

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2008 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 2

3 points

One point is earned for a correct explanation of what it means to say a government has transparency. Acceptable explanations may include:

- A government has transparency when it disseminates accurate political and economic information to the public.
- A government has transparency when it allows information about government and policy to circulate openly.
- A government has transparency when it allows citizens several points of access for obtaining information about governmental actions.

One point is earned for each of two descriptions that show how the Chinese government since 1997 limits transparency. Acceptable descriptions of limitations include:

- Closed government proceedings (e.g., courts).
- Censorship of information relating to public policy or events of public relevance.
- Government control of the media, linked to transparency.
- Not publishing budgetary information or information on salaries of government officials.
- Suppressing any information that could be construed as damaging to the government.
- Secrecy in selection of leaders.

Notes:

- The task here seeks an explanation, not a definition.
- Correct answers will focus on what information the government as an agent allows, rather than on what citizens seek to access.
- Descriptions of limits should be accompanied by an explanation of HOW they influence.
- An example of a specific incident that the Chinese government suppressed is not awarded a point UNLESS there is an explanation of how this suppression limited transparency.

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.

2A

2. A government has transparency when the actions it does is clearly visible outside that country/state, and it allows close observation, ~~and~~ criticism, and opinion on the way it governs from outside observers. China has limited transparency by ~~constraining~~ limiting the freedom of speech and press inside of the mainland, and thus the operation of the CCP is shrouded in secrecy. China's relations with Tibet, particularly in 2008, have been censored from outside observation and reports of government crackdowns have been denied by the government, but China refuses to let many journalists into Tibet.

2B

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

The transparency of a government is how open it is about its policies and financial transactions in the economic and military sectors. A government that has transparency is open, usually having less corruption, and has little to hide. The Chinese government has decreased its transparency by keeping a tight hold on the media, and refusing to disclose statistics concerning domestic matters such as ~~pollution~~ environmental ^{pollution} conditions, or the spread of AIDS.

2C

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

When a government has transparency it means that others are able to see what is going on within the government and ~~can~~ be able to access government information. Within China, there is very limited transparency within the government. For one, it limits the media heavily. This insures that no information about the government will make its way to the people.

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2008 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 2

Overview

The overall intent of this question was to examine the concept of transparency in government and to see if students could describe examples of a government acting to limit transparency within the context of a particular case. Students had to: (1) explain what it means to say that a government has transparency and (2) describe two examples that show how the Chinese government has limited transparency since 1977.

Sample: 2A

Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for correctly explaining what it means to say that a government has transparency: “it allows close observation ... on the way it governs.”

The response earned 1 point for a correct example of how the Chinese government since 1997 limits transparency: “limiting the freedom of speech and press inside of the mainland, and thus the operation of the CCP is shrouded in secrecy.”

The response earned 1 point for a second correct example of how the Chinese government since 1997 limits transparency: “China’s relations with Tibet, particularly in 2008, have been censored from outside observation and reports of government crackdowns have been denied [*sic*] by the government, but China refuses to let many journalists into Tibet.”

Sample: 2B

Score: 2

The response earned 1 point for correctly explaining what it means to say that a government has transparency: “it is [open] about its policies and financial transactions.”

The response did not earn a point for its first example of how the Chinese government since 1997 limits transparency, because the student does not explain how “keeping a tighter hold on the media” limits transparency.

The response earned 1 point for a second example of how the Chinese government since 1997 limits transparency: “refusing to disclose statistics concerning domestic matters such as environmental pollution, or the spread of AIDS.”

Sample: 2C

Score: 1

The response did not earn a point for explaining what it means to say that a government has transparency. The student’s statement that “it means that others are able to see what is going on with in the government” is insufficient, because it does not address what the government allows.

The response earned 1 point for a correct example of how the Chinese government since 1997 limits transparency: “it limits the media heavily. This insures that no information about the government will make its way to the people.”

The response does not give a second example of how the Chinese government since 1997 limits transparency, so no additional point was earned.