citizens is a sure sign that China is less developed than Russia.

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

1

b. In the last fifteen years, international forces have caused the government in Russia to pursue a more democratic form of society. The international aid made available to Russia has also eased anti-Western sentiment and made it easier for the government to focus on issues other than money. Russia has opened itself up to the world and as a result has had to give more freedoms to its people. Food is less of an issue because of international aid, so the focus has shifted from the Stalinist one on agriculture to service.

Leadership change from Mikhail Gorbachev to Boris Yeltsin has also contributed to the development of Russia. Because Yeltsin had the Constitution rewritten, giving him (the President) more power, he can more easily enforce his reformist policies. Friendlier relations with the United States opened up Russian society to more civil liberties and the Russian economy to market forces. State-owned industries proved a strain on the economy, causing people to move from the industrial sector to the service sector.

A) I will be using the first and second indicators in the table to argue that China is more developed.

- In the first indicator, GDP per capita, China has a lower value than Russia. However, the indicator failed to mention the huge population differences between the two countries. China, having a population of over 1.3 billion people, would have a little <sup>less</sup> ~~more~~ than 6 trillion US dollars in GDP. Assuming Russia has a population of 800 million people, it would be short of 1 trillion US dollars. As a result, China, by the first indicator, is more economically developed.

- In the second indicator, GDP by economic sector, China surpasses Russia (by percentage) in two of the three sub-categories. However, even in the third category, service, China is more developed because it emphasizes party devotion, and government tests, and *guanxi* in order to enter service. China did not have a *nomenklatura* that the former USSR had. Hence, the service percentage being higher is a direct result of Russia's usage of people listed in the *nomenklatura* in private businesses and making them "oligarchs." As a result, the public servants (service) in Russia make tremendously larger amounts of money due to their lucrative jobs.

As a result of these two indicators, China is the more developed.



B) International forces and leadership change has been most influential in contributing to China's level of development.

- Leadership change was essential for present day economic prosperity and development. If China stayed under Maoism ideology of isolation and little trade between foreign nations, China's economy would never have been able to compete in today's competitive world markets. Hence, with the leadership change to Deng Xiaoping theory, China opened itself to the world (the sleeping giant awoke, as Napoleon would put it). With this theory, China can well be classified as an Authoritarian Capitalist state. This has allowed for foreign investment and development within China both economically and socially and politically, as the newest president, Hu Jintao, is an entrepreneur. Imagine a Chinese private entrepreneur President 30 years ago!

- International forces have also led to China's development. With leadership changes, China's market and resources were opened to the world. The United States has given China Most Favored Nation status and that has helped China develop economically. However, China's entry into the WTO has had an even bigger impact into its economic, social, and political development.

More recently, China's trip to India and proposal with India to lead the world in information

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering  
on this page as it is designated in the examination.

1

technology" sums up the enormity of China's develop-  
60 years ago, being an isolationist state; present  
day, reaching out to the world. The sleeping  
giant is wide awake!

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

1

China and Russia have gone through tremendous changes over the years. They have shifted from centrally planned economies to more ~~the~~ market-driven economies. However, Russia has developed more than China. Russia's services take up more than half of its economy. Even if Russia's population decreases annually, that would mean not as much food and supplies are needed for its citizens. Russia's GDP per capita is equivalent to 8,800 U.S. dollars, while China's is only a mere 4,400. Education in Russia is far more efficient than in China. 98% of Russians are able to read; 81.5% in China.

Ⓐ The main function of the head of government is to pass legislation, treaties, and ensure that the nation is taken care of. The head of government is important to keep everything together. The main function of the head of state is to meet and greet other ambassadors and heads of state. The head of state is the beauty part of the role of national leader in most nations.

~~Ⓑ The head of government in Great Britain is Tony Blair. He is the Prime Minister. The head of government in Nigeria is the President, Obasanjo. The head of government in Mexico is president Vicente Fox. The office that constitutes~~

Ⓑ The office that constitutes the head of government in Great Britain is that of Prime Minister. The ~~head of~~ office that constitutes the head of government in Nigeria is the office of the President.

Ⓒ In terms of their relationship to the legislative/parliament, the two heads of government are very different. In Great Britain, the head of government is a member of the House of Commons. This means that all of the head of government's powers are derived from the House of Commons. It is in the House of Commons where governments and their heads are formed and occasionally gotten rid of through censure. The relationship of the office of President in Nigeria is different. Although the president has some influence in the House and Senate, he is not a member, and is not directly responsible to them. In terms of their relationship to the electorate, the two are very different once again. The Prime Minister of Great Britain is technically only elected by a small portion of the nation for he is their representative. He is only the head of government because he is the leader of his party. (I use the term he because it is easier, however, there has been a woman Prime Minister in ~~the~~ Great Britain by the name of Margaret Thatcher, she was very influential). Although the electorate does not vote for the head



#2

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering  
on this page as it is designated in the examination.

2Comp A<sub>2</sub>

of government, who will become it will possibly influence their vote for their MP. The president of Nigeria is however directly elected by the electorate, making him closely tied to it. As can be seen there are vast differences between the office of Prime Minister in Great Britain, and the President in Nigeria.

