

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS 2009 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 7

7 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for an accurate description of Russia's electoral system before the 2007 Duma elections.

Acceptable descriptions include both of the following:

- A split electoral system, with one-half "first past the post" (FPTP) and one-half proportional representation (PR).
- A 5 percent threshold for parties to be included in the PR.

One point is earned for a correct explanation of how the electoral system shaped the pre-2007 Russian party system.

Acceptable explanations include any of the following:

- It allowed multiple parties to develop.
- It allowed for more demographically diverse parties.
- It permitted many independent candidates.
- It encouraged personality-based factions more than parties with ideology.

Note: FPTP, SMD (single-member district), winner-take-all, and plurality are all acceptable.

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for an accurate description of a specific change to the Russian electoral system that was designed for the 2007 Duma elections.

Acceptable descriptions include both of the following:

- The system became only PR (FPTP was removed).
- The party threshold was increased from 5 percent to 7 percent.

One point is earned for a correct explanation of the impact of the change on party competition.

Acceptable explanations include any of the following:

- It eliminated (made it very difficult for) all reform parties (Yabloko, "floating parties").
- It strengthened United Russia and other parties that tended to support Putin's agenda.
- It decreased the diversity of political viewpoints in the Duma.

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of Mexico's current electoral system.

The following is an acceptable description:

- A dual system of FPTP and PR in both chambers (Senate also has at-large PR).

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Question 7 (continued)

Part (d): 2 points

One point is earned for a correct description of one electoral reform made in Mexico in the 1990s.

Acceptable descriptions include any of the following:

- Creation of an electoral commission to regulate campaigns and elections (1990).
- All parties receive government funding and have access to the media.
- Increase in the number of Senate seats (from 68 to 128) (1993).
- Presence of foreign electoral observers was legalized (1994).
- Creation of a fully independent Federal Electoral Institute (IFE) (1996).
- A limit was set on how many seats one party can hold in the Chamber of Deputies (60 percent, or 300 of the 500 seats) (1996).
- PR was incorporated in the Senate for 32 of 128 seats (1996).
- A limit was set on party spending for campaigns (campaign finance spending limits).
- A party threshold for participation in PR was set at 2 percent (Senate and Chamber) (1996).
- Priests were legally allowed to cast votes.
- Legislation “recommending” that parties establish a gender quota for candidate lists (1996). (To earn this point the argument must show that the student is not referring to the stricter quota law passed in 2002.)

One point is earned for an accurate explanation of how that reform affected Mexico’s party system.

Acceptable explanations include any of the following:

- An increase in the power of nondominant parties.
- Removal of the prevailing party (PRI) from dominance.
- Created a true multiparty system (PAN, PRD, Green Party gained power).

Notes:

- The 180 PR seats added to the Chamber of Deputies occurred in 1988, NOT in the 1990s.
- The strict quota law mandating a quota for women on the ballot was implemented in 2002.

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) Prior to the 2007 Duma elections, ~~half of the~~ ^{half of the} Duma's representatives were elected through the winner-take-all system of single member districts (SMD) while half was elected through Proportional Representation, in which the threshold for smaller parties to receive representation was ~~set at~~ 5% of the popular vote. There was no real majority party in the Duma, and many smaller parties were represented. In order to create and pass legislation, parties had to cooperate and form coalitions.

B) The electoral system for the Duma was changed for the 2007 elections to entirely proportional representation with a 7% threshold. This change cut ~~out~~ ^{fairly} many of the smaller, dissenting parties that ~~took~~ ^{took} seats away from Putin's party. These changes allowed not only for a majority party in the Duma, but they ~~also~~ ^{also} eliminated the need for opposing political parties to have to compromise and create coalitions. Influence of those ~~op~~ ^{op} still opposing Putin has therefore been sharply curbed.

C) In Mexico's current electoral system, the president is elected directly by the citizens. The lower house of the legislature is split between SMD and proportional representation. In the upper Senate,

each of the 31 states and the federal district each get 4 representatives; ~~2 are elected by SMD~~ ^{seats} 2 seats are filled by SMD, 1 is filled by whichever party came in 2nd, and 1 is filled by proportional representation.

D) During the 1990's, a council was created to monitor voting fraud and corruption. The council ~~reverses the results~~ ^{reverses the results} Citizens were also given ID cards used in the voting process. This council helped to eliminate much of the fraud upon which PRI was relying to win their elections, and in 2000 a president won the election who wasn't represented a member of PRI for the first time in over 70 years. Since Felipe Vincente Fox and PRI's 2000 victory, elections between political parties have become increasingly more competitive.

7 Prior to the 2007 elections, Russia didn't have a Prime Minister. Prior to the elections as well the Duma was a mixed system. Currently it is a proportional representation system. The change enabled smaller parties such as Yabloko to gain representation in the Duma. Mexico has a mixed representation system.

