

**AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
2007 SCORING GUIDELINES**

Question 8

5 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for describing a similarity in the procedures for selecting the President in Iran and in Nigeria.

Acceptable similarities may include:

- Direct popular election.
- More than one candidate.
- Fixed election cycle
- President cannot run for a third consecutive term.

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for describing each of two differences in the procedure for selecting the President in Iran and in Nigeria.

- There must be an explicit comparative statement about the difference between Iran and Nigeria in order to earn a point.
- Listing a fact without a comparison will not earn a point

Acceptable differences may include:

- Guardian Council vets candidates.
- Requirement for regional support throughout Nigeria.
- Religious qualifications.
- Differences in formal criteria (e.g., minimum age qualification).
- Role of electoral commissions.
- Exclusion of female candidates.
- Nature of term limits.
- Transparency; election observers.
- Party affiliation.
- Military coups.

Part (c): 2 points

To earn 1 point, responses can state a reason why the Nigerian President is more powerful than the Iranian President, without elaboration.

To earn 2 points, responses must elaborate on the reason provided and do so in a comparative context.

This part of the question does not award a second point for presenting two reasons for the greater power of the Nigerian President.

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2007 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 8 (continued)

Acceptable responses may include:

- No Guardian Council in Nigeria.
- No Expediency Council in Nigeria.
- No higher authority/Supreme Leader in Nigeria.
- Nigerian President is the commander-in-chief.
- The Nigerian Parliament is more compliant.
- Parties play a more significant role in empowering the Nigerian President because his party controls the legislature and helps get his agenda passed.
- The Nigerian President receives more international support.
- There is no dual executive in Nigeria.

The Guardian Council may be used in answering both parts (b) and (c). In (b), the Guardian Council must be used to discuss the selection process; if included in (c), it must be used to discuss the powers of the President. This is NOT considered “double dipping.”

Unacceptable responses include:

- Just saying that the President is more powerful because the constitution gives him more power; the response must say specifically HOW the constitution gives more power.
- There is no dual executive in Nigeria.

A response listing criteria such as a minimum age earns no point.

No point is earned in part (c) for “corruption.” A response may earn a point with a thorough discussion of informal politics.

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.

8a. The President of Iran and the President of Nigeria are both directly elected by the people. ~~they~~

b. The Presidential candidate in Iran must be approved by the Guardian Council, which has been known to dismiss candidates seen as 'infid' to be President.

In one instance, 1000 were turned away and only 7 remained on the ballot - ^{this happened} ~~then~~ the

current president was running. Another difference between selecting the President of Iran and Nigeria is that the President of Iran must be Islamic. The President of Nigeria does not need to be approved by a council, nor does he have to be a specific religion.

c. The Nigerian President enjoys much more power than the Iranian President. The Nigerian president enjoys a personalization of power, where he may grant himself specific powers during his term. He may not become a dictator, as the Nigerian Congress would not allow that to happen, but he has little checked power over his governmental policies. The President of Iran must report to the Supreme Leader. The Supreme Leader, although his title is head of state, has all the power in the Iranian

8 contd.

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

8A2

government. He can overturn any policy proposed by the President and his authority cannot be checked. The President must abide by the Supreme Leader's policies and wishes and cannot stray from that policy. The President of Nigeria does not have anyone to answer to, thus granting him more power than the President of Iran.

- (a) Presidential candidates in Nigeria and Iran are not selected by party allegiance, as are candidates in other democracies. In Iran, presidential candidates are traditionally ~~the~~ highly educated clerics approved by the Guardian Council. In Nigeria, presidential candidates are traditionally military generals, ~~selected~~ ^{often} from a coup of the last military general. Another similarity between the two countries is that their current presidents are not the traditional president-types. Iran's President Ahmadinejad is a well-educated civil-engineer, while Nigeria's recently elected Yammeh Abacha was a teacher previous to his election.
- (b) A difference in the procedure for selecting the candidates for the presidency in Nigeria and Iran is the influence of outside institutions. In Iran, presidential candidates must be approved by the Guardian Council. In 2005 elections, over 1000 candidates were eliminated because they were too reformist, leaving ~~and~~ 7 accepted candidates. In Nigeria, ~~there is no such~~ only influence is the Electoral Commission, which is too corrupt to function properly.
- (c) The Nigerian president has more power than the Iranian president because his actions are not limited by an outside influence, such as the Guardian Council. The Guardian Council and

