

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
2008 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 4

3 points

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

- A theocracy is a political system based on religious authority.
- A theocracy is a system of governance based on rule of the clerics.

Notes:

- Stating that a theocracy is a political system based on religion is not sufficient for a point.
- Stating that a theocracy lacks the separation of church and state is not sufficient for a point.
- It is appropriate to state that a theocracy is based on religious doctrine or religious leaders.

One point is earned for each of two identifications of national-level institutions in Iran whose members are directly elected by citizens.

Acceptable identifications include:

- Parliament (Majles)
- Assembly of Religious Experts
- Presidency

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.

4 A

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

A Theocracy is a nation that is governed by religious leaders. In a theocracy, religious law takes precedent over any law made by legislature. In some theocracies a certain sector of government may be elected by popular election and may not be a religious figurehead but ~~rather~~ a layperson. Two national-level institutions in Iran for which members are directly elected by citizens include the Majlis and the Presidency. However, the Guardian Council decides who can and cannot be a candidate for these positions.

4 B

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

Theocracy is a form of government where religion plays an important role in decision making. In Iran members of the Majles and the president are both elected by the people.

4 C

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

A Theocracy is a style of government that is inextricably linked to religion; its officials are of the state religion and policy is ~~at~~ made with the religious doctrine in mind.

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2008 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 4

Overview

The overall intent of this question was for students to define a theocracy as a system that is based on religious authority or leadership. The second part of the question asked students to identify nationally elected officials in the theocracy of Iran. The aim was to emphasize the dominant role of religious doctrine along with citizen input.

Sample: 4A

Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for the statement, “A [t]heocracy is a nation that is governed by religious leaders.” The definition was strengthened with the next sentence, “In a theocracy, religious law takes precedent over any law made by legislature.”

The response earned 1 point for identifying the Majles as a national-level institution in Iran elected by the people.

The response earned 1 point for identifying the president as a national-level institution in Iran elected by the people.

Sample: 4B

Score: 2

The response did not earn the first point because it does not provide a sufficiently clear definition of a theocracy: “a form of government where religion plays an important role in decision making.”

The response earned 1 point for identifying the Majles as a national-level institution in Iran elected by the people.

The response earned 1 point for identifying the president as a national-level institution in Iran elected by the people.

Sample: 4C

Score: 1

The response earned 1 point for explaining that a “theocracy is a style of government that is inexorably [*sic*] linked to religion.” The definition is strengthened with the statement, “its officials are of the state religion and policy is made with the religious doctrine in mind.”

The response does not identify two national-level institutions in Iran that are directly elected by the people and therefore did not earn any additional points.