1b + 2a

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

2 Comp B,

were attempted but failed. While China did look to Russia in the early 1990's they approached their economic ~~dev~~ reforms/developments in a more coherent manner. China focussed on its economy to build political legitimacy. They set up SEZs to allow for foreign investment and they didn't allow for much interference by the West because it had produced Russia's Shock therapy which ended in ruin. International forces also played a big role in China's development. China is run under a unitary system so the Central Government controlled everything. This allowed for the international forces to be quelled and allow for more efficient ~~in~~ manners of development. China had had previous troubles with Tianamen Square and other protests in the past but in the 1990's the forces were put down and China was able to develop more quickly.

2.a.) The main function of the Head of Government is to oversee all legislation and provide a leadership role for the entire country. The Head of State's main function is that of representing the people's choices and wants.

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

2b + 2c

2b.) The office that constitutes the Head of Government in Great Britain is the Prime Minister which is currently Tony Blair who was elected for his third term this month. The office that constitutes the Head of Government for Mexico is the President who is currently Vicente Fox elected in 2000 until 2008.

2c.) Prime Minister Tony Blair's legislature is made up of the upper House: The House of Lords and the lower House: The House of Commons. Tony Blair holds the final say over any legislation but it is ~~also~~ initiated in the more powerful House of Commons. However, the House of Lords can merely delay legislation. The House of Commons is elected by single member district and whichever party has the majority the head takes the position of Prime Minister. This allows for easier legislation to be passed. Mexico also has a bicameral legislature however, their lower house is elected by both ~~single~~ member district and proportional and has nothing to do with the president's election. This has made ~~the relationship~~ it harder for legislation to be passed than it is in Great Britain. <sup>Also</sup> Britain is a unitary system so more power is focussed in

its executive than Mexico's Federal system. The electorate of Britain most commonly votes based on party affiliation which has allowed Tony Blair to take his third term over the Michael Howard's Conservative party. However, the electorate in Mexico is hard to determine yet because until the 2000 election of Vicente Fox the PRI had dominated for 70 years based on fraud and corruption so in 2000 we will be able to tell a little more about Mexico's electorate.

3a.) France's colonial experience in Algeria led to Constitutional change because the Muslims wanted entrance and citizenship into France and the constitution had to be changed to allow for it.

3b.) The main political party that has been affected by this is the National Front. The National Front led by Le Pen has demonstrated racist attitudes towards the Muslims living in France and has initiated a lot of controversy and protests regarding the issue.



The head of government manages & evaluates the concerns of all central (federal) government concerns. It also protects the products of all branches of government & does its best to ensure the continued sovereignty of the government. The head of state, unlike the head of government, answers the people. It ensures that the people's goals are met.

In Britain, the head of government is the Prime Minister while in India the head of government is also the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister of Great Britain has typically has its party ~~at~~ in a high majority in the British parliament. As a minister of parliament himself, the British prime minister serves as a fused executive & legislative. Under Mohsi Bhandi, India's prime minister evolved more power. The Indian legislative, 2 houses in which, as per usual, the lower house is a more vital body, works with the



Question 2

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

2 Comp C<sub>2</sub>

Indian Prime Minister is  
passing legislation

3

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

- a) ~~The color~~ When, after WWII, many Western colonizers began to grant independence and to respond to the increasing nationalism of colonized nations, France - intensely nationalistic itself and still reminiscent of Napoleon's vast empire - did not relinquish Algeria. The large population of French settlers, who believed themselves rightful citizens of <sup>and military</sup> France in Algeria also led to a reluctant populace when the weak and tumultuous 4<sup>th</sup> Republic (characterized by a powerful but unruly legislature) decided to grant Algeria its independence. This led to unrest in the streets, a military versus civilian government confrontation, and possibly Civil War. Charles de Gaulle saved the nation from Civil War by promising to maintain Algeria's ~~as~~ a colonial status upon the condition that the people accept his new Constitution ~~of the~~ new 5<sup>th</sup> republic (granting the executive immense power). The citizens voted and accepted. De Gaulle eventually ~~relinquished~~ relinquished Algeria, but the colonial fervor had died down a bit and the constitution was already in place.
- b) The two Gaullist parties (RPR-Rally around the Republic and the UDF) both trace their beliefs to the Gaullist party and Charles de Gaulle. The National Front led by Le Pen traces its xenophobic and intensely nationalistic

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

3

beliefs to sentiments shaped by the French military in Algeria and attitudes toward Algeria held by those who would ~~keep~~ have kept it a colony. The National Front (NF) ~~also is a reaction~~ and its beliefs and soaring membership also is a reaction to the increased immigration of North Africans, most from former French colonies, like Algeria, into France. ~~The~~ <sup>inevitable</sup> ~~colonial~~ result ~~of~~ <sup>emigration</sup> of colonialism has been ~~immigration~~ of formerly colonized people into former colonial powers.

c) This influx of North Africans <sup>Muslims, primarily</sup> and the current standing of about 10% of the French population being Muslim as a result of colonialism has influenced the currently very controversial issue of ~~headscarf~~ secularism and public policy. The French ideals of stringent secularism in the public sphere, including schools, and the increasing resentment of immigration and supposed threats it poses to French culture, nationalism, and the economy (jobs) have all resulted in the country being divided on the government's ban of headscarves being worn by Muslim girls in schools. The colonialist attitude of French cultural superiority, rationalism of the colonial era, the post-colonial immigration, and resulting political parties (NF, etc.) and beliefs have all influenced this public policy initiative.

