

# AP<sup>®</sup> COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

## 2007 SCORING GUIDELINES

### Question 1

#### 3 points

One point is earned for each of three correct identifications of functions of political parties common to authoritarian and democratic systems.

- The functions identified must be common to both authoritarian and democratic systems.
- The answer must be contextualized. Simply listing functions will not earn a point(s).

Acceptable functions may include:

- Linkage institutions (connect people to the government).
- Staff government (bureaucracy).
- Recruit leaders.
- Articulate ideology.
- Mobilize citizens.
- Aggregate interests.
- Propose policy/policy formation/shape policy.
- Political socialization/educating the public.
- Legitimacy.

Unacceptable answers include:

- Dictating policy.
- Offering competitive alternatives.
- Peaceful transfer of power from losers to winners.
- “Governing” or “run government” is not enough.
- “Give a voice.”

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 exam.

1

1 A  
1. Political parties in both democratic and authoritarian systems share some key features although implementation is quite different. One of these features is determining policy. In democratic systems party platforms are created to represent what policy the party would like implement once in power. In authoritarian systems the party in power can just simply implement any policy it likes. The next common feature is determining the next generation of the party in power. In democratic systems this is done by holding primary elections or conventions to elect candidates for the next legislative or executive election and by running incumbents and challengers to open seats in legislative elections. In authoritarian systems one must catch the eye of the regime in power and make ones way up the party hierarchy. The third function is to mobilize the public. In democratic systems this is done using publicity while in authoritarian it is done using force usually.

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

1

1B

1. Political parties in authoritarian systems are usually disallowed, with the ruling party being the only one to get a say in what goes on in the country. Even if other parties are allowed, their say and interests are so minimal that it can be seen that most of the time they are only present for show, an illusion of sorts, of the country being any bit democratic. The functions of these parties, both in a authoritarian and democratic systems is to present a varying range of ideas and interests that the members feel are of benefit to the country. Another function is to recruit new members who are valuable to the party in order to promote its popularity and interests. Finally, and probably most importantly, a party's main function is to represent different opinions and ideas of citizens of the country and represent and voice them at the national level to make sure its members' and supporters' opinions and interests are heard by the government. Parties can influence policy-making, create opposition debate on various policies and become the ruling party and take control of the state, be it through fair democratic or corrupt authoritarian ways.

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

1, ~~2~~

1 C

1. Political parties common to authoritarian and democratic systems can function as representatives to the people, recognizing the problems in the country/government and <sup>try to</sup> act to counter those problems, and help unite the people for a common cause. In a democratic system, political parties are easily able to make a difference in the government. They can raise their voices and object to something the government is doing. In an authoritarian system, the parties <sup>can still</sup> must watch what they say, or they ~~will~~ might be hurt by the present government <sup>leader.</sup> ~~leader.~~ ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> political parties can represent the people and hear their ideas and problems. Finally, political parties can help to unite the people of the country for a common cause that they think is right or wrong.

2. Devolution is when a ~~centralized~~ government decentralizes power by giving power to local or state governments. For example, the Prime Minister of Great Britain, Tony Blair, <sup>set up elections for</sup> ~~he gave London~~ a mayor for London. Now, instead of Tony Blair dealing with the problems of London, the mayor can deal with them and report back to Tony. This action <sup>by having</sup> saves time ~~and has~~ the local administration work to fix the local problems.

3. The Cultural Revolution in Iran focused on <sup>incorporating</sup> ~~implementing~~ Islam into the Iranian government. The people of Iran <sup>were</sup> ~~was~~ mainly Muslims and they did not want a secular government. So they overthrew the shah in 1979 and set up the new <sup>Islamic</sup> government that exists today. The Muslims in Iran wanted <sup>ed</sup> their government to recognize their religion and their

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## 2007 SCORING COMMENTARY

### Question 1

#### Overview

The intent of this question was to examine students' ability to identify functions of political parties shared by both authoritarian and democratic systems. It sought not just a list of common roles of political parties but a contextualized answer that showed the student was aware of similarities between the distinct authoritarian and democratic systems.

#### Sample: 1A

##### Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for correctly identifying policy formation as a function of political parties in both democratic and authoritarian systems: "In democratic systems party platforms are created to represent what policy the party would like [to] implement once in power. In authoritarian systems the party in power can just simply implement any policy it likes."

The response earned a second point for identifying recruitment ("determining the next generation of the party in power") as a function of political parties in both democratic and authoritarian systems. The student states: "In democratic systems this is done by holding primary elections," while "[i]n authoritarian systems one must catch the eye of the regime in power and make one's way up the party hierarchy."

The response earned a third point by identifying mobilization ("mobilize the public") as a third function of political parties in both authoritarian and democratic systems. The student states: "In democratic systems this is done using publicity while in authoritarian [systems] it is done using force usually."

#### Sample: 1B

##### Score: 2

The response earned 1 point for identifying recruitment of leaders as a function of political parties common to authoritarian and democratic systems: "to recruit new members who are valuable to the party in order to promote its popularity and interests."

The response earned 1 point for identifying policy formation as a function of political parties common to authoritarian and democratic systems: "Parties can influence policy-making, create opposition debate on various policies and become the ruling party and take control of the state, be it through fair democratic or corrupt authoritarian ways."

#### Sample: 1C

##### Score: 1

The response earned 1 point for identifying linkage institutions as a function of political parties common to authoritarian and democratic systems. The student states that political parties "function as representatives to the people" and then provides context for this by adding: "In a democratic system ... they can raise their voices and object to something the government is doing. In an authoritarian system, the parties ... must watch what they say, or they might be hurt by the present government leader."