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

7C,

1) This would lead to a more liberal society because people could ^{more} effectively control the government and ensure that their needs are met. So they could increase relief for the poor or institute other aid based organizations.

2) a) Before the Duma there was little to no electoral system in Russia. The Zar simply appointed his cabinet and there was no such thing as an opposing party. This helped to shape the Russian party system because as people became increasingly unsupportive of the U.S.S.R they increased their political voice.

b) For the 2007 Duma elections for the first time ~~various~~ opposing political parties were allowed to run for office which greatly impacted Russian society. Society as a whole began to regain ~~their~~ national pride and because of the increase in political competition. People began to feel that their voice was heard and mattered.

c) In Mexico the people vote their officials into office. Not just a president and vice president, and recently, like Austria, other political parties have arisen and gained support.

d) One reform to ~~the~~ Mexico's electoral system ^{in the 1990s} ~~was~~ ~~the~~ ~~inclusion~~ ~~of~~ ~~other~~ ~~political~~ ~~parties~~ ~~was~~ ~~the~~ ~~inclusion~~ ~~of~~ ~~other~~ ~~political~~ ~~parties~~, this effectively ended the previously ~~dominant~~ single party dominance in the Mexican

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government. It has increased the support of governmental decisions of the masses and increased the number of people represented in the government. Resentments become pride as the individual begins to feel the strength of ~~self~~ his voice.

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2009 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 7

Overview

The overall intent of this question was for students to examine past and current electoral systems in Russia and Mexico, focusing on changes to the electoral system and impacts on the Russian and Mexican party systems. The question asked students to (a) describe Russia's electoral system before the 2007 Duma elections and explain how the electoral system shaped the pre-2007 Russian party system; (b) describe a specific change to the Russian electoral system that was designed for the 2007 Duma elections and explain its impact on party competition; (c) describe Mexico's current electoral system; and (d) describe one electoral reform made in Mexico in the 1990s and explain how that reform affected Mexico's party system.

Sample: 7A Score: 7

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for describing Russia's electoral system before the 2007 Duma elections as one where "half of the Duma's representatives were elected through the winner-take-all system of Single member districts (SMD) while half was elected through Proportional Representation, in which the threshold for smaller parties to receive representation was 5% of the popular vote." The response earned a second point in part (a) for explaining how the electoral system shaped the pre-2007 Russian party system: "There was no real majority party in the Duma, and many smaller parties were represented."

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for describing a specific change to the Russian electoral system that was designed for the 2007 Duma elections: "The electoral system for the Duma was changed for the 2007 elections to entirely proportional representation with a 7% threshold." The response earned a second point in part (b) for explaining how "[t]his change cut out many of the smaller, dissenting parties that previously took seats away from Putin's party."

In part (c) the response earned 1 point for describing Mexico's current electoral system: "The lower house of the legislature is split between SMD and proportional representation. In the Senate, . . . 2 seats are filled by SMD, 1 is filled by whichever party came in 2nd, and 1 is filled by proportional representation."

In part (d) the response earned 1 point for describing how "a council was created to monitor voting fraud and corruption" as one electoral reform made in Mexico in the 1990s. The response earned a second point for explaining how, "[s]ince Vicente Fox and PAN's 2000 victory, elections between political parties have become increasingly more competitive."

Sample: 7B Score: 3

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for describing that "[p]rior to the [2007] elections, . . . the [D]uma was a mixed system." The response did not earn a second point, as no explanation is given concerning how the electoral system shaped the pre-2007 Russian party system.

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for noting that currently the Duma "is a proportional representation system." The response did not earn a second point because the change did not increase, but rather lessened, representation of the smaller parties.

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Question 7 (continued)

In part (c) the response earned 1 point for describing Mexico's current electoral system as "a mixed representation system."

There is no response to part (d), and thus neither point for part (d) was earned.

Sample: 7C

Score: 1

In part (a) the response did not earn a point because it does not describe Russia's electoral system before the 2007 Duma elections. Likewise, the response did not earn a second point because the statement "as people became increasingly unsupportive of the U.S.S.R. they increased their political voice" does not explain how the electoral system shaped the pre-2007 Russian party system.

In part (b) the response did not earn the first point because it does not describe a specific change to the Russian electoral system. The response also did not earn the second point because the statement "[s]ociety as a whole began to regain national pride because of the increase in political competition" does not accurately explain an impact on party competition.

In part (c) the response did not earn a point because it does not describe Mexico's current electoral system.

In part (d) the response did not earn a point for describing one electoral reform made in Mexico in the 1990s because no reform is discussed. The response did earn 1 point for explaining how reforms affected Mexico's party system, as "the inclusion of other political parties . . . affectively [*sic*] ended the previously single party dominance in the Mexican government [*sic*]."