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

3

a) After its colonial experience in Algeria, France adopted a new constitution and entered into the 5th republic. The Power of the President was greatly increased and there was less tolerance for ethnic minorities.

b) A current party in France is the National Front. The National Front is a far right, xenophobic political party. ~~It~~ It was strengthened by the experience in Algeria because the French had more contact with non-French people.

c) Currently in France, large outward displays of religion, such as head scarves or crosses, is not allowed. This shows the effects of the colonial experience on the unwillingness of the French to accept anything not French.

As a result of the loss of Algeria by the French during the 1950's ~~the change of change~~ led to sent shock waves through French society, as a result constitutional change occurred. France has always showed a strong nationalistic attitude. Under the original constitution ~~to~~ Algeria had been a part of France. With its loss from the conflict with the native Algerians the French had to remove that status from the constitution. This event also changed France's view on its other possessions.

An instance where this experience's affect can be seen is on a political party is the ~~rejection of the~~ ~~Socialist party in France~~ the desire of the Gaullists to give aid to its prior African possessions. ~~The~~ <sup>rebellions.</sup> The French were trying to mend some of the ~~blows~~ that the French rule there had caused.

Public policy has also been affected by the experience in Algeria. France is much more interested in ~~the~~ diplomatic solutions to problems that constitutional. They are trying to save as much of their ~~the~~ nationalistic views as possible.



~~Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.~~

Females in less developed countries such as Nigeria seem to get minimal representation in national politics. In Nigeria the amount of women represented in the lower house of parliament is a mere 3.4 percent. In another perspective only 34 out of 1000 members will be women. This representation is insignificant and does not give women enough of a say in national politics. This is not politically and democratically sound due to the fact that about 47% of Nigerian population is women and around only 22.6% of all government ministers are female. The representation of women in Nigeria is not adequate for their female population.

One socioeconomic indicator that explains the ~~then~~ inadequate representation of women in Nigeria is the low literacy rate. With only 55.7 percent of women being literate it shows ~~very~~ little chance for a woman to be involved in politics, since literacy is necessary. This could be due to the Nigerian traditions of housewives that stay at home and do not ~~receive~~ an adequate education. Since the fertility rate in Nigeria is relatively high at 5.2, it allows little time for the women of Nigeria to be involved in schooling or politics. As said earlier the stay-at-home housewife traditions of women in Nigeria leaves little time for schooling and education, along with the high rate of fertility, it allows even less of a chance for women in national politics. Without a proper education one cannot thrive in politics.

One feature of the Nigerian political system that

affects female representation in national politics is the direct elections of representatives into lower levels of politics. It is not appealing to the people of Nigeria to vote on a candidate or representative who does not have the proper education and schooling, or even literacy, to complete ~~the~~ appointing positions requirements.

The level of female representation in India is fairly low. This can be seen by the low female literacy rate (45.4%), the low number of women in the labor force (32%), and the low number of women ~~in~~ members of the lower house (9%) ~~mode~~.

Two socioeconomic indicators that can explain the level or type of female representation in India are the ~~labor force~~ labor force and the literacy rate. In India, ~~many~~ <sup>many</sup> women are housewives, and do not work like many of the men do, so this accounts for the low number of labor force because they ~~are~~ ~~can~~ can be working at home. Secondly, the literacy rate indicates that many of the women may not be aware of their role (or possible role) in government, and ~~are~~ without reading ability, ~~so~~ 55% of women in India are ~~unable~~ to not qualified to run for public office.

One feature of India's political system that affects female representation in government is nothing. All it has to do with is the remnants of the

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering  
on this page as it is designated in the examination.

4

beliefs in the caste system and the  
number of women who ~~do~~ work at  
home raising children.

A. In Mexico, female representation in politics is mediocre.

There is no overwhelming number of females in gov't, but the representation is on the rise. The simple idea of females in political positions is not overtly radical, and is gaining support due to a lack of cultural conflict over females in leadership positions.

B. One major telling sign of a female influence is the 16% of members of the lower house of parliament that are female. This is a strong indicator of a growing participation and a lack of opposition to this 'new' idea. Also, Mexican women's 89.5% literacy rate reveals a much more equal playing field from a more social view for women. When female education is that effective, political involvement inherently increases due to an opportunity and acceptance of inclusion.

C. The most obvious feature of Mexican governmental structure that benefits female involvement is a large lower house of the legislature. Much like in America, the lower house has over 400 members (500 in Mexico), which gives way for more political diversity. With that many representatives, seats are constantly open and opportunities for females to get involved increase dramatically. That large of a house needs only one female member to prompt more female candidates, and result in more female representatives.