#8 continued

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

8B2

Supreme leader of Iran have supervisory powers that allow them to stop any policy or legislation that does not agree with Islamic law. The president of Nigeria is more also more powerful because of the weak legislative branch of Nigeria. The legislature merely rubber stamps policies of the President and his cabinet.

(a) The similarity in procedure for selecting the president in Iran and in Nigeria is that both countries' presidents are selected directly by their citizens

(b) 1) One difference in the procedure for selecting the president in Iran and in Nigeria is ~~the~~ ^{the matter of} religion. In Iran, religion ~~is~~ plays a very significant role in their government. The President of Iran should also be a religious leader and fully understand and able to interpret the religion in order to be a president. In contrast, Nigeria's common religion, Muslim and Christianity does not really influence its ~~presidency~~ ^{presidency}.

2) Another difference in the procedure for selecting the president in Iran and Nigeria is the matter of corruptions and reforms. Despite some reforms in Iran, in Nigeria there are numerous corruptions and attempts to change the system. Ever since its independence from Spain in 1960s, ~~respectively corruptions of government is~~ ^{almost all the presidents were a dictator or totalitarian.} However, their process of selecting presidents are not changing, still consist of many ~~frauds~~ ^{frauds} and citizens does not really know the process of ~~election~~ ^{election} presidential election - even though they have the rights to select them.

(c) Nigerian Presidents have more power than the Iranian president. Iran is becoming a stable country with a firm and competitive (fair, regular, equal) elections. However, Nigeria still struggles with political corruptions and fraudulents. In order for Nigeria to become a strong and stable democracy, their presidents thought that they should

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2007 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 8

Overview

The intent of this question was to have students explain similarities and differences in the selection procedures for the Presidents of Iran and Nigeria. In addition, students were asked to explain why the President of Nigeria has more power than the President of Iran. Thus, the focus of this question was on both country-specific knowledge and on institutions and processes of governance.

Sample: 8A

Score: 5

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for providing a correct explanation of direct election as a similarity in the procedures for the selection of the President in Iran and Nigeria.

In part (b) the response earned 2 points for providing two differences in the procedures for selection of the President in Iran and Nigeria. In Iran the presidential candidates are vetted by the Guardian Council, and they are not in Nigeria; and in Nigeria there is no specific religious requirement for the presidential candidates, and there is in Iran.

In part (c) the response earned 2 points for providing accurate descriptions of how the weakness of the Nigerian legislature, despite its checks and balances, increases the power of the executive and enhances the function of the President as Head of State. However, the power of the Iranian President is weakened because of the absolute authority of the Supreme Leader.

Sample: 8B

Score: 3

In part (a) the response did not earn a point because it does not provide a correct explanation of a similarity in the procedures for selection of the President in Iran and Nigeria.

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for providing an explanation of a difference in the selection procedures for the President in Iran and Nigeria: "In Iran presidential candidates must be approved by the Guardian Council," while there is no such requirement in Nigeria.

In part (c) the response earned 2 points for providing accurate descriptions of how the absolute power of the Supreme Leader limits the power of the Iranian President, while the Nigerian President has no such limit. Additional information is added about the weakness of the Nigerian legislature, which further strengthens the President in that country.

Sample: 8C

Score: 1

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for providing a correct explanation of direct election as a similarity in the procedures for the selection of the President in Iran and Nigeria.

In part (b) the response did not earn a point because there is insufficient information to show two differences in the procedures for selecting the President in Iran and Nigeria.

In part (c) the response did not earn a point because there is insufficient information to show how the Nigerian President is more powerful than the Iranian President.