

**AP<sup>®</sup> COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**  
**2009 SCORING GUIDELINES**

**Question 6**

**5 points**

**Part (a): 2 points**

One point is earned for a correct description of a similarity, and 1 point is earned for a correct description of a difference between an illiberal democracy and a liberal democracy.

Acceptable descriptions of similarities include either of the following:

- Liberal and illiberal democracies are similar because they both may have regular competitive elections.
- Their political systems have similar structural characteristics—constitutions and executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government.

Acceptable descriptions of differences include either of the following:

- Illiberal and liberal democracies are different in that the elections in illiberal democracies are generally not free and not fair, and may not be competitive, whereas those in liberal democracies are generally free, fair, and competitive.
- In liberal democracies the full spectrum of civil liberties and civil rights is in place, whereas this is not the case in illiberal democracies.

*Notes:*

- The points in part (a) of this question may stand alone from the remainder of the response.
- Students can earn the point for describing a similarity if they indicate that elections can be free and competitive. However, adding “fair” as a similarity is not acceptable.
- Similarities include elections, constitutions, political parties, and voting procedures.
- Differences include civil liberties, rule of law (e.g., absence of clear and fair rules of governance), transparency, accountability, and control of information.

**Part (b): 1 point**

One point is earned for a correct identification of an institution that would need to be changed to make an illiberal democracy more liberal.

Acceptable examples include any of the following:

- Judiciary
- Executive
- Legal system
- Election system
  - Elections
  - Electoral commissions
- Party system
- Legislature
- Media

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### Question 6 (continued)

Notes:

- Students must identify a political institution, not an individual or an economic institution or model.
- Students who identify a correct and an incorrect institution do not earn the point.
- Students who identify multiple correct institutions earn the point.
- In most cases students who do not earn the point in part (b) will not earn the point in part (c), because the stem requires a connection between the (b) and (c) elements of the response.

#### Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned by correctly describing a change to the institution identified in part (b) that facilitates a shift from illiberal to liberal democracy.

Acceptable examples include any of the following:

- Judicial independence (institution = judiciary)
- Separation of powers (institution = legislature)
- Rule of law (institution = legal system)
- Competitive parties (institution = party system)
- Independence of election commissions; nondiscriminatory qualification process for electoral candidacy; free and fair elections (institution = election system)
- Diffusion/reduction of executive authority (institution = executive)
- Fair competition; fair vote counting (institution = elections)
- Freedom of the press (institution = media)

Notes:

- The change must be a change in the institution, not a change in the behavior of the individuals who compose the institution.
- To earn the point, the change must be about the institution identified in part (b).
- Students who do not earn the part (c) point may still earn the part (d) point.

#### Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned when the student *explains why* the change in part (c) would lead to a more liberal democracy.

Acceptable explanations (the changes to which they relate are in brackets) include any of the following:

- [Judicial independence]: autonomy from executive; protects civil rights; civil liberties.
- [Separation of powers]: allows legislature to function autonomously.
- [Rule of law]: increases accountability.
- [Competitive parties]: participation; representation; range of voter choice.
- [Independence of election commissions]: allows for transparency and fairness in the qualification process for electoral candidates; promotes free and fair elections.
- [Diffusion/reduction of executive authority]: limiting executive power constrains authoritarian tendencies; reduces control over legislative policymaking process.
- [Fair competition; fair vote counting]: accountability makes votes count; range of voter choice.
- [Freedom of the press]: guarantees free flow of information.

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**Question 6 (continued)**

*Note:* The connection between the change and the outcome (increased liberal democracy) should be clear.

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.

- a.) Both illiberal and liberal democracies are procedural democracies with some form of free elections. However, illiberal democracies usually are only procedural democracies while liberal democracies are usually substantive democracies with a commitment to civil liberties and rights to free speech, freedom of religion, and freedom of expression.
- b.) In an illiberal democracy, the ~~state~~<sup>judiciary</sup> would need to be changed to make an illiberal democracy more liberal.
- c.) The judiciary would have to be changed so that it would be free from the influence of the Legislative and Executive branches of government and <sup>so</sup> that it would have the power of Judicial Review. In order to make the judiciary independent, the members should be able to serve for life and should not be held accountable to the public like the executive and legislative branches of government are.
- d.) This change would lead to a more liberal democracy ~~because~~ because an independent judiciary with the power of Judicial Review would theoretically ensure that the citizens of a country are treated fairly and that <sup>basic</sup> civil liberties ~~are~~ are protected.

6.

