

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2011 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 1

3 points

One point is earned for each correct description of a distinct source of political legitimacy established by the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Acceptable descriptions of a source of political legitimacy include the following:

- God/Allah
- Divine revelation
- Divine laws
- Religious texts
- Sovereignty/truth of Koran
- Supreme Leader
- Islamic revolution
- Charismatic leadership of Khomeini
- People of Iran
- Elections (presidential or to the Majles)
- Secular law

One point is earned for a correct example of how having both sources of political legitimacy simultaneously has led to tensions in Iran in the past 15 years. Acceptable examples of tensions created by having both sources of political legitimacy include the following:

- Green Movement or protests
- Factionalism within the elite
- Institutional tensions between popularly elected offices and appointed clerical offices
- Tensions between the Supreme Leader and the president

Note: Simply stating “protests” or “factionalism” does not earn a point.

#1/1

One source of political legitimacy in the Islamic Republic of Iran established by the Constitution is the free democratic elections of some positions, such as the legislature. Another source of legitimacy is having the Guardian Council + Supreme Leader, which protect the religious beliefs and views of the majority of the citizens in this Islamic Theocracy. Legitimacy is when the people believe a government has the right to rule. These two sources of legitimacy have recently caused tension because the second source is restricting the first. The Supreme Leader + Guardian Council are not allowing some factions of the Iranian main political party to run for office. Because this restricts democracy, it causes tensions in Iran.

1B In the Islamic Republic of Iran, one source of legitimacy is the theocratic rule of the sharia law, which is the Muslim law, and since Iran's population is predominantly Islamic, this gives the government high legitimacy. Another source of legitimacy is the Supreme Leader who is the religious leader of the state.

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One source of political legitimacy established by the constitution of the Islamic republic of Iran is the election & power the Supreme Leader has. Another source of political legitimacy is the number of seats each legislative & executive group has in the ~~parliamentary~~ congress. The number of seats that each party holds causes tension in Iran because the parties feel unequal and unfairly represented.

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2011 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 1

Overview

The intent of the question was for students to examine the concept of institutionalized political legitimacy, to consider this in the context of a country in which competing sources of political legitimacy exist, and to consider how tensions can result from the presence of multiple sources of political legitimacy. The skills tested were both descriptive and analytical: to describe sources of political legitimacy and to discuss a relationship driven by competing sources of legitimacy. Students had three specific tasks: to describe a source of political legitimacy established by the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran; to describe a second, distinct source of political legitimacy established by the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran; and to discuss one example of how having both of these sources of political legitimacy simultaneously has led to tensions in Iran in the last 15 years.

Sample: 1A

Score: 3

The response earned 2 points for correctly describing two distinct sources of political legitimacy established by the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran. A first point was earned for stating the “democratic elections of some positions, such as the legislature.” A second point was earned for stating “the Guardian Council & Supreme Leader, which protect the religious [*sic*] beliefs and views . . . in this Islamic Theocracy.” The response earned 1 point for a correct discussion of how having both sources of political legitimacy simultaneously has led to tensions in Iran in the last 15 years: “[T]he second source is restricting the first. The Supreme Leader & Guardian Council are not allowing some factions of the Iranian main political party to run for office.”

Sample: 1B

Score: 2

The response earned 2 points for correctly listing two distinct sources of political legitimacy established by the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran: “the theocratical rule of the Sharia law” and “the Supreme Leader who is the religious leader of the state.” The response does not discuss a correct example of how having both sources of political legitimacy simultaneously has led to tensions in Iran in the last 15 years and therefore did not earn a point.

Sample: 1C

Score: 1

The response earned 1 point for correctly describing one distinct source of political legitimacy established by the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran as the “power the Supreme Leader has.” The response did not earn the second point for mentioning “the number of seats that each party holds” as this is not a distinct source of political legitimacy established by the constitution. The response does not discuss a correct example of how having both sources of political legitimacy simultaneously has led to tensions in Iran in the last 15 years and therefore did not earn a point.