



## **AP<sup>®</sup> GO/PO Comparative 2004 Sample Student Responses**

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

1 Comp A  
1

A UNITARY SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IS WHEN THERE IS ONLY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND NO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT. A FEDERAL SYSTEM IS WHEN THERE IS A SEPARATION OF POWER BETWEEN THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. ONE ADVANTAGE OF ~~BE~~ HAVING A UNITARY SYSTEM IS HAVING UNIFORM LAWS THROUGH OUT THE COUNTRY. THERE WILL NOT BE ANY CONFLICTING LAWS IN DIFFERENT AREAS. ONE ADVANTAGE OF HAVING A FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS LESS POWER SO ~~FOR~~ PEOPLE CAN HAVE LAWS AND POLICIES TAILOR FITTED TO THEIR REGION.

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

1 Comp B,

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Federal and unitary systems are different in that they vary in relationships between national and subnational units.

A unitary system brings all matters together to the national unit. The subnational units are not very important or even do not exist. In relation to a centralized government, the federal system is spread out through different institutions. A federal system is where the national unit takes care of national matters and gives power to subnational units in order to handle local matters.

An advantage to the federal system would be that people can take care of their own concerns more quickly than sending them to the national government. ~~It is also~~ This is also easier for the national unit because they can spend more time on huge concerns, rather than local thoughts. One advantage to the unitary system is that laws and bills can be quickly established rather than getting subnational units to approve.

Britain is a unitary system in that all laws are handled by the Prime Minister and his cabinet of Ministers. However in Russia, a

federal system exists. Where the laws and movements are sent through separate institutions to be approved.

However since the 1990's Britain has become more federal because the House of Lords is declining in power and the House of Commons approves laws passed by the Prime Minister. In Russia a more unitary government is being established because the Communist Party has become less influencing.

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1 Comp C<sub>1</sub>

A unitary system of government places all power in a central governmental structure, while a federal system of government invests ~~and~~ power in both a national <sup>unit</sup> and subnational units. Some powers are shared, and others are clearly expressed powers for either the national unit or subnational units. In a unitary system however, ~~the~~ ~~ce~~ power can only be extended to subnational units if the central government creates these units and grants <sup>them</sup> ~~these~~ powers.

An advantage of a federal system is that power can be shared and tasks can be delegated more efficiently. Like in the U.S.A., local & state governments can collect their own taxes to support local and state programs. An advantage of a unitary system is that since power is invested in a central body, the government is very powerful. Decisions made by this government will not be ~~protested~~ <sup>overridden</sup> by local government because ~~only~~ the central government <sup>is supreme and has the power to all make all</sup> ~~can make full~~ laws, and pass <sup>all</sup> legislation it wishes.

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Britain has a unitary system of government. Its central legislative body is the British House of Commons, run by a Prime Minister and his cabinet. While there is also a House of Lords, this is little more than a rubber-stamping legislative institution.

In effect, all decisions made by the House of Commons affect all of Britain. However in recent years, in order to tame social protest, Britain's central government has devolved power to Northern Ireland and Scotland. These areas now have their own parliaments and can elect their own representatives. In this way the British government has become more federal. However, where ~~th~~ differences occur between these new local Parliaments' legislation and the House of Commons' legislation, the House of Commons ~~will~~ does prevail.

Russia's 1993 constitution created it to be a federal system. Nationally it has <sup>both</sup> an upper and a lower legislative house, with the latter being the more powerful and called the Duma. Its central

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1 Comp C<sub>3</sub>

government is also run by a President and a Prime Minister. However, local governments also were set up in Russia to deal with all people in its extensive territory. These local bodies can pass laws specific to their areas, and also remain under national laws. However, since Vladimir Putin has been President of Russia, vast changes have been made. In order to strengthen Russia's central government, in an attempt to make it a more successful democracy, Putin has begun stripping local governments of their rights. Now more power is placed in the central government, and thus Russia has become more like a unitary system under Putin. An example is ~~the~~ the conflict in Chechnya, where Putin has overridden the area's desire to secede, and has used the power of the central government to control it. Putin also has appointed central government officials to act as oversight for the local government, to ~~not~~ extend the power of the central government even further.