

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2010 SCORING GUIDELINES

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.

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

5A

In a parliamentary system, the legislature elects their executive from their own ranks, with parliament selecting a prime minister. In Great Britain, the European Union encroaches on parliament's sovereignty, forcing them to shift some of their decisions to align with the EU.

Devolution has also challenged parliament, with the Scottish Parliament and the Assembly in Wales as well as the further independence of Northern Ireland further separating parts of the UK from British parliamentary law.

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

5 B

A parliamentary system is a democratic system in which the legislature is elected by the people and in turn the legislature (usually the majority party) selects the head of government. In this system the legislative and executive branches are fused.

One challenge to the sovereignty of the parliament in Great Britain is that now because it is part of the European Union it must abide by the EU's policies. This puts somewhat of a limit on parliamentary policy especially on economic matters.

Another challenge is the Prime Minister does have some power over them. For example he can call snap elections and once the Prime Minister makes a decision usually the members of parliament in his party fall in line.

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

5C

A parliamentary system is ~~one~~ characterized by an elected legislature. From this legislature, the majority party or a coalition of parties appoints the chief executive—typically called a prime minister. The prime minister selects a cabinet from the legislature. Thus, in a parliamentary system, the chief executive is directly responsible to parliament. In Great Britain, parliament is considered supreme to all other government institutions. However its sovereignty is somewhat challenged by its membership in the European Union which requires Great Britain to give up some of its sovereignty. Also, the chief executive directs the policy and legislation parliament considers.

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2010 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 5

Overview

The intent of this question was for students to demonstrate their understanding of parliamentary systems and illustrate their knowledge of the challenges to the sovereignty of Great Britain's parliament. Students had specific tasks: to define the concept of a parliamentary system and to explain two distinct challenges to the sovereignty of Great Britain's parliament.

Sample: 5A

Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for defining a parliamentary system as a system where “the legislature elects their executive from their own ranks, with parliament selecting a prime minister.”

One point was earned for correctly explaining how “the European Union encroaches [*sic*] on parliament's sovereignty [*sic*]” by “forcing them to shift some of their decisions to align [*sic*] with the EU.” The response also earned 1 point for correctly explaining a second challenge to Great Britain's parliament, noting that “[d]evolution has also challenged parliament, with the Scottish Parliament and the Assembly in Wales as well as the further independence of Northern Ireland,” by “further separating parts of the UK from British parliamentary law.”

Sample: 5B

Score: 2

The response earned 1 point for defining a parliamentary system as a “system in which the legislature is elected by the people and in turn the legislature (usually the majority party) selects the head of government.” The response further clarifies the definition by asserting that “[i]n this system the legislative and executive branches are fused.”

The response earned 1 point for correctly explaining one challenge to the sovereignty of Great Britain's parliament: “because it is a part of the European Union it must abide by the EU's policies.” The response did not earn the third point for explaining a second challenge to the sovereignty of Great Britain's parliament, incorrectly stating that the prime minister's power to “call snap elections” and other “power over them” are a challenge to parliamentary sovereignty.

Sample: 5C

Score: 1

The response earned 1 point for correctly defining the relationship between the prime minister and parliament by asserting how in “this legislature, the majority party or a coalition of parties appoints the chief executive.” The response further illustrates how, as a result of this process, “the chief executive is directly responsible to parliament.”

The response did not earn any points for explaining two challenges to the sovereignty of the parliament of Great Britain. The response asserts that “membership in the European Union” is a challenge to parliamentary sovereignty, but it does not explain how such membership “requires Great Britain to give up some of its sovereignty.” The response also incorrectly asserts that the role of the chief executive, who “directs the policy and legislation parliament considers,” is a challenge.