

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2008 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 5

3 points

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

- A welfare state is a state with a set of public policies designed to provide for citizens' needs through direct or indirect provision of pensions, healthcare, unemployment insurance, and assistance to the poor.
- Welfare states have governmental policies that provide citizens with a social safety net.
- A definition may focus on the redistribution of wealth as long as it also addresses the state's intention to provide for citizens' needs.

Notes:

- If a response simply defines the welfare state as “taking care of the poor,” no point is awarded.
- No point is given for a simple claim that the welfare state is socialism.
- Restating that a welfare state provides welfare does not earn a point.

One point is earned for each of two descriptions of examples of social welfare policy important to Great Britain. Acceptable examples include:

- National health service—free, universal
- Poverty relief
- Unemployment benefits
- Maternity/paternity benefits, family leave
- Subsidized council housing
- Education—extended or enhanced, a reference to a specific aspect of education
- Free job training
- Disability insurance
- Subsidized university tuition
- Retirement benefits/pensions
- Programs for the homeless

Notes:

- Simply providing the title of a program does not earn a point if the title does not convey details of the program's policy. An identified program must be accompanied by a brief description to earn a point.
- The example of “free, public education” is not sufficient for a point.

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.

5 A

A welfare state is one in which the government provides certain services to the people as part of their duties, such as healthcare, unemployment and retirement benefits, and more. The National Health Service of Great Britain that provides free health care to all citizens is an important ~~part~~ social welfare policy. Another important social welfare policy in Great Britain is the system of unemployment benefits provided to ~~its~~ citizens if they were to lose their jobs.

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

5.B

A welfare state is a state that is concerned with the welfare of its people. One example of social welfare in Great Britain is the belief that all people should have free healthcare. Another example in Great Britain is education. Universities are either government paid for or very reasonable. Healthcare and education are available to British citizens free or at very cheap prices.

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

5c

A welfare state is a state whose citizens depend on the government for certain basic needs. The government is responsible for the services admitted to the citizens. Two examples of social welfare policy important to Great Britain is the National Health Service and Social Security.

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2008 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 5

Overview

The intent of the question was for students to provide a definition of a welfare state and then relate Great Britain, through a description of two of its social welfare programs, to that definition. Skills tested were “define” and “apply.”

Sample: 5A

Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for this definition: “A welfare state is one in which the government provides certain services to the people ... such as healthcare, unemployment and retirement benefits.”

The response earned 1 point for describing how Great Britain “provides free health care to all citizens.”

The response earned 1 point for describing the British “system of unemployment benefits provided to citizens if they were to lose their jobs.”

Sample: 5B

Score: 2

The response did not earn a point for providing a clear definition of a welfare state.

The response earned 1 point for stating that in Great Britain “all people ... have free healthcare.”

The response earned 1 point for stating that in Great Britain “[u]niversities are either government paid for or very reasonable [*sic*].”

Sample: 5C

Score: 1

The response earned 1 point for this definition: “A welfare state is a state whose citizens depend on the government for certain basic needs.”

The response did not earn a point for citing the National Health Service as an example of British social welfare programs, as this service is not explained.

The response did not earn a point for citing “social security” as an example of British social welfare programs, as this reference is not explained.