

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2010 SCORING GUIDELINES

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.

a) Political competition means that in elections and on issues there are true parties of thought. It allows for competitive elections and for regime changes to be possible peacefully. Transparency means that the people are able to watch their elected officials and hold them responsible.

b) Iran's Guardian Council screens candidates for elections and only those approved by the Council and the Supreme Leader are allowed to run for office. Mexico's IFE checks that the elections in Mexico are fair and valid. It checks the voters' numbers and also watches for fraud.

c) Transparency in the electoral process in post-1979 Iran is near non-existent. The Guardian Council keeps a close eye on who can run and the votes are counted secretly within the government by a committee chosen by the leaders. Post-1985 Mexican elections have increased in transparency thanks to IFE who are on the look-out for padded elections, and also publically announce and count the votes.

d) Post-1979 Iranian elections are not politically competitive most of the time because the candidates are vetted and if they are not of similar view points like the mullahs, they will not be allowed to run. The political competition in post-1985 Mexican elections has greatly increased due to the decreased monopoly of the PRI and the PAN and PRD rise to

8.

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

86.

Political competition is when there is real competition between parties in a Political System and there is a chance that the politician in power could be ousted by another candidate in an election. Transparency is a politician's ^{or party's} ability to stay in office with no competition ~~and~~ ~~chance~~ ~~of~~ ~~losing~~ and guaranteed to remain in power for the next term, ~~causing~~ ^{creating} a lack of government legitimacy.

Iran's Guardian Council plays a major role in the electoral process. ~~They are~~ Members are appointed by the "Supreme Ruler", a spiritual (and secular) leader, and they screen all people who want to run for office, eliminating many whom they deem to be radical and unfit to serve in the Islamic ~~State~~ Nation of Iran. This council prevents real democracy from forming. Mexico's Institute of Federal Elections chooses candidates to run for election.

Both of these organizations play a major role in their country's electoral process.

There is little competition in the Electoral process in post-1979 Iran compared to post-1985 Mexico. Iran's Council of Guardians eliminates ~~much~~ many political candidates from running, eliminating real democratic competition. ~~Mexico~~ The single Party which dominated Mexico in the 20th century began to lose its foundation in 1985, and in ~~2000~~ the 2000 election, the PRI, the party that always won, lost to a ~~party~~ ~~founded~~ ~~par~~ party that had been rejuvenated, ~~and~~ ~~ende~~ signaling an end to the single party dominated system.

There is a great amount of transparency in post

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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1979 Iran, as the Real leader of Iran is elected undemocratically and the president is basically chosen by the Council of Guardians. However, in post-1989 Mexico, a single party no longer dominates the political system and therefore Mexico has little Political transparency. Indeed, Iran's Political system is very transparent while Mexico is no longer transparent.

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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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8.a. Transparency is the concept that ~~Government is~~ measures how much the Government is telling the people ~~of~~ of the nation and keeping them informed. Transparency can also deal with how willing the Government is to act for and represent the people and their accountability. Political competition is the competition between various ~~political~~ political groups or parties.

b. Iran's ~~the~~ Guardian Council has complete control in the electoral process. In Mexico, the Institute of Federal Elections runs the election process.

c. Transparency in the electoral process in Iran is improving after 1979, much like Mexico. Although there is still restrictions in the communication between the government and the people, it is improving and more people are gaining the right to vote and have a say in the government.

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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8C₂

d. ~~#~~ Prior to the late twentieth century, the PRI dominated the Mexican elections. After, the PAN began to gain more votes. In Iran after 1979, there has been more ability for political parties to develop. But like Mexico, one party continues to dominate in Iran.

