



AP[®] Comparative Government and Politics 2008 Scoring Guidelines

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AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

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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.

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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.

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Question 3

3 points

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

- Having independent legal authority over a population in a particular territory based on a recognized right to self-determination.

Note: A definition must include notions of exclusive territoriality and autonomous authority. The term “popular sovereignty” does not earn a point.

One point is earned for each of two descriptions of how member states give up sovereignty as members of the European Union (EU).

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Monetary policies (if in the European Economic and Monetary Union (EMU)/Eurozone) (e.g., setting the value of currency).
- Environmental regulation (e.g., protection of air and water quality, conservation of resources).
- Trade policy (e.g., tariffs, product classifications).
- Human rights (e.g., nondiscrimination and equal opportunity policies, workers’ rights).
- Judicial review (e.g., European Court of Justice decisions).
- Border control: immigration from other member states (although the EU15 were allowed to set limits on the work/residence of people from the new member states for the time being).
- External border control.

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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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Question 7

6 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for each correct description of reforms to the legal system in China in the past two decades. Acceptable descriptions include:

- Refinements to civil law and criminal law.
- Some autonomy for the courts.
- Creation of new types of courts (local, specialized).
- Establishment of commercial law, contract law, property rights.
- Requirements for judges.
- Establishment of law schools and more lawyers.
- Allocation of monies for reform of the legal system.
- Establishment of legal advisory offices.

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for each correct explanation of reasons for legal reforms. Acceptable explanations include:

- The state's desire to promote and enhance international trade and investments.
- International pressure surrounding high-profile events like the Olympics.
- Development of market mechanisms (capitalism) in China that require codified laws and procedures.
- Domestic pressure for the rule of law from citizen groups in China.
- The need to meet requirements in order to join the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Note: Simply stating "capitalism" without an explanation that links it to law and legal codification does not earn a point.

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Question 7 (continued)

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for each correct description of important features of the Chinese legal system that have not changed in the past two decades. Acceptable descriptions include:

- The party controls the law, the courts, and the legal system.
- No judicial review.
- High rates of conviction.
- High rates of incarceration.
- Use of capital punishment.
- The burden of proof is on the defendant, not the state.
- Courts are inquisitorial, not adversarial.
- *Guanxi*—connections.

Note: Just mentioning or defining the rule of law is not sufficient to earn 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.

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Question 8

7 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for a correct definition of economic liberalization, and 1 point is earned for a correct definition of political liberalization.

An acceptable definition of economic liberalization is:

- Less government regulation of the economy and greater participation of private entities (free markets, reducing state control over markets, pricing, employment, property, distribution).
- Reducing government intervention in the economy.

An acceptable definition of political liberalization is:

- Increasing citizen rights and liberties.
- Minimizing government supervision of society/individuals.

Note: The definition “becoming more capitalistic/democratic” is not enough to earn a point.

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for each correct description of an economic liberalization policy pursued by Mexico and Russia.

Acceptable descriptions of economic liberalization policies in Mexico include:

- Approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).
- Closure of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) (former president Salinas).
- Privatization of banks.
- Cutting of subsidies to farms.
- Parastatals (e.g., the state farms, *ejidos*) sold off by the state.
- Creation of special laws for *maquiladoras* (e.g., tax incentives).
- Joining the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- Privatization (with mention of specific sectors, e.g., telecom, airlines).
- Reduction of the power of the oil workers’ union.
- Replacement of import-substitution with structural-adjustment policies.

Note: For parts (b) and (c), the answer must describe a policy, not a change or outcome.

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Question 8 (continued)

Acceptable descriptions of economic liberalization policies in Russia include:

- Shock therapy.
- Floating prices.
- Privatization of state-owned enterprises and collective farms.
- Introduction of the stock market.
- Legalization of private property.
- Invitations to foreign-direct investment (FDI).
- Distribution of vouchers.
- Loans-for-shares programs.
- Reduction in state spending (e.g., on social services).

Note: “Shock therapy” requires an explanation of the phenomenon to earn the point.

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for each correct description of a political liberalization policy pursued by Mexico and Russia.

Acceptable descriptions of political liberalization policies in Mexico include:

- Voter ID cards.
- Priests allowed to vote.
- The Federal Electoral Institute was strengthened in 2007.
- Addition of the system of proportional representation (PR) to create mixed legislative elections.
- End of the rule of impunity (arrest of Raúl Salinas).
- Election reforms in the late 1990s to reduce corruption.
- The inclusion of women through party quotas.

Acceptable descriptions of political liberalization policies in Russia include:

- The 1993 Constitution guaranteed civil liberties.
- Law granting freedom to the media.
- Freedom of movement or expression.
- Legal reform/greater judicial independence.
- Allowing more political parties.
- The establishment of the doctrine of presumption of innocence.
- Disbanding the KGB.
- The 1993 Constitution gave people the right to choose their representatives.

Note: Acceptable answers must refer to policies that increase civil liberties or political rights. “The establishment of elections in Russia after 1991” is not enough to earn a point.

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Question 8 (continued)

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct comparison of one consequence of economic liberalization on social class in Mexico and Russia.

Acceptable comparisons include:

- In Mexico: farmers suffered economically; increased regional disparities; indigenous people suffered economically.
- In Russia: pensioners suffered economically; super-rich oligarchs prospered; financial-industrial groups grew; increase in organized crime; racial and ethnic tensions exacerbated; rise of a small middle class; decrease in the number of farmers.
- Growing gap between the rich and the poor in both countries.

Note: The answer must correctly compare social class in both countries and must be explicitly comparative.

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.