



AP[®] Comparative Government and Politics 2010 Scoring Guidelines

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AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2010 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 1

3 Points

One point is earned for a correct description of a major difference between federal and unitary systems.

Acceptable descriptions of a major difference include any of the following:

- A federal system has a constitutional (formal) division of power between national and subnational levels of government, while in unitary systems, all the power is constitutionally (formally) given to the national government.
- In a unitary system, devolution may occur, and subnational levels of government may have regional autonomy, but these powers may be rescinded by the national government. In a federal system, regional autonomy is constitutionally (formally) protected.
- In a unitary system, powers held by subnational levels of government are delegated by the central government, and no powers are reserved to the subnational level. In a federal system, subnational levels of government have separate, formally reserved powers.

One point is earned for a correct identification of one country of the six AP Comparative Government and Politics countries that has a federal system.

Acceptable answers include:

- Russia
- Mexico
- Nigeria

One point is earned for a correct identification of one country of the six AP Comparative Government and Politics countries that has a unitary system.

Acceptable answers include:

- Great Britain
- China
- Iran

Note: To earn a point for a correct description of a major difference, students must describe the major difference, not just define a federal and/or unitary system.

A score of 0 is earned for an attempted answer that merits no points.

A score of dash (–) is earned for a blank or off-task answer.

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Question 2

3 Points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly identifying Country X as the most economically developed country in the table.

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for each correct explanation of an economic indicator used to support the student response in (a).

Acceptable explanations of economic indicators include:

Indicators	Explanation of how indicator can be used
Population	Not an indicator of economic development
HDI ranking	Human Development Index— a composite measurement of human development: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lower numerical index indicates a more developed country.• Country X's ranking of 43 indicates that Country X is more highly developed than Country Y with a ranking of 88.
GDP per capita	Gross Domestic Product per capita: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greater value of output per person or greater domestic wealth per person on average indicates a more developed country.• Country X's GDP per capita is \$27,000, which is greater than that of Country Y at \$2,500.
Percentage of workforce in agriculture	High percentage of workforce in agriculture indicates a more agrarian society, which generally tends to be poorer: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Generally the lower the percentage of an agriculture workforce, the more highly industrialized the country is.• Country X has 4 percent of its workforce in agriculture, which is lower than Country Y with 37 percent.

Note: Students must link a listed indicator to an explanation of how the indicator can be used to measure development. Simply describing the indicator or stating the difference between Country X and Country Y is insufficient to earn a point.

A score of 0 is earned for an attempted answer that merits 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 an explanation of each of three changes made during Putin's presidency that led to Russia's political system becoming more authoritarian. Answers must include how the change has led to the system becoming more authoritarian.

Acceptable changes include any of the following:

- presidential appointment of regional governors instead of direct election
- creation of seven federal districts with appointment of super governor or presidential envoys
- switch to higher parliamentary threshold
- change to selecting half of Federation Council by presidential appointment
- creation of a dominant party (United Russia)
- cult of personality
- increased state control of media (TV stations/national newspapers — not Internet or radio)
- undiminished power for Putin upon becoming prime minister
- arrests and convictions of opposition candidates and economically powerful individuals on limited evidence
- restrictions on the formation of parties and party registration
- restrictions on nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) (2006 NGO Registration law)
- restrictions on rights of assembly for antigovernment protests
- enforcement of tax on opposition and other measures

The response must explain the link between the change and the system becoming more authoritarian.

Examples of the link may include:

- concentration of power
- limits on opposition
- reduction of civil rights
- limits on media
- limits on parties
- limits on electoral competition
- diminished civil society
- a less independent judiciary

Note: The lists above are not exhaustive.

A score of 0 is earned for an attempted answer that merits 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 a rentier state.

Acceptable definitions include:

- a country that obtains lucrative income by exporting a raw material or leasing out a natural resource to foreign countries
- a country that obtains much of its revenue from the export of oil or another natural resource
- a country that receives a significant amount of income in the form of rents from foreign companies

Note: The answer must show that not only are resources purchased or leased from the other state, but significant *income is accrued* by the state.

One point is earned for a correct identification of one country in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course that is a rentier state.

Acceptable identifications include:

- Iran
- Nigeria
- Russia

One point is earned for a correct description of a problem that a rentier state typically faces that has an impact on economic development.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- lack of diversification of the local economy
- price fluctuations caused by dependence on world market
- income inequality exacerbated where disparity is already extreme
- no incentive to industrialize/modernize economy
- increased opportunity for corrupt usage of income from rents
- lack of accountability to citizens

Note: Foreign economic investment alone is not a sufficient answer. The response must show that investments are made in a specific resource that produces the major portion of the state's income/budget.

A score of 0 is earned for an attempted answer that merits 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 parliamentary system.

