

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
2010 SCORING GUIDELINES

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.

3. One change made by Vladimir Putin that made Russia more authoritarian is the restriction of the freedom of Press. Under Putin, media was tightly controlled and persecuted. State-owned media was the only thing that ^{is} was prevalent. A second change made by Putin is the foundation of decoy parties, or parties purposefully placed into the elections by the leading party in the government to make them seem legitimate. As authoritarianism is a form of government that lacks free and fair elections, as well as civil rights and liberties, Putin's changes have in fact made Russia more authoritarian. A last change made by Putin involves oppression of civil society, or voluntary participation of ^{non-influential} groups in the political process. By banning any non-governmental approved groups, Putin has curbed civil society and made Russia's political system more authoritarian.

4. A rentier state is a country with ^{or foreign direct investment} that has foreign ~~direct~~ usage of its resources. An example of this would be Nigeria. A problem with such states is economic dependency, where developing countries often have advantage of resources in developing rentier states, ^{whose people} who get little share of the profits.

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

3. B

Putin limited media outputs and reduced the freedom of speech, he also won a whopping 72% of the vote in the 04' election, that shows that he limited the exposure of other candidates, and he might've even rigged the elections. Putin also made many presidential ~~orders~~ decrees while he was president, he also groomed his successor and to become the next president. He also had people killed or punished for not agreeing w/ him. By limiting media outputs, Putin reduced the freedom of speech and was able to control what people heard and saw, this is a characteristic of many authoritarian gov's. By winning by such a large margin, we are able to infer that Russia's democracy isn't very legitimate, Putin became a sort of dictator b/c he had so much power & influence on Russia. Nobody had any hopes of defeating him. Also by imprisoning and killing his enemies, Putin sent a message that nobody should openly oppose him or "mess with him", this is another characteristic of authoritarian gov's.

①

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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Putin's presidency shifted the Russian political system and it became more authoritarian through his control of the media, ignorance of the Duma, and unfair elections. Putin restricted the media's abilities and did not allow for the freedom to oppose in media, stifling a democratic freedom. During his term from 2000-2008, Putin also ignored much of the Duma's opinions and decisions, planting his own policies without respect for their power. The elections that took place also seemed to be controlled by the United Russia party which supported Putin, and many of the party's candidates rose in political power.

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2010 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 3

Overview

The intent of the question was for students to demonstrate their understanding of three specific changes in Russia during the Putin presidency that constitute evidence that the Russian political system became more authoritarian. The question required students to demonstrate knowledge of more recent events in Russia and apply that knowledge to the concept of an authoritarian system.

Sample: 3A

Score: 3

The response earned 3 points for explaining three changes made during Putin's presidency that resulted in a more authoritarian political system. One point was earned for explaining that "[u]nder Putin, media was tightly controlled and persecuted." The response links this change to Russia becoming more authoritarian through "the restriction of the freedom of Press."

One point was earned for identifying another change as the formation "of decoy parties, or parties purposefully placed into the elections by the leading party in the government." The response links this change to Russia becoming more authoritarian as it "lacks free and fair elections."

A third point was earned for noting the "opression [*sic*] of ... voluntary participation of influential groups in the political process." The response explains that "[b]y banning any non-government approved groups, Putin has curbed civil society and made Russia's political system more authoritarian."

Sample: 3B

Score: 2

The response earned 2 points for explaining two changes made during Putin's presidency that resulted in a more authoritarian political system. One point was earned for the change identified as "limiting media outputs." The response links this change to Russia becoming more authoritarian as it "reduced the freedom of speech and [Putin] was able to control what people heard and saw."

The second point was earned for noting Putin's "imprisoning ... his enemies" and linking this change to Russia becoming more authoritarian as Putin "sent a message that nobody should openly oppose him."

The response did not earn the third point for explaining another change made during Putin's presidency that demonstrates that Russia was becoming more authoritarian.

Sample: 3C

Score: 1

The response earned 1 point for explaining a change made during Putin's presidency as "Putin restricted the media's abilities." The response links this change to Russia becoming more authoritarian as it "did not allow for the freedom to oppose in media, stifling a democratic freedom."

The response did not earn any points for stating that Putin "ignored much of the Duma's opinions and decisions" or for noting that the "elections ... seemed to be controlled by the United Russia party."