

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
2007 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 6

6 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for defining bicameralism.

A common definition is: A legislature with two houses.

- Examples do not count as definitions.

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for identifying a country covered in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course that has a bicameral legislature.

Acceptable countries: UK, Russia, Mexico, Nigeria.

- For students to earn a point for stating that Iran has a bicameral legislature, they must mention the Assembly of Religious Experts and say that this acts as a de facto upper house.

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for explaining why a federal democracy is likely to have a bicameral legislature.

Acceptable answer: To ensure that both regions/territories and individuals have representation.

- One point is earned for stating that regions/territories are represented in one of the houses. No point is earned if responses say only that it is because individuals are represented in one of the houses.

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for providing another reason for a bicameral legislature.

Acceptable answers may include:

- Checks and balances/to reject legislation.
- To postpone legislation.
- To park former prime ministers.
- To represent different classes.
- Division of legislative labor.
- More time for deliberation.
- To divide/weaken legislative power.
- To diffuse legislative power.

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Question 6 (continued)

Part (e): 2 points

One point is earned for describing each of two implications of federalism for the policy-making process.

Acceptable implications of federalism for the policy-making process may include:

- Slower lawmaking.
- Diffusion of responsibility.
- Greater inefficiencies.
- Disputes between national and subnational governments.
- Uneven distribution of policy costs and benefits (e.g., education).
- Broader representation.
- Multiple points to access the process.
- Diversity of policies.
- Greater legitimacy.

Do not allow “double dipping,” which may occur with (d) and (e).

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.

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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 exam.

6 A,

- (a) Bicameralism is when a government's legislature has two ^{different} houses.
- (b) ~~The~~ The United Kingdom has a bicameral national legislature.
- (c) A Federal democracy is more prone to have a bicameral legislature because in a federal democracy, many different regions or states exist. ~~Because~~ Each of these regions want representation, and therefore send representatives. Each of the two houses will have different responsibilities. One house will have as many representatives ~~in~~ in proportion to the number of people. The other house will require a set amount of representatives from each region/state. This way is more effective and allows each region's issues to be better addressed.
- (d) Having a bicameral legislature will allow for a system of checks and balances within the congress or legislative body. This will improve the quality and fairness of ~~the~~ ^{any} legislation passed or proposed.
- (e) Federalism allows smaller ~~regions~~ ^{regions} or states to have their own legislature. Because of this, (1) smaller districts or states can better address the

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C.

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immediate problems, issues, or laws that pertain to their region. States can pass laws that apply only to their state. This will help the state's citizens. Legislation will be addressed more quickly, because it does not ~~have~~^{have} to be reviewed by a central authority that ~~would~~ would have to address each region's problems & proposals - no matter how ~~small~~ small or unimportant. (2) Another implication is that the central government can therefore concern itself with national problems. The central government will not have to focus ~~attention~~ attention on little things (such as speed laws, town proposals, and other small things that local legislatures would be better at dealing with); the central government can focus on larger, more broad issues that face the entire nation. The smaller states/regions ~~will~~ will still have to abide by federal (or national) law, in addition to whatever their state's/region's legislation is

- a) Bicameralism is a characteristic of legislature in which there are two representative bodies within the legislature. Both bodies work together to pass legislation and sometimes wield the power of checks-and-balances on each other.
- b) ~~Russia~~ ^{Russia} has a bicameral legislature. It consists of two bodies within the National Assembly, the Federation Council and the Duma. The members of the Federation Council are appointed from each of the 89 regions while half of the Duma is elected proportionally and the other half through single member district plurality.
- c) A Federal democracy is more likely to have a bicameral legislature because then both state and national representation can be created in the national government. For example, the Federation Council of Russia gives each state equal representation while the Duma ~~is~~ is a body of national representation.
- d) Another reason for bicameral legislation aside from representation would be to create a system of checks-and-balances within the legislature. By having two ~~more~~ representative bodies the policy must be approved by both houses before it can be passed and put into effect, ensuring that the interests of the people are met.
- e) Federalism in the policy-making process creates very definite characteristics. For one thing, it ensures the representation of both state and national interests when

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drafting legislation because one body usually has equal state representation while the other represents national interests. Also, because of these checks on power, the policy-making process generally takes more time and is less efficient because legislation must be passed by both bodies.

Bicameralism is a legislative system that contains two ~~distinct~~ distinct parts or houses. Great Britain has this type of system in their legislative branch of government. A federal democracy is likely to have a bicameral national legislature because a federal democracy has both national and state governments. Federalism impacts the policy-making process by having to provide funds and mandates for state governments. A bicameral national legislature is good because you can have houses formatted in different ways.

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2007 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 6

Overview

This question was intended to measure student understanding of the concept of bicameralism as it exists in many countries today, especially as it relates to federal democracies. Students were asked to define bicameralism and to identify one of the six case countries covered by the course that has a bicameral legislature. The question also required that they explain why a federal democracy is likely to have a bicameral national legislature. Further, it asked students to provide a second reason for a bicameral national legislature that did not have to specifically apply to a federal democracy. Finally, students were required to describe two implications of federalism for the policy-making process. Although students could supply examples from specific countries, the point of the question was to measure student understanding of the broad concepts of bicameralism and federalism and how they interact in many countries today.

Sample: 6A

Score: 6

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for correctly defining bicameralism as existing “when a government’s legislature has two different houses.”

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for correctly identifying the United Kingdom as a country that has a bicameral national legislature.

In part (c) the response earned 1 point by correctly explaining that a federal democracy is likely to have a bicameral national legislature when “many different regions or states exist” and are represented in one house, allowing “each region’s issues to be better addressed.”

In part (d) the response earned 1 point for the response that a bicameral legislature allows for “a system of checks [*sic*] and balances within the Congress or legislative body.”

In part (e) the response earned 2 points for correctly describing two implications of federalism. The first implication is that “states can better address the immediate problems” and “can pass laws that apply only to their state” (diversity of policy). The second implication is that “the central government can focus on larger, more broad issues that face the entire nation” (diffusion of responsibility).

Sample: 6B

Score: 4

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for correctly defining bicameralism as “two representative bodies within the legislatures.”

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for correctly identifying Russia as a country that has a bicameral national legislature.

In part (c) the response earned 1 point for correctly explaining that a federal democracy is likely to have a bicameral national legislature because “both state and national representation can be created in the national government [*sic*].”

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Question 6 (continued)

In part (d) the response earned 1 point by correctly stating that an additional reason for a bicameral legislature is “to create a system of checks-and-balances within the legislature” (division of legislative labor).

In part (e) the response did not earn any points for either implication of federalism because the descriptions are based on the implications of bicameralism, not federalism.

Sample: 6C

Score: 2

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for correctly defining bicameralism as “a legislative system that contains two distinct parts or houses.”

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for accurately identifying Great Britain as a country that has a bicameral national legislature.

In part (c) the student did not earn a point for the statement: “A federal democracy is likely to have a bicameral national legislature because a federal democracy has both national and state governments.”

The student does not attempt to answer part (d) and did not earn a point.

In part (e) the response did not earn a point for the first implication: “Federalism impacts the policy-making process by having to provide funds and mandates for state run governments.” The response does not provide a second implication and therefore did not earn that point.