

**AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
2008 SCORING GUIDELINES**

Question 6

6 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct identification and explanation of the type of electoral system that creates a multiparty system. An acceptable identification and explanation is:

- Proportional representation (PR); in electoral systems with PR, seats are distributed according to the proportion of votes a party captures.
- A mixed- or split-electoral system that has both PR and the first-past-the-post (FPTP) system.
- There is a high threshold requirement for parties in PR systems; such parties must gain a certain percentage of votes to be elected.

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct identification and explanation of the type of electoral system that creates a two-party system. An acceptable identification and explanation is:

- Single-member district plurality (SMDP): a system that provides for a single seat within a district; the seat is awarded to the person winning the greatest number of votes in the district.
- Single-member majority districts: winner take all, first past the post.

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of how a one-party system might emerge. An acceptable description may include:

- A revolution or coup that installs a single party.
- Emergence of a charismatic leader.
- An economic crisis that leads citizens to unify around a single leader/party.
- Constitutional imposition of a single party.
- An external threat that leads citizens to unify around a single party.
- Ethnic/religious fragmentation.

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Question 6 (continued)

Part (d): 3 points

One point is earned for each correct explanation of an advantage of multiparty, two-party, and one-party systems in a multiethnic society.

An acceptable explanation of an advantage for a multiparty system includes:

- The multiparty system provides representation for a greater number of ethnic groups.
- Parties are more accountable.
- Parties are more representative of different divisions in society.

An acceptable explanation of an advantage for a two-party system includes:

- A two-party system creates a big tent that militates against tendencies to ethnic fragmentation.
- There is a closer relationship between representatives and constituencies.
- Governments are more stable.
- The two-party system is more efficient at governing and lawmaking than a multiparty system.
- The two-party system simplifies voters' decisions.
- The two-party system promotes a greater consensus.

An acceptable explanation of an advantage for a one-party system includes:

- A one-party system may create stability by enacting uniform policies.
- A one-party system enhances policy continuity.
- A one-party system can be more efficient, acting with a single voice (but this answer needs to be explained; simply saying "more efficient" does not earn a point).
- A one-party system unites different ethnicities into one group (e.g., nationalism).

Notes:

- Just giving the name of the electoral system does not earn the point; it needs to be explained.
- "Winner take all" does not necessarily earn a point and must be accompanied by an explanation and linkage to a national-level electoral system.
- No point is earned if the response confuses the concepts of majority and plurality.
- "Strong central government" is not an adequate description of a benefit of the one-party system.

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.

The different states of the world ~~have~~ have varying ~~party~~ political party and electoral systems. Oftentimes the type of electoral system actually influences the number of parties that may compete in a country.

For example, an electoral system involving proportional representation most often results in the creation of a multiparty system because several parties are able to gain some representation and power. Seats in a national legislature are assigned to the different political parties based on the proportion of the popular vote that they received. This directly contrasts to the situation with a "winner-take-all" or "first-past-the-post" electoral system, whereby the candidate with a plurality of the votes (the highest number of votes) wins. This tends to create a two-party system because third parties find it difficult to maintain a plurality in enough areas to gain a significant number or proportion of seats in the legislature (hence why they become third parties).

A one-party system could also possibly emerge as a result of a government's ban on competing parties and interests (as is the case with China), or ~~a tradition~~ as a result of a tradition of authoritarian rule that eventually leads to the domination of a single party in politics for many years (as occurred in Mexico).

In multiethnic societies, a multiparty system could be advantageous by allowing for many competing interests to fight for control or influence and prevent the deterioration of the state as a result of ^{direct} conflict between two or more ethnic groups. An advantage of a two-party system is that it enables a majority to ~~to~~ exist and take hold, solidifying power (and contributing to political legitimacy) but still permitting a voiced opposition. Finally, a one-party ~~system~~ system would allow one group to dictate all policy, and while these policies would help ensure the continued domination of that single party, it ~~could~~ still may be able to keep the country unified and prevent it from breaking up into ^{clearly} different ~~nationalities~~ nationalities or ethnic groups.

b.a. The type of electoral system that tends to create a multiparty system is a proportional system, as it ~~also~~ allows for parties who don't achieve majority or plurality to still be represented in the government.

b. A Plurality system tends to create a ~~two~~ two-party system as it marginalizes smaller parties, ^{so} only the party which receives the most votes is represented. Therefore, only large parties can exist successfully.

c. One party systems can emerge for a multitude of reasons. In Mexico corruption and voter fraud led to the domination of the gov't by the PRI.

~~Once in power the PRI president continued picking PRI successors and citizens continued voting PRI legislatures due to bribes, public works, and public jobs of the PRI.~~ Once in power the PRI president continued picking PRI successors and citizens continued voting PRI legislatures due to bribes, public works, and public jobs of the PRI.

d. In a multi-ethnic society each party system has benefits. A multi-party system has benefits as it allows for the representation of many varieties of ethnic groups and political ideals. A two-party system could

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

6 B₂

be an advantage as a two-party system would streamline politics and allow for the articulation and aggregation of only two major groups as ~~so~~ opposed to multitude of small fragmented parties with specific issues. A one-party system could ~~be~~ be an advantage to a multiethnic society as it would allow for the marginalization of ethnic divisions and the overall unity of citizens as members of the nation rather than identifying themselves ~~as~~ by ethnicity.

