



AP[®] Comparative Government and Politics 2006 Scoring Guidelines

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**AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
2006 SCORING GUIDELINES**

Question 1

1 point

One point is earned for an accurate definition of illiberal democracy.

Acceptable definitions may include:

- Elections without civil liberties/rights/human rights.
- Limits/restrictions on civil liberties/rights/human rights; may also reference no independent judiciary.
- Small/weak civil society.
- Large-scale disenfranchisement, probably on ethnic/racial grounds.

Note: No specific definition of democracy is necessary. (“It is a democracy, but ...” is a sufficient definition of illiberal democracy).

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.

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Question 2

2 points

One point is earned for each of two correct identifications of characteristics of corporatist systems that make them distinct from pluralist systems. The response must distinguish corporatist systems from pluralist systems to earn points.

Acceptable identifications may include:

- A small number of groups (few, but not only one) are systematically recognized by government and included in policymaking (tripartite decision making—labor, business, government).
- Authoritative peak associations exist for different sectors of society.
- Interest groups are unified within themselves and cooperative with other groups.
- Centralized, monopolistic interest groups exist for a few sectors of society.
- In liberal corporatism, the policy-making process is consensual.
- Hierarchy (follow the leader’s decisions) within groups.
- Compulsory/near-universal membership in interest groups.
- Decisions are made behind closed doors by a few leaders of interest groups and government officials.
- In corporatist systems, interest groups tend to have stable relationships with government, in contrast to those in pluralist systems.

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.

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Question 3

3 points

One point is earned for the definition of political legitimacy, and 1 point is earned for each of two identifications of sources of legitimacy.

Definition: Political legitimacy is the general belief that the government has the right to rule/exercise authority.

Acceptable sources of legitimacy may include:

- Constitutions.
- The charisma of an individual leader.
- Belief systems/ideologies/founding myths.
- Competitive elections (or specific elements of popular sovereignty).
- Tradition (monarchy, birthright).
- Rational-legal authority/rule of law; however, responses that identify “the legal system” or “laws,” without further elaboration, do not earn a point.
- Religion/ideology.
- Revolutions.
- “Political culture” is acceptable if the response identifies a specific dimension of political culture.

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.

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Question 4

2 points

One point is earned for each of two correct identifications of features of the Russian political system that make it a mixed presidential/parliamentary system of government. Responses must include features of both presidential and parliamentary systems to earn both points.

To earn 1 point, responses can identify any single feature that addresses either type of system or a mixed system.

To earn 2 points, responses must provide features of both presidential and parliamentary systems, or of a mixed system.

Acceptable identifications of features of a presidential system may include:

- Direct election of the President.
- Fixed election cycle for the President.
- The President may veto Duma legislation.
- The President may be impeached.

Acceptable identifications of features of a parliamentary system may include:

- Irregular election cycle for the Duma.
- Votes of confidence.
- The Prime Minister is accountable to the Duma.

Acceptable identifications of features of a mixed system may include:

- The President can nominate the Prime Minister.
- The President can dissolve the Duma.
- Dual executive.

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.

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Question 5

2 points

One point is earned for correctly defining correlation, and 1 point is earned for correctly defining causation.

Definition of correlation: Association; covariation; coincidence.

Definition of causation: Explanation; “X” leads to “Y”; “X” is responsible for “Y”; but for “X,” “Y” would not occur/exist, etc.

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.

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Question 6

4 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two correct discussions of reasons why leaders of unitary systems might choose to decentralize power.

Acceptable discussions may include:

- To pacify political rivals (intra- or interparty rivalry; devolution in the United Kingdom as an example).
- To prevent revolution.
- Imitation of another country or system/demonstration effect.
- Ethnic/regional/national cleavages.
- Domestic pressure.
- External/international political pressure.
- To increase legitimacy.
- To increase political participation.
- Policy efficiency (such as distribution of services and tax collection).
- Local leadership deterioration.
 - To increase accountability of local leaders (e.g., China).
- To make democracy less remote.

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for a description of one method used by leaders of unitary systems to decentralize power.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Give more power (autonomy, administrative implementation authority, fiscal) to subnational or local levels of government. (Responses have to specify where power is going to receive the point.)
- Devolution. There must be at least a minimal definition (giving more power to lower levels of government) or an example (United Kingdom—Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland) to earn the point.

