

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2011 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 3

3 points

One point is earned for a description of a single-member, winner-take-all electoral system. An acceptable description includes the following:

- Individual candidates compete in a specific territory for an office or seat.
- The winner is the candidate with the most votes.

Note: Response does not have to mention the territory to receive point; single office or seat can be implied.

One point is earned for a description of a proportional representation electoral system. An acceptable description includes that parties compete in multimember districts in national elections and win seats roughly proportional to their vote results.

One point is earned for an explanation of why proportional representation is likely to lead to the election of more women in parliament. An acceptable explanation includes the following:

- Voters are more likely to elect women on a party list than to choose a woman over a man in a single electoral choice.
- There are party- or state-mandated inclusion rules, norms or quotas.
- It leads to voting for platforms rather than individuals.
- The greater number of seats per district leads to greater opportunities for candidates who are women.
- Parties use lists to advance candidates who are women and to attract women voters.
- There is competition from women-friendly, smaller parties.
- It centralizes candidate selection within parties and makes them more accountable.

3A

3. A single-member, winner-take-all system is one in which individual candidates run for office in specific districts, and whomever wins the most votes is elected. In a system with proportional representation ~~there is one~~ there is one general election where the electorate vote for a party. A number of representatives ~~from~~ are selected from each party based on the percentage of votes received. A proportional system is more likely to lead to a greater number of women, because the voting is less based on the specific candidates, but on the platform of the party. ~~This would make it possible~~

3B.

3) the single member, winner take all, electoral system, is a system in which candidates run for a single seat in legislature to represent a political party and a constituency. In that constituency, citizens conduct a popular vote, and the candidate with the most votes gets the seat, regardless of whether or not he/she received the majority vote. In proportional representation, a political party is granted seats in parliament based on

3C

In a single member electoral system, one candidate is elected to represent each district. "winner-take-all" electoral systems are often described and compared to a horse race. They follow the first past the post idea; the candidate with the most votes wins. Proportional representation electoral systems are different from both single member and winner take all elections. In proportional representation, the number of seats a party is granted is based directly on how big the party is in population. A proportional representation system would benefit women greatly because they would have many seats in parliament as long as they can rally up enough female supporters.

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2011 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 3

Overview

The intent of this question was for students to examine different types of electoral systems and to consider the implications of different electoral systems for women’s representation in national legislatures. The skills tested were both descriptive and analytical: to describe and explain. Students had three specific tasks: to describe the single-member, winner-take-all electoral system; to describe the proportional representation electoral system; and to explain why a proportional representation system is likely to lead to the election of a greater number of women in the legislature.

Sample: 3A **Score: 3**

The response earned 1 point for correctly describing the single-member, winner-take-all electoral system: “[I]ndividual candidates run for office in specific districts, and whomever wins the most votes is elected.” The response earned 1 point for correctly describing the proportional representation system: “[T]he electorate vote [*sic*] for a party. A number of representatives are selected from each party based on the percentage of votes recieved [*sic*].” The response also earned 1 point for a correct explanation as to why a proportional representation system is likely to lead to the election of a greater number of women in the legislature: “[T]he voting is less based on the specific candidates, but on the platform of the party.”

Sample: 3B **Score: 2**

The response earned 1 point for correctly describing the single-member, winner-take-all electoral system with the statement that “candidates run for a single seat in legislature to represent a political party and a constituency ... the candidate with the most votes gets the seat.” The response earned 1 point for correctly describing the proportional representation system: “[A] political party is granted seats in parliament based on the percent of the popular vote they recieved [*sic*].” The response does not provide a correct explanation as to why a proportional representation system is likely to lead to the election of a greater number of women in the legislature and therefore did not earn a point.

Sample: 3C **Score: 1**

The response earned 1 point for correctly describing the single-member, winner-take-all electoral system: “[O]ne candidate is elected to represent each district ... ; the candidate with the most votes wins.” The response does not correctly describe the proportional representation system or provide a correct explanation as to why a proportional representation system is likely to lead to the election of a greater number of women in the legislature and therefore did not earn those points.