

**AP<sup>®</sup> COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS  
2006 SCORING GUIDELINES**

**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.

2

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

2A

A corporate system ~~is~~ <sup>would</sup> fall between capitalism and communism if they were placed on a spectrum. Corporatism takes parts from both communism and capitalism. In order to appease both business and labour, a group with few representatives from labour, from business, and from government come together and collaborate in order to settle disputes and problems. A corporate system is very distinct from a pluralist system where multiple ideological groups compete with each other. In a corporatism, only the three groups of business, labour, and government are represented unlike the vast and diverse representation in a pluralist system. A corporatism is also distinct in that only a few high officials represent the labour body, the business body, and the governing body unlike a pluralist system. Overall, ~~corporatism~~ <sup>corporate systems are</sup> very distinct from pluralist systems.

2

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

2B

One of the major characteristics of a corporatist system that defines it from a pluralist system is the role that business plays. In a corporatist system, the government actively bargains with labor and industry in an effort to enact legislation, while in a pluralist system, legislation is passed without consulting or complying with the demands of the country's industries.

Another defining characteristic is that in a corporatist system of government, there are usually only one or two major political parties. This contrasts directly with a pluralist system, which, by definition, is comprised of a wide array of factions and interests, so that absolute rule by a single political party is nearly impossible.



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## 2006 SCORING COMMENTARY

### Question 2

#### Overview

The intent of this question was to test students' knowledge and understanding of corporatism and to examine their ability to distinguish it from pluralism.

#### Sample: 2A

**Score: 2**

This response correctly identifies two defining characteristics of corporatist systems that distinguish them from pluralist systems: the relevant interest groups involved in a corporatist system are labor, business, and government (1 point), and a few high-ranking officials represent each group (1 point).

#### Sample: 2B

**Score: 1**

This response correctly identifies labor and industry bargaining with government as a defining characteristic of corporatist systems that makes them distinct from pluralist systems (1 point). The response incorrectly identifies the number of political parties in corporatist systems as a second defining characteristic and therefore did not earn the second point.

#### Sample: 2C

**Score: 0**

This response incorrectly identifies patron–client relations as a defining characteristic of corporatist systems. While state *recognition* of interest groups is a characteristic of corporatist systems, state *control* of interest groups is not. Because no correct information is presented, the response earned no points.