



AP[®] Comparative Government and Politics 2010 Free-Response Questions

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**2010 AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Section II

Time—1 hour and 40 minutes

Directions: You have 100 minutes to answer five short-answer concept questions, one conceptual analysis question, and two country context questions. Unless the directions indicate otherwise, respond to all parts of all eight questions. It is suggested that you take a few minutes to plan and outline each answer. We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes total on questions 1 through 5, 30 minutes on question 6, and 40 minutes total on questions 7 and 8. These suggested times do not reflect the weight of the questions as part of your AP exam score. In your responses, use substantive examples where appropriate. Make certain to number each of your answers as the questions are numbered below.

Short-Answer Concepts: We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes total on questions 1 through 5.

1. Describe a major difference between federal and unitary systems. Identify one country among the six AP Comparative Government and Politics countries that has a federal system. Identify one country among the six that has a unitary system.
2. Use the following information to complete the tasks below.

SELECTED NATIONAL INDICATORS FOR TWO COUNTRIES		
	Country X	Country Y
Population	75 million	150 million
HDI ranking	43	88
GDP per capita	\$27,000	\$2,500
Percent of workforce in agriculture	4%	37%

- (a) Identify which country is more economically developed, Country X or Country Y.
 - (b) Select one of the indicators listed in the table and explain how that indicator can be used to support your answer in (a).
 - (c) Select another indicator listed in the table and explain how that indicator can be used to support your answer in (a).
3. Many outside observers express concern that Russia's political system became more authoritarian during the 2000-2008 presidency of Vladimir Putin. Explain three changes made during Putin's presidency that are evidence that the Russian political system became more authoritarian.
 4. Define a rentier (rent-seeking) state. Identify one rentier state among the six AP Comparative Politics and Government countries. Describe a problem that a rentier state typically faces that has an impact on economic development.
 5. Define a parliamentary system. Explain two challenges to the sovereignty of the parliament in Great Britain.

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Conceptual Analysis: We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes on question 6.

6. Many scholars think that civil society is important for the development of democracy.
- (a) Define civil society.
 - (b) Identify and explain one specific condition within a political system that would enable civil society to thrive.
 - (c) Identify and explain another specific condition within a political system that would enable civil society to thrive.

Country Context: We suggest that you spend approximately 40 minutes (20 minutes each) on questions 7 and 8.

CONVENTIONAL FORMS OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NIGERIA		
Type of Participation	Great Britain	Nigeria
Voting (turnout)	61%	49%
Discussing politics with others	46%	74%
Signing a petition	81%	7%

Source: 2000-2002 World Values Survey and 1999 European Values Survey.

7. Political participation ranges from the most conventional forms of political activity, such as the ones listed in the table above, to the most extreme, such as violence being used as the primary means of political expression.
- (a) Identify a difference between Nigeria and Great Britain in the level of conventional forms of participation from the table above. Explain why the difference in levels of participation exists.
 - (b) Identify a second difference between Nigeria and Great Britain in the level of conventional forms of participation from the table above. Explain why the difference in levels of participation exists.
 - (c) Describe one specific incident of violent political activity in Great Britain in the last fifteen years. Describe one specific incident of violent political activity in Nigeria in the last fifteen years.
 - (d) Explain why citizens in both countries might choose violent acts over more conventional forms of political participation.

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8. Political competition and transparency are key concepts that political scientists use when evaluating political systems.
- (a) Describe political competition, and describe transparency in the context of politics.
 - (b) Explain the function of Iran's Guardian Council in the electoral process. Explain the function of Mexico's Institute of Federal Elections (IFE) in the electoral process.
 - (c) Compare transparency in the electoral process in post-1979 Iran with transparency in the electoral process in post-1985 Mexico.
 - (d) Compare political competition in the electoral process in post-1979 Iran with political competition in the electoral process in post-1985 Mexico.

STOP

END OF EXAM