6a. Both illiberal & liberal democracies are similar in that they are procedural democracies, meaning they have democratic institutions in theory. The difference between illiberal & liberal democracies is that liberal democracies are democratic in practice and have legitimacy, but illiberal democracies are not democratic in practice & lack legitimacy.

6b. The judiciary would need to be changed in order to make an illiberal democracy more liberal.

~~c. By giving the ~~judiciary~~ judiciary independence, it would be able to~~

6c. Giving the judiciary independence and protection, an illiberal democracy could become more liberal.

6d. Independence would allow the judiciary to exercise oversight over the government and protection would allow the judges to make independent, impartial decisions in matters that may not be constitutional. This would lead to a more liberal democracy. ▸

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

6B<sub>2</sub>

# 6. d. (cont). by making the government  
more transparent and answerable  
for its illiberal or unconstitutional  
actions.

A similarity between a liberal and an illiberal democracy is that both have elections (no matter how corrupt they may be) in order to elect a leader. ~~Yet the differences~~ yet the differences are as clear as day. One major one is that there is no civil society meaning that there <sup>can neither</sup> ~~can~~ be religious groups, business groups, or interest groups ~~are~~ present in the country. The representation of a country's people needs to be changed in order to make a ~~an~~ liberal democracy. This means creating interest groups for people who are passionate about ideas ~~or~~ allowing different religious groups to practice legally. More people would ~~instead~~ of one ~~best~~ kind of idea ~~board~~ projected by a government, many people would be represented by <sup>the</sup> interest groups. This would allow political growth and more participation. The allowance of religion would also open up support of the government because members of that religion would endorse a country that allow them to practice and that could perhaps bring more ~~the~~ people

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

6C<sub>2</sub>

into the country, making it ~~a~~ closer  
to a liberal democracy.

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## 2009 SCORING COMMENTARY

### Question 6

#### Overview

Observers of democratic transition processes around the world have concluded that full liberal democracy is difficult to achieve. A recent contribution to our understanding of democracy has been the idea of the limited or illiberal democracy. Question 6 asked students to demonstrate their knowledge about the similarities and differences between liberal and illiberal democracies and what institutional changes would be necessary to facilitate a shift to a more liberal democracy. This question sought to determine students' conceptual knowledge outside of country-specific contexts.

The question asked students to (a) describe one similarity and one difference between illiberal democracy and liberal democracy; (b) identify an institution that would need to be changed to make an illiberal democracy more liberal; (c) describe a change to the institution identified in (b) that would facilitate a shift from illiberal to liberal democracy; and (d) explain why the change described in (c) would lead to a more liberal democracy.

#### Sample: 6A

##### Score: 5

In part (a) the response earned 2 points for the description of one similarity and one difference between liberal and illiberal democracies. The student earned the similarity point by stating: "Both illiberal and liberal democracies are procedural democracies with some form of free elections." The student earned the second point for a correct description of the difference between liberal and illiberal democracies: "However, illiberal democracies usually are only procedural democracies while liberal democracies are usually substantive democracies with a commitment to civil liberties and rights to free speech, freedom of religion, and freedom of expression."

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for correctly identifying the judiciary as an institution that if changed could make an illiberal democracy more liberal.

In part (c) the response earned 1 point for correctly explaining that the judiciary would need to become "free from the influence of the Legislative and Executive branches of government and so that it would have the power of Judicial Review."

In part (d) the response earned 1 point for explaining how this change would lead to a more liberal democracy with the statement that "an independent judiciary with the power of Judicial Review would theoretically ensure that the citizens of a country are treated fairly and that basic civil liberties are protected."

#### Sample: 6B

##### Score: 3

The response earned no points for part (a).

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for the correct identification of the judiciary as an institution that if changed would make an illiberal democracy more liberal.

In part (c) the response earned 1 point for describing the change to the institution correctly identified in part (b): "[g]iving the judiciary [*sic*] independence and protection."

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**Question 6 (continued)**

In part (d) the response earned 1 point for correctly explaining why a newly independent judiciary might lead to a more liberal democracy. The response states: “Independence would allow the judiciary [*sic*] to exercise oversight over the government and protection would allow the judges to make independent, impartial decisions in matters that may not be constitutional. This would lead to a more liberal democracy by making the government more transparent and answerable for its illiberal or unconstitutional actions.”

**Sample: 6C**

**Score: 1**

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for a correct description of a similarity between liberal and illiberal democracies: “A similarity between a liberal and an illiberal democracy is that both have elections (no matter how corrupt they may be) in order to elect a leader.”

The response earned no points for other parts of the question.