

AP[®] Comparative Government and Politics 2009 Free-Response Questions

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**2009 AP® COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Section II

Time—1 hour and 40 minutes

Directions: You have 100 minutes to answer five short-answer concept questions, one conceptual analysis question, and two country context questions. Unless the directions indicate otherwise, respond to all parts of all eight questions. It is suggested that you take a few minutes to plan and outline each answer. We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes total on questions 1 through 5, 30 minutes on question 6, and 40 minutes total on questions 7 and 8. These suggested times do not reflect the weight of the questions as part of your AP exam score. In your responses, use substantive examples where appropriate. Make certain to number each of your answers as the questions are numbered below.

Short-Answer Concepts: We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes total on questions 1 through 5.

1. Describe the status of private property in China under Mao. Identify and explain one policy undertaken by the Chinese government within the past 30 years that contradicts that policy.
2. Define political ideology. Identify one political party that participated in the 2006 presidential elections in Mexico and describe one central element of its political ideology.
3. Colonialism had an impact on both the colonizer and the colonized. Describe one example of how colonialism has shaped contemporary politics in Nigeria. Describe two examples of how colonialism has shaped contemporary politics in Great Britain.
4. Describe one feature of a bureaucracy in the context of an authoritarian system. Explain how that feature you have described can both help and hinder the effective implementation of public policy in an authoritarian system.
5. Identify two countries in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course—other than Iran—where religion serves as a source of political legitimacy. Describe how religion confers political legitimacy in each of the two countries that you have identified.

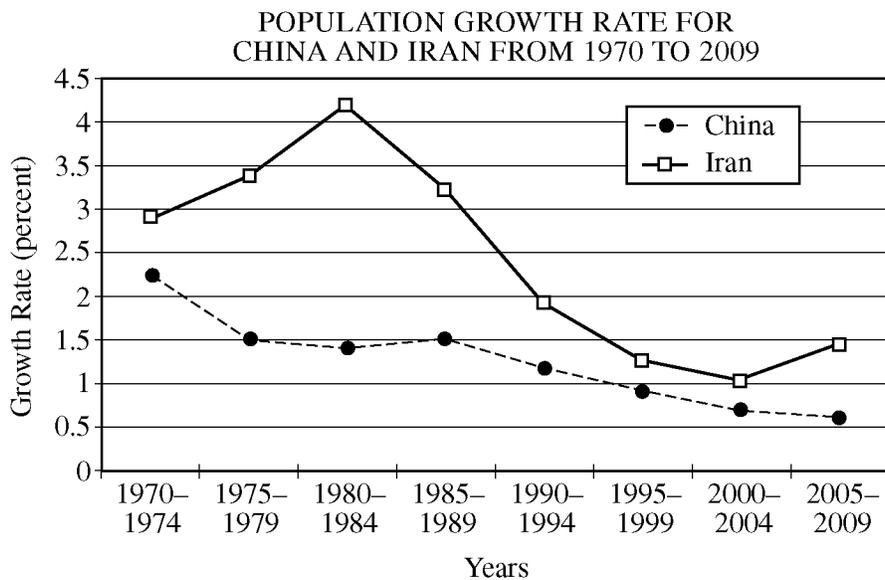
Conceptual Analysis: We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes on question 6.

6. (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 you identified in (b) that would facilitate a shift from illiberal to liberal democracy.
(d) Explain why the change you described in part (c) would lead to a more liberal democracy.

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Country Context: We suggest that you spend approximately 40 minutes (20 minutes each) on questions 7 and 8.

7. (a) Describe Russia's electoral system before the 2007 Duma elections. 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.
- (d) Describe one electoral reform made in Mexico in the 1990s and explain how that reform affected Mexico's party system.



Source: United Nations Population Division - World Population Prospects: 2006 Revision Population Database

8. Population growth rate is defined as the average annual percent change in the population resulting from a surplus or deficit of births over deaths.
- (a) Describe one trend shown in the graph for Iran and describe one trend shown in the graph for China.
- (b) Explain one policy Iran has used to address population growth issues. Explain one policy China has used to address population growth issues.
- (c) Explain why both Iran and China pursued population growth policies.
- (d) Describe one social or economic consequence of manipulating population growth rates.

STOP

END OF EXAM