

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2008 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 1

3 points

One point is earned for a correct definition of political socialization. An acceptable definition is:

- The process by which people form their ideas about politics (political orientation) and acquire their ideas about government.
- The process by which political values are formed and transmitted from one generation to the next.

One point is earned for a correct identification of an agent of political socialization. Acceptable agents include:

- Family
- Interest groups
- Class (economic, social)
- Government
- School
- Political parties
- Peers
- Work
- Religion
- Race
- Scout troops
- Media
- Gender
- Trade unions

Note: This list is not exclusive.

One point is earned for a correct explanation of how the agent promotes political socialization. Acceptable explanations include:

Transmission of values or ideology through:

- Providing guidelines
- Indoctrination
- Civic education
- Civic courses at schools

Note: There must be a link between the agent and the process of socialization.

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 A

1. Political Socialization is the process that one is getting political attitude and becomes informed about the politics. The one agent of political socialization is media, such as newspapers, and TV broadcasting. One gets information, such as how political parties are operated, and who became the influential political leaders through media, and decide which party and policy he or she might agree to.

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

1 B

Political socialization, how social interaction changes and forms one's opinions on political issues, is an important part to the development of a political culture. The family is one of the main parts of socialization. The views of the family often carry on to the children. One is also more likely to align with the party that their family aligns with.

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

1 C

1. Political socialization is a government's attempts to use policy ~~and~~ ~~at~~ to influence a society's political ideology and tendencies. Government supported school systems, like those in China, serve as an agent of political socialization by defining and highlighting important political agendas of the party in power, like national unity in regard to communism in China.

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2008 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 1

Overview

The overall intent of this question was to examine the concept of political socialization and to determine if students could make the link between an agent of socialization and the process of socialization. Students had three specific tasks: (1) to define political socialization; (2) to identify an agent of political socialization; and (3) to explain how the identified agent promotes political socialization.

Sample: 1A

Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for this definition: “Political socialization is the process that one is getting political attitude and becomes informed about the politics.”

The response earned 1 point for identifying “media” as an agent of socialization.

The response earned 1 point for explaining that the identified agent (the media) promotes political socialization through the act of providing “information, such as how political parties are operated” that the individual then uses to “decide which party and policy he or she might agree to.”

Sample: 1B

Score: 2

The response earned 1 point for stating that political socialization is “how social interaction changes and forms one’s opinions on political issues.”

The response earned 1 point for identifying the “family” as an agent of socialization.

The response did not earn a point for an explanation of how the identified agent (the family) promotes political socialization. Although the student states that “[t]he views of the family often carry on to the children,” the response does not explain how this transmission leads to the formation of the children’s political values.

Sample: 1C

Score: 1

The response did not earn a point for the definition of political socialization. The student focuses narrowly on “a government’s attempts to use policy,” rather than emphasizing the general process by which political values are formed.

The response earned 1 point for identifying “school system” as an agent of socialization.

The response did not earn a point for an explanation of how the identified agent (the school system) promotes political socialization. The student describes the act of political education (“defining and highlighting important political agendas”) but does not explain how the school curriculum forms students’ political values.