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for a description of how a decentralized unitary system differs from a federal system.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Power can be taken away in a unitary system (by the central government).
- Subnational governments' powers are not constitutionally protected.
- In a unitary system decentralization is not necessarily symmetrical, whereas it is symmetrical in a federalist system (all parts are treated equally).
- Local legislature/government can be dissolved in unitary systems but not in federal systems.

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.

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Question 7

6 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for a description of one argument for joining the European Union (EU) single currency, and 1 point is earned for a description of one argument against joining the EU single currency.

Acceptable descriptions of arguments for joining the EU single currency may include:

- European solidarity.
- Economic advantages. Response must explain why (e.g., lowering of transaction costs, compete with United States). “Transaction costs” alone is not sufficient to earn the point.
- “Improving trade” alone is not sufficient to earn the point.
- Larger market for goods.
- Easier access to market.

Acceptable descriptions of arguments against joining the EU single currency include:

- Psychological attachment to the pound.
- Nationalism.
- Sovereignty issues.
- Loss of control over interest rates.
- The United Kingdom’s economy is better off if not part of single currency (must explain why).
- The United Kingdom has a stronger economy.

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for a description of the current British government’s response to the issue of the EU single currency.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- They did not join.
- The Prime Minister has promised to hold a referendum.
- “Wait and see” approach.
- “Five tests” of economic conditions.

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for a description of one argument for privatization of industry in China, and 1 point is earned for a description of one argument against the privatization of industry.

Acceptable descriptions of arguments for privatization of industry include:

- Efficiency.
- To attract domestic and foreign investment.
- Addresses market needs/consumer demands.
- People have incentives to work/innovate (opportunity for upward mobility).
- Competition (response must explain for what; e.g., innovation, quality).

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Question 7 (continued)

- State industries were not performing well (this is an alternative).

Acceptable descriptions of arguments against privatization of industry include:

- Loss of control.
- Creation of oligarchs.
- Higher unemployment.
- Ideological inconsistency.
- Creates economic inequality (regional or personal).
- Loss of legitimacy of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).
- Loss of social safety net.
- Harms the agricultural economy.

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for a description of the Chinese government's response to global pressures to privatize industry.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Privatization of some industries (consumer goods, etc.), but retained state control over some crucial industries.
- Internet—must be explained in terms of privatization.
- Special economic zones.
- Acknowledged private property in constitution.
- Allowed capitalists in the CCP.

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.

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Question 8

8 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two descriptions of measures taken by Iranian political leaders to democratize Iran's political process.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Liberalization of the press and other media.
- Elections (regular, competitive).
- Protests by leaders (members of parliament, etc.).
- Allowing more political parties/allowing more candidates to run.
- Relaxation of the dress codes (example of civil liberties).
- City and village elections (beginning in 1999).
- Weakening of enforcement of controls.
- Greater acceptance of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).
- Greater rights for minority ethnic groups (guaranteed seats in the Majles, for example).
- Broadened participation of women (elections, creation of organizations, female candidates running).

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two descriptions of ways in which Iranian political leaders have resisted democratization.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Vetting candidates.
- Shari'ah law.
- Basij morality police.
- Divorce laws.
- Arresting professors/dissenters/demonstrators.
- Criticism of Supreme Leader forbidden.
- Guardian Council vetoing legislature.
- Blocking the Internet.
- Persecution of the Baha'is, Kurds.

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two descriptions of measures taken by Nigerian political leaders to democratize Nigeria's political process.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Implementation of new constitution eliminating military rule.
- Freer press.
- Elections (reappearance of regular elections; elections have continued since 1999).
- Protections for ethnic and religious groups.

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Question 8 (continued)

- Redrawing of state boundaries to increase representation (including increasing the number of states).
- Census.
- Direct election of president to increase legitimacy.
- Required support from different subnational groups.
- Creation of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

Part (d): 2 points

One point is earned for each of two descriptions of ways in which Nigerian political leaders have resisted democratization.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Coups d'état.
- Effects of allowing Shari'ah.
- Illegitimate elections
- Military resorting to violence.
- Poor human rights record.
- Persecution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and others.

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.