

# AP<sup>®</sup> COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

## 2009 SCORING GUIDELINES

### Question 5

#### 3 points

One point is earned for correct identification of TWO countries in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course—other than Iran—where religion serves as a source of political legitimacy.

Acceptable identifications include any of the following:

- Great Britain
- Mexico
- Nigeria
- Russia

*Notes:*

- No points are earned for correct identification of only one country where religion serves as a source of political legitimacy.
- No points are earned if a student identifies more than two countries and one of those countries is not a correct identification.

One point each is earned for two correct descriptions of how religion confers political legitimacy (one in each country selected).

Acceptable descriptions include any of the following:

- Great Britain
  - The monarch's role as the official head of the Church of England creates a sense of legitimacy for the monarch as the head of state.
  - Formal authority is vested in the sovereign (in Parliament) as the religious and political leader of the realm.
  - The Church of England is the established religion of the state, which creates a sense of legitimacy for the government among the Church's adherents.
  - In a society with increasing religious heterogeneity, the presence of leaders who adhere to religions other than the Anglican Church legitimizes the system of government for other adherents of those religions.
- Mexico
  - The current relationship between the ruling PAN party and the Catholic Church adds an additional source of legitimacy for the government for some citizens.
- Nigeria
  - Acceptance of the use of Sharia law in the north creates a sense of legitimacy for the government and/or the legal system for some citizens.
  - In a religiously heterogeneous society, the presence of leaders that adhere to a particular religion legitimizes the system of government for other adherents of that religion.
- Russia
  - The increasingly close relationship between the Russian (Eastern) Orthodox Church and the rising Russian nationalism encouraged by the government adds an additional source of legitimacy for the government for some citizens.
  - Laws have recently been passed to protect particular long-established religions from competition from newer religious forces, which creates a sense of legitimacy for the government among some adherents of those long-established religions.

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**Question 5 (continued)**

*Notes:*

- Most correct answers will focus on religion as an institution (organized religion, not religious identification) and its effects on present-day systemic political legitimacy.
- Exception: Heterogeneous society answers for Great Britain and Nigeria (above) rely on religion as religious identification.

A score of zero (0) is earned for an attempted answer that merits 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.

5A

5. Religion serves as a source of political legitimacy in Nigeria and the UK.

In Nigeria, sharia is the legal code in the north. The Hausa-Fulani use sharia, Islamic law, to run their government rather than code law. People allow the government to govern because they believe in those Islamic values.

In the United Kingdom, the queen is the head of the church of England. She has very little formal power today with the institution of the Prime Minister president. The fact that she heads the church is a major reason the British allow her monarchy to ~~remain~~ retain "rule".

[ ] [ ]

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

5B

5. Religion confers political legitimacy in Great Britain because of tradition. The monarch, currently the Queen, is traditionally the leader of the church of England. This traditional role for the head of state gives the monarch's legitimacy through traditional authority. In Mexico religion confers political legitimacy because Catholicism unites Mexicans as a nation, although there are ethnic divisions Mexico remains a nation because of its tight knit religious community. Religion serves as a source of legitimacy in Mexico because it unites the citizens of the state creating a nation.

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

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5) Political legitimacy within a country can be defined by many things. Religion plays a key role in the legitimacy of Nigeria and Russia. In Nigeria, there is a split among the Muslims in the North and the Christians in the South.

The Muslim faith is currently dominant in Nigerian society and government. Half of the population of Nigeria lives in this Northern region and also practices Sharia, or Muslim, law. They also wish to spread this practice throughout the entire country.

During the Soviet years Russian Orthodox was the only religion legally practiced in the country. This changed when the USSR became the Russian Federation. However, in recent years Vladimir Putin has tried to reinforce the Russian Orthodox faith and restore its popularity. Increasing tensions between the Russian government and the heavily Muslim populated region of Chechnya have also returned support to ~~the~~ the Russian Orthodox faith.

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## Question 5

### Overview

The overall intent of this question was for students to analyze political legitimacy by identifying and describing examples of how religion serves as a source of political legitimacy within the context of two appropriate cases in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course. The question also asked students to respond to these tasks using countries other than the most obvious case, Iran. Thus, it forced students to think about how religion confers political legitimacy across a range of cases not normally associated with that relationship. Students had to (1) identify two countries in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course—other than Iran—where religion serves as a source of political legitimacy, and (2) describe how religion confers political legitimacy in each of those two countries.

### Sample: 5A

#### Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for correctly identifying Nigeria and the United Kingdom as two countries in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course where religion serves as a source of political legitimacy.

The response earned 1 point for a correct description of how in Nigeria, “[t]he Hausa-Fulani use Sharia, Islamic law . . . rather than code law. People allow the government to govern because they believe in those Islamic values.”

The response earned 1 point for a correct description of how in the United Kingdom, the fact that “the Queen is the Head of the Church of England . . . is a major reason the British allow her monarchy to retain ‘rule.’”

### Sample: 5B

#### Score: 2

The response earned 1 point for correctly identifying Great Britain and Mexico as two countries in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course where religion serves as a source of political legitimacy.

The response earned 1 point for a correct description of how in the United Kingdom, “the monarch . . . is traditionally the leader of the Church of England” and how “[t]his traditional roll [*sic*] . . . for the head of state gives the monarch legitimacy [*sic*].”

The response discusses how religion serves as a source of national identity in Mexico rather than how religion serves as a source of political legitimacy, so no additional point was earned.

### Sample: 5C

#### Score: 1

The response earned 1 point for correctly identifying Nigeria and Russia as two countries in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course where religion serves as a source of political legitimacy.

The response did not earn a point for a description of how religion serves as a source of political legitimacy in Nigeria because while the response discusses religious divisions in Nigeria, it does not discuss how religion serves as a source of political legitimacy.

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**Question 5 (continued)**

The response discusses how the state serves as a source of legitimacy for religious institutions in Russia rather than how religion serves as a source of political legitimacy, so no additional point was earned.