6 C₁

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

a) An electoral system that tends to create a multi party system would be a presidential system, ~~or~~ combined with a parliamentary system. For example, in Russia, although Putin's party has in reality dominated, there is a system of multiple parties. Also in Nigeria, there are many parties that at least have attempted to form. This is because there are supposed to be competitive elections and many seats in legislature have proportional representation. (this means that more than one party can receive seats proportional to their # of votes). With a winner take all system and first past the post, a party that never gets most or majority of the votes would not be able to run.

b) A two party system would come out strongest where voting and seats are described as above, having an electoral system that doesn't offer seats or positions to the party that gets most of the votes eliminates smaller, lesser parties from competing. In countries like the United States and Great Britain, there are two main parties that always rule. This goes back historically for both countries. However both countries do have smaller, lesser known parties that receive votes.

c) A one party system is more prominent in countries that have a strong authoritarian or oligarchy for a government. Having a one party system basically means the government has wiped out all opposition. China is a prime example of this kind of government. Dissent has been openly suppressed by the govt (Tiananmen Square) and opposition is not welcome inside the government. Because there is a lot of corruption and power among the elites in a nation like this, the elites would never allow any opposition or controversy. They want their government to be the way they want it and not let the people vote on which kind of policies they prefer.

d) Having a multiparty system means that there are many options for the people. There are many different ideas and policies that the people can decide from. That also means there are more competitive elections and that the country, in theory, isn't dominated by one party and way. This also means that the country allows controversy and ~~doesn't want to be mixed.~~

Having a two party system is very effective, also because, there are still more than one party that has choices on opposite sides of the political spectrum. People have the choice between (normally) a more liberal and a more conservative government. This also means that there

6C3

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

will be disagreement within the government, but the people have a say in which direction the government is headed.

A one party system generally has more power. There can still be elections within the party but this allows for less controversy in the government. A one party system has more control and less disagreement. However, it is not open to a variety of different ways and people within the country aren't given as many choices.

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Question 6

Overview

The overall intent of this question was for students to examine multiparty, two-party, and one-party systems, linking them to the electoral systems that tend to lead to the various party systems, and explaining advantages of each type of system. The question asked students to: (a) identify and explain the type of electoral system that tends to create a multiparty system; (b) identify and explain the type of electoral system that tends to create a two-party system; (c) describe one reason that a one-party system might emerge; and (d) explain one advantage of each system (multiparty, two party, and one party) in a multiethnic society.

Sample: 6A

Score: 6

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for identifying proportional representation as the type of electoral system that tends to create a multiparty system and explaining proportional representation as a system where “[s]eats in a national legislature are assigned to the different political parties based on the proportion of the popular vote that they received.”

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for identifying “‘winner-take-all’ or ‘first-past-the-post’” as the type of electoral system that tends to create a two-party system and explaining this system as one “whereby the candidate with a plurality of the votes (the highest number of votes) wins.”

In part (c) the response earned 1 point for describing “a government’s ban on competing parties” as one reason that a one-party system might emerge.

In part (d) the response earned 1 point for explaining one advantage of a multiparty system in a multiethnic society: “In multiethnic societies, a multiparty system could be advantageous by allowing for many competing interests to fight for control or influence.” The response earned a second point in part (d) for explaining that “[a]n advantage of a two-party system is that it enables a majority to exist and take hold, solidifying power (and contributing to political legitimacy) but still permitting a voiced opposition.” The response earned a third point for explaining one advantage of a one-party system in a multiethnic society: it “may be able to keep the country unified and prevent it from breaking up into clearly different nationalities or ethnic groups.”

Sample: 6B

Score: 4

In part (a) the response did not earn a point because although “proportional system” is identified, it is not explained.

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for identifying a “plurality system” as the type of electoral system that tends to create a multiparty system and explaining that “only the party which receives [*sic*] the most votes is represented.”

In part (c) the response did not earn a point because the student does not clearly identify when a one-party system may emerge.

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Question 6 (continued)

In part (d) the response earned a point for explaining an advantage of a multiparty system in a multiethnic society: “A multi-party system has benefits as it allows for the representation of many varieties of ethnic groups.” The response earned a second point for describing an advantage of a two-party system in a multiethnic society: “a two-party system would streamline politics and allow for the articulation and aggregation of only two major groups as opposed to [a] multitude of small fragmented parties with specific issues.” Finally, the response earned a third point for explaining an advantage of a one-party system in a multiethnic society: “it would allow for the marginalization of ethnic divisions and the overall unity of citizens as members of the nation rather than identifying themselves by ethnicity.”

Sample: 6C

Score: 2

In part (a) the first sentence of the response does not correctly answer the question, but the student later correctly notes that “there are supposed to be competitive [*sic*] elections and many seats in legislature have proportional representation (this means that more than one party can receive [*sic*] seats proportional to their # of votes.” Because this statement correctly indicates that proportional representation is the type of electoral system that tends to create a multiparty system, the response earned 1 point.

In part (b) the response did not earn a point because the electoral system is not identified. The explanation, “A two party system would come out strongest where voting and seats are described as above. Having an electoral system that doesn’t offer seats or positions to the party that gets most of the votes,” is unclear.

In part (c) the response earned 1 point for stating that one reason that a one-party system might emerge is that the “government has wiped out all opposition. . . . opposition is not welcome. . . . the elites would never allow any opposition.”

In part (d) the response did not earn any points for giving an advantage of a multiparty system, a two-party system, or a one-party system in a multiethnic society because the idea of a multiethnic society is not discussed. In addition, the explanations (such as, “Having a multiparty system means that there are many options for the people. There are many different ideas and policies that the people can decide from.”) are too vague.