

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS 2010 SCORING GUIDELINES

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.

#6

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

6A

a) A civil society is one where voluntary associations are able to form and thrive. These include organizations for the advancement of civil rights, environmental movements, and any cause citizens feel motivated to pursue. Citizens are not punished or threatened for their choice to join a voluntary association.

b) ~~Free press~~ Free press is one condition that would allow a civil society to thrive. A free press has the ability to investigate the activities of a government without intimidation. Without a free press, citizens could remain completely unaware of violations or repression by their government. A free press allows people to become aware of molestations by their government, form voluntary associations and work toward correcting the issue.

c) Another condition within a political system that would enable civil society to thrive is the freedom of assembly. One of the most prominent ways groups of a civil society express their discontent with an aspect or policy of their government

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

#6

6A₂

is protesting. However, if the freedom of assembly were taken away, protesting is not the only thing that would be hampered. Citizens would be unable to assemble and the flow of ideas and ~~power~~ the general power that comes in large numbers would be greatly reduced, all reducing the group's ability to elicit change. ~~the group's~~

Question # 10

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

6B

(a) Civil society is a society in which people are provided basic civil rights and civil liberties and the government is held accountable for upholding such rights.

(b) One condition that would enable a civil society to thrive would be transparency in the government. When the people can see what the government is doing, it makes the government more legitimate and allows people to better understand why the government does certain things. It allows for people to hold the government more accountable.

(c) One other condition that would enable a civil society to thrive would be ~~more~~ holding free/fair and competitive elections. Like political transparency this would allow citizens to directly elect leaders, therefore making the leaders more accountable in policy making and upholding the rights of citizens.

(civil & civil liberties)

Free and competitive elections also create a sense of political efficacy among voters and makes the government more legitimate.

6

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

6C

a.) A civil society is a society ^{of people} that are free to contest in elections, and ~~are~~ ^{also} protected from the harm of the govt.

b.) One specific condition within a political system that would enable civil society to thrive would be political participation/voting. This would enable a civil society to thrive b/c people would become more involved in society (thus have an effect on public policy).

c.) Another specific condition within a political system that would enable civil society to thrive would be basic rights endowed to the people. This would enable a civil society to thrive b/c the govt (can not control every aspect of their constituents' life - therefore people can go out in vote, express themselves through free speech, etc.

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2010 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 6

Overview

The intent of this question was for students to demonstrate an understanding of the concept of civil society and to explain the conditions that enable civil society to thrive, for which democracy is a necessary precondition. Students had three distinct tasks: (a) to define civil society; (b) to identify a specific condition within a political system that enables civil society to thrive and to explain how that identified condition promotes civil society; and (c) to identify another specific condition within a political system that enables civil society to thrive and to explain how that identified condition promotes civil society.

Sample: 6A **Score: 5**

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for accurately defining civil society as one in which “voluntary associations are able to form and thrive. These include organizations for the advancement of civil rights, enviromental [*sic*] movements, and any cause citizens feel motivated to pursue.”

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for identifying a “free press” as a condition that enables civil society to thrive. The response also earned 1 point for an explanation of this condition that includes “the ability to investigate the activities of a government without intimidation.”

In part (c) the response earned 1 point for identifying “freedom of assembly” as another condition that enables civil society to thrive. The response also earned 1 point for the explanation that groups can “express their discontent with an aspect or policy of their government” by “protesting.”

Sample: 6B **Score: 3**

In part (a) the response did not earn a point for the definition of civil society because it is incorrect.

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for the identification of “transparency in the government” as a condition that enables civil society to thrive. However, it did not earn a point for the explanation that “it makes the government more legitimate,” which is not adequately linked to what transparency is and how it fosters civil society. In addition, the explanation that it “allows for people to hold the government more accountable” is insufficiently tied to transparency and is not an accurate statement for all regime types. A regime could be transparent but lack accountability.

In part (c) the response earned 1 point for the identification of “free/fair and competitive elections” as another condition that enables civil society to thrive. In addition, the response earned 1 point for explaining that these elections “create a sense of political efficacy.”

Sample: 6C **Score: 1**

In part (a) the response did not earn a point because it defines civil society incorrectly.

In part (b) the response did not earn any points because “political participation/voting” is insufficient as a condition that enables civil society to thrive. There is no indication that the conditions for participation and voting are equal, not coerced, or provide genuine competition as they would in a democratic system.

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Question 6 (continued)

The statement that “people would become more involved in society (thus have an effect on public policy)” does not explain how more involvement would occur or why voting would create an impact on policy.

In part (c) the response earned 1 point for identifying “free speech” as a condition where a specific right is being protected. However, the response did not earn a point for the explanation that “people can go out in [sic] vote” and “express themselves” because the explanation is insufficient. The response only identifies voting and does not indicate that there is a freedom to express ideas or to voice concerns openly.