

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

**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.

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

Question 3.

3A

Political legitimacy is defined as a people's overall acceptance of a person's group of persons, or government's right to rule. Governments or political systems that enjoy political legitimacy often enjoy somewhat peaceful tenures in office, as opposed to those plagued by coups or revolts.

One source of political legitimacy is tradition; oftentimes, people accept a <sup>PERSON'S</sup> ~~party's~~ right to rule, because of the history behind a position.

For example, monarchies are based on hereditary passing on of the crown. As this practice goes on, people generally accept it. Another source of political legitimacy is charisma, which is difficult to define, but is overall, the magnetism of a ruler's personality or character traits. People usually place their trust in rulers that display a liveliness & enthusiasm for their job; if people like someone, they'll accept that person's right to rule. Some examples include Mexico's Vincente Fox and Iran's former Supreme Leader Khomeini.

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

3.

3B

→ The political legitimacy is the level of citizen's trust on the government's right to rule the country.

→ ① ~~Electon~~ Election is one ~~type of source~~ source of political legitimacy. If the election is unfair and not free, the political legitimacy would decrease. If the election is fair, clean election the political legitimacy would be increased by the support of its citizens.

② The state of economy is one source of political legitimacy. If the country's economy is really bad and the people suffer from it, the political legitimacy will drop rapidly.

However, if the country's economic performances are good, the political legitimacy will increase since the people feel that the gov. is making their lives better.

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

3.

3C

3. Political legitimacy is the feeling people have about their government and how well they feel it is representing their needs and wants as citizens of the country. One source of legitimacy is corruption. If the government is corrupt, chances are the people will realize this, and legitimacy will lower, and vice-versa. Another source of political legitimacy is elections. If the people feel that the ~~process~~ <sup>government</sup> somehow tampered with the election even a small amount, political legitimacy will lower.

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## 2006 SCORING COMMENTARY

### Question 3

#### Overview

The intent of this question was to test students' knowledge and understanding of political legitimacy, a core concept for the study of political science.

#### Sample: 3A

**Score: 3**

This response correctly defines political legitimacy as “a person's, group of persons', or government's right to rule” (1 point). Two sources of political legitimacy are identified: tradition (1 point), and charisma (1 point).

#### Sample: 3B

**Score: 2**

This response correctly defines political legitimacy in terms of “the level of citizen's trust on the government's right to rule the country” (1 point). Free and fair elections are correctly identified as a source of political legitimacy (1 point). The response did not earn the third point because it incorrectly identifies political performance as a source of political legitimacy.

#### Sample: 3C

**Score: 1**

This response does not correctly define political legitimacy when it states that it is “the feeling people have about their government and how well they feel it is representing their needs and wants.” This relates to performance and outputs, which are conceptually distinct from political legitimacy. Absence of corruption is incorrectly identified as a source of legitimacy; it is sometimes the case that corrupt governments have political legitimacy and vice versa. Free and fair elections, as opposed to corrupt ones, are correctly identified as a source of political legitimacy (1 point).