Acceptable definitions include any of the following:

- A parliamentary system is a system of government in which the chief executive is answerable to the legislature and may be dismissed by it.
- The majority party in the legislature selects the chief executive.
- There is a fusion between the executive and legislative branches.

One point is earned for each correct explanation of a challenge to the sovereignty of parliament in Great Britain.

Acceptable explanations of a challenge include any of the following:

- devolution of authority to parliaments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
- turning over of justice and policy matters to Northern Ireland
- creation of a new Supreme Court
- creation of a directly elected mayor of London, which challenged the sovereignty of Great Britain's parliament by limiting parliament's control over London
- requirement that, because of European Union (EU) membership, laws created by Great Britain's parliament must comply with decisions of the European Court of Justice
- requirement that, because of EU, World Trade Organization (WTO), International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank membership, laws created by Great Britain's parliament must comply with the rules, requirements, and policies of these supranational institutions

Note:

- Challenges to parliamentary sovereignty may be internal issues (i.e., devolution, creation of Supreme Court, mayor of London) or external issues (i.e., European Court of Justice).
- Explanations must go beyond just identifying a challenge and explain how the example provided is a challenge to parliamentary sovereignty.
 - For example, merely mentioning Great Britain's membership in the European Union is not by itself enough to earn a point. Students asserting "membership in the EU is a challenge" must explain how Great Britain's membership in the EU is a challenge.
- An assertion that "the euro is a challenge to Great Britain's parliament" will earn a point only if it is clear that the student understands that Great Britain has yet to accept the euro AND if the student explains why acceptance of the euro would be a challenge to parliamentary sovereignty.

A score of 0 is earned for an attempted answer that merits no points.

A score of dash (–) is earned for a blank or off-task answer.

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Question 6

5 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct definition of civil society.

The following are acceptable definitions:

- Civil society is the formal and informal organizations that are not part of the state apparatus but operate in public.
- Civil society is composed of organizations that are voluntary and autonomous self-governing groups created to advance their own causes.
- Civil society is composed of groups that bring together people with common interests in social, charitable, religious, community or political concerns to articulate and advance their own causes.

Note:

- Definition must include conditions, not just examples of groups.
- It must be clear that civil society is separate from government, but it need not be political: includes groups such as private, not-for-profit health providers, schools, advocacy groups, social service agencies, antipoverty groups, development agencies, professional associations, community-based organizations, unions, religious bodies, recreational organizations (e.g., bowling leagues) and cultural institutions.

Parts (b) and (c): 4 points

One point is earned for each correct identification of a condition that enables civil society to thrive, and **1 point** is earned for each explanation of how that condition promotes civil society.

Acceptable conditions may include:

- pluralist
- liberal
- multiple points of access
- democratic processes
- free/fair elections
- civil rights/civil liberties
- freedoms of speech, assembly, press
- rule of law
- efficacy
- political accountability
- political competition
- political freedom
- political equality
- political transparency

Note: Students must provide an explanation of how the identified condition helps civil society to thrive. Students cannot reuse the identified condition from part (b) in part (c).

A score of 0 is earned for an attempted answer that merits no points.

A score of dash (–) is earned for a blank or off-task answer.

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Question 7

7 points

Parts (a) and (b): 4 points

One point is earned for each accurate identification of the differences in the level of conventional forms of participation.

Acceptable differences include:

- More British turn out (61 percent) than do Nigerians (49 percent).
- More Nigerians (74 percent) discuss politics than do British (46 percent).
- More British sign a petition (81 percent) than do Nigerians (7 percent).

One point is earned for each accurate explanation of the differences in the level of conventional forms of participation.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- Voter turnout rates
 - Strong People's Democratic Party may lead to lack of competition.
 - There are more barriers to participation in Nigeria.
 - Election-day disturbances occur in Nigeria.
 - Nigeria has remote polling places.
 - There is a history of election fraud in Nigeria.
 - Britain has a larger number of party identifiers.
 - Britain has more democratic stability.
 - British electoral and party stability encourages participation.
 - British political culture encourages voting as a citizen's duty.
- Difference in rates of political discussions
 - Personalist nature of Nigerian society leads to greater discussion of politics.
 - Nigerian communal practices lead to more social interaction.
 - The British are more likely to keep political views private.
 - Class consciousness (haves versus have nots).
 - Campaigns in Britain are shorter, so there is less opportunity to discuss politics.
- Difference in rates of signing petitions
 - Nigerians are apprehensive about signing documents for fear of retribution.
 - The British are reluctant to protest; signing a petition is easier than other forms of protest.
 - Higher literacy rates in Britain enable the British to engage in written forms of protest.
 - The British believe they have efficacy and that petitioning can have an impact on policymakers.