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2010 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 8

Overview

The intent of this question was for students to examine the concepts of political competition and transparency, the roles of a key institution in the electoral process in two different countries, and how these institutions affect electoral systems' political competition and transparency in a comparative context. The skills tested were both descriptive and analytical: to describe, explain and compare. Students had four specific tasks: (a) to describe each of the two concepts — political competition and transparency; (b) to explain the functions of a key institution in each of two different electoral processes — the Guardian Council in Iran and the Institute of Federal Elections (IFE) in Mexico; (c) to compare transparency in the electoral process in post-1979 Iran with transparency in the electoral process in post-1985 Mexico; and (d) to compare political competition in the electoral process in post-1979 Iran with political competition in the electoral process in post-1985 Mexico.

Sample: 8A

Score: 8

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for accurately describing political competition as “competitive elections.” The response also earned 1 point for accurately describing transparency in the context of politics as when “the people are able to watch their elected officials.”

In part (b) 1 point was earned for an accurate explanation of the function of the Guardian Council in the electoral process: “Iran’s Guardian Council screens candidates for elections.” The response also earned 1 point for an accurate explanation of the function of the IFE in the electoral process: “Mexico’s IFE checks that the elections in Mexico are fair and valid.”

In part (c) 1 point was earned for accurately comparing the “near non-existent” transparency in the electoral process in post-1979 Iran with the “increased” transparency in the electoral process in post-1985 Mexico. The response also earned 1 point for an accurate discussion of transparency in the electoral processes in both post-1979 Iran (“votes are counted secretly”) and post-1985 Mexico (IFE “publically announce and count the votes”).

In part (d) 1 point was earned for accurately comparing the lack of political competition in the electoral process in post-1979 Iran (“elections are not politically competitive”) with the “greatly increased” political competition in the electoral process in post-1985 Mexico. The response also earned 1 point for an accurate discussion of political competition in the electoral process in both post-1979 Iran (“the candidates are vetted and if they are not of similar viewpoints like the mullahs [*sic*], they will not be allowed to run”) and post-1985 Mexico (“the decreased monopoly of the PRI and the PAN and PRD rise”).

Sample: 8B

Score: 4

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for accurately describing political competition as “real competition between parties.” The second point for the description of transparency was not earned because the response discusses only the “ability to stay in office” and “government legitimacy [*sic*].”

In part (b) 1 point was earned for an accurate explanation of the function of the Guardian Council in the electoral process: “they screen all people who want to run for office, eliminating many whom they deem to be radical and unfit.” The response did not earn the second point because of an inaccurate explanation of the function of the IFE in the electoral process.

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Question 8 (continued)

In part (c) the response did not earn a point for comparing transparency in the electoral process in post-1979 Iran and post-1985 Mexico, nor a point for discussing transparency in the electoral processes in both countries, because it does not accurately address transparency.

In part (d) 1 point was earned for accurately comparing the lack of political competition in the electoral process in post-1979 Iran and in post-1985 Mexico: “There is little competition in the Electoral process in post-1979 Iran compared to post-1985 Mexico.” The response also earned 1 point for an accurate discussion of political competition in the electoral process in both post-1979 Iran (“Iran’s Council of Guardians eliminates [*sic*] many political candidates from running, eliminating real political competition”) and post-1985 Mexico (“in the 2000 election, the PRI, the party that always won, lost . . . signaling an end to the single party dominated system”).

Sample: 8C

Score: 2

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for accurately describing transparency in the context of politics as “how much the Government is telling the people of the nation and keeping them informed.” The response did not earn a point for the description of political competition because it discusses contention rather than competitiveness.

In part (b) the response gives an inaccurate explanation of the function of the Guardian Council in the electoral process and did not earn the point. However, 1 point was earned for an accurate explanation of the function of the IFE in the electoral process: “In Mexico, the Institute of Federal Elections runs the election process.”

In part (c) the response did not earn any points because it does not accurately compare transparency in the electoral process in post-1979 Iran with transparency in the electoral process in post-1985 Mexico and does not discuss transparency in the electoral processes in both post-1979 Iran and post-1985 Mexico.

In part (d) no points were earned because the response does not accurately compare political competition in the electoral process in both post-1979 Iran and post-1985 Mexico, nor does it accurately discuss political competition in the electoral processes in post-1979 Iran and post-1985 Mexico.