

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

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.

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

5

5A

5. To correlate is to happen at the same time, or relatively the same rate. For example if a rise in X correlates with a rise in Y then Y and X will rise at the same times and fall at the same times generally. This does not imply causation. Causation means that one thing is the result of another - for example if X causes Y then when X happens, Y will happen as a result. Two things can correlate with each other and be unrelated, but if one causes the other then they are not unrelated.

5.

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

5B

#5. The term "correlation" is defined as, relating to. The term "causation" is defined as, being the reason for. If ~~democracy~~ economic growth simply correlates with democracy it means that democracy is a function that relates to economic growth. If economic growth causes democracy, then it means that economic growth is the ^{immediate} reason ~~for~~ ^{or has lead to} the creation of democracy.

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

5

5C

⑤ • Correlation is when one thing happens, another thing also tends to happen at the same time. For example, democracy and economic growth - both happen at the same time, but it could be due to the fact that when a government decides to switch to democracy the minds of people are changed.

• causation is when one thing causes another thing. For example, democracy causes economic growth.

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2006 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 5

Overview

The intent of this question was to examine students' knowledge and understanding of correlation and causation, two concepts that are essential for explaining a wide range of political phenomena.

Sample: 5A

Score: 2

The response correctly defines correlation as a relationship between two events connected by time or rate and illustrates the relationship using "X" and "Y" (1 point). The response then defines causation as "one thing is the result of another" (1 point).

Sample: 5B

Score: 2

Both correlation ("relating to") and causation ("the reason for") are defined minimally, but the definitions are accurate (2 points). The response then elaborates on these two definitions by describing possible relationships between economic growth and democracy.

Sample: 5C

Score: 1

The definition of correlation ("when one thing happens, another thing also tends to happen at the same time") is supported by reference to the relationship between economic growth and democracy (1 point). The definition of causation relies on the use of the word "causes" without further elaboration or illustration and therefore did not earn a point.