Note: Corruption does not earn a point unless it is linked to other factors. Ethnic differences do not earn a point unless they are linked to other factors.

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for describing a specific incident of violent activity in Great Britain in the last fifteen years.

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Question 7 (continued)

Acceptable incidents of violent activity in Great Britain may include:

- 2005 London bombings
- 2007 Scottish airport bombing

Note: IRA activity does not earn a point unless it refers to a specific incident or is put in context. No point is awarded for an ongoing conflict or series of attacks unless a specific context is included.

One point is earned for describing a specific incident of violent activity in Nigeria in the last fifteen years.

Acceptable incidents of violent activity in Nigeria may include:

- kidnappings of engineers
- oil workers taking over platforms
- blowing up pipelines
- violence at the polls
- violent protests over elections

Note: Ethnic conflict, or a series of attacks, does not earn a point unless a specific context is included.

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for an explanation of why citizens might choose violent acts over conventional forms of participation.

Acceptable explanations include:

- Citizens do not feel the government is legitimate.
- Citizens' voices will not be heard through conventional participation.
- Lack of viable alternatives/forms of participation leads to frustration among citizens.
- There are norms of accepting political violence.
- Violence gains the attention of the press/government/international community.

Note: Corruption does not earn a point unless it is linked to efficacy. Students might provide an explanation for Great Britain and a different explanation for Nigeria. This is acceptable for a point as long as both arguments are correct.

A score of 0 is earned for an attempted answer that merits no points.

A score of dash (–) is earned for a blank or off-task answer.

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Question 8

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for an accurate description of political competition.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- when there is more than one political group or candidate that can contest an election and have a chance of winning
- when there are a limited number of hurdles for entering into meaningful electoral competition

One point is earned for an accurate description of transparency in the context of politics.

Acceptable explanations include:

- when citizens can access information about government decisions and decision-making processes
- when political decisions and processes are openly explained and visible to the citizenry

Note: Discussing government openness as a description of transparency is acceptable. Transparency is citizens' ability to access that information, *not* citizen awareness of information.

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for an accurate explanation of the function of the Guardian Council in Iran's electoral process.

Acceptable explanations include:

- vetting candidates for the legislative and presidential positions
- supervising the overall quality of the elections, including monitoring electoral fraud
- nullifying election results if they are deemed fraudulent; approving the results if they are not

Note: The Ministry of Interior (MoI), *not* the Guardian Council, organizes and administers elections. The Guardian Council's role in overseeing elections is a broad supervisory one.

One point is earned for an accurate explanation of the function of the Institute of Federal Elections (IFE) in the electoral process.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- organizing elections of the president and the Congress of the Union
- registering voters and parties
- giving all parties access to the media
- setting the ceiling for campaign expenditures
- allocating public funds for campaigns
- recruiting and training citizens to run polling places
- confirming the electoral results (counting votes and certifying results)

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for an accurate comparison of transparency in the electoral process in Iran and Mexico.

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Question 8 (continued)

Acceptable comparisons include:

- Over time, transparency has increased in Mexico, while it has not increased in Iran.
- The electoral process in Mexico is more transparent than the electoral process in Iran.

Note: To earn the point, the response must accurately compare transparency in the electoral process in Mexico with transparency in the electoral process in Iran. Comparisons within countries (over time) that do not also compare across countries do not earn a point.

One point is earned for an accurate discussion of transparency in the electoral process in Iran and Mexico.

Acceptable discussions include:

- In Mexico, the establishment of the IFE has facilitated access to decision making about those eligible to be candidates .
- In Iran, there is no formal mechanism for citizens to demand access to Guardian Council decisions and decision-making processes with regard to vetting of candidates.

Note: To earn the point, the response must accurately discuss transparency in the electoral process in *both* countries.

Part (d): 2 points

One point is earned for an accurate comparison of political competition in the electoral process in Iran and Mexico.

Acceptable comparisons include:

- In terms of overall trends, political competition increased in Mexico between 1985 and 2010, while it did not increase in Iran between 1979 and 2010.
- There are more political parties or groups competing in elections in Iran, but the electoral process in Mexico is more competitive than the electoral process in Iran.

Note: To earn the point, the response must accurately compare political competition in Mexico to political competition in Iran. Comparisons within countries (over time) that do not also compare across countries do not earn a point. In certain periods in Iran (e.g., the 1997 election) there was greater political competition than in others.

One point is earned for an accurate discussion of political competition in Iran and Mexico.

Acceptable discussions include:

- In Mexico electoral law reforms have provided opportunities for more meaningful competition.
- In Iran there is no guarantee of meaningful political competition.

Note: To earn the point, the response must accurately discuss political competition in *both* countries.

A score of 0 is earned for an attempted answer that merits no points.

A score of dash (–) is earned for a blank or off-task answer.