

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2011 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 8

8 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for a definition of civil liberties. An acceptable definition of civil liberties includes the following:

- Freedoms for individuals such as speech, assembly, religion, property, life, fair trial
- Freedoms or protection from government

One point is earned for an explanation of the difference between political rights and civil liberties. An acceptable explanation includes the following:

- Political rights differ from civil liberties in that they often refer to political participation, such as voting, lobbying, protesting or running for office.
- Political rights differ from civil liberties in that the government may grant or protect political rights.

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for description of one example of decline of political rights in Russia between 1995 and 2010. Acceptable descriptions include the following:

- Less competition in elections
- Suppression of the opposition's political activities
- Elimination of elections for governors or for mayors of Moscow and St. Petersburg
- Creation of federal districts with appointed supergovernors
- Changing of electoral rules to prevent smaller parties from competing
- Appointment of the Federation Council

One point is earned for a description of one example of how civil liberties declined in Russia between 1995 and 2010. Acceptable descriptions include the following:

- Harassment of demonstrators and civic groups
- 2006 law increasing oversight of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs)
- Intimidation of journalists or not investigating their murders
- Manipulation of legal system
- Discrimination against Chechens
- Nationalization of property

Russian name rule: If students give the wrong Russian name but the argument is clear without the name, the response earns a point.

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Question 8 (continued)

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for a description of one example of how political rights increased in Mexico between 1995 and 2010. An acceptable description may include the following:

- More competition; not just PRI.
- Less electoral fraud.
- Incumbent president no longer selects next candidate.
- More equitable or public campaign financing.
- Legislature is no longer a rubber stamp.
- Electoral commission, founded in 1990, became fully independent.
- Parties have more access to the media.

One point is earned for a description of one example of how civil liberties increased in Mexico between 1995 and 2010. An acceptable description includes the following:

- More tolerance of civic society, including Zapatistas
- More press freedom
- Fewer “disappearances”
- Decriminalization of abortion in Mexico City
- More gay rights, including civil unions in Mexico City

Part (d): 2 points

One point is earned for an assessment of the regime type in Mexico in 2010. An acceptable assessment includes the following:

- Mexico has become more democratic.
- Mexico is a democracy, a liberal democracy, or a developing democracy.

One point is earned for an assessment of the regime type in Russia in 2010. An acceptable assessment includes the following:

- Russia has become more authoritarian.
- Russia is an illiberal democracy, a hybrid or authoritarian.

Note: To earn both points the response must distinguish between the two regimes types.

8. A

on this page as it is designated in the exam.

A. Civil liberties are those ^{personal freedoms} that government cannot take away without due process

of law. ^{Political} ~~civil~~ rights are ^{the} ~~these~~ abilities of citizens to participate in political activities, such as voting.

such as freedom of speech

B. In Russia, the people can no longer vote for their regional governors, an infringement of their political rights. The government ~~is~~ does little to protect the civil liberty of expression—such freedom has been severely restricted under Putin. It has become dangerous to criticize the government, and media companies that do so are quickly squashed.

C. As the PRI, the main political party in Mexico for the past 70 years, has recently lost power, the political right to vote in a fair election has increased

in Mexico, as elections are now competitive. Unlike Russia, the freedom to express one's self in Mexico has been expanded, with government-controlled media allowed to ^{express} ~~state~~ multiple opinions.

D. The regime in Mexico in 2010 was a liberal democracy; Russia, on the other hand, was an ~~iliberal~~ illiberal democracy, bordering on authoritarianism.

An independent electoral commission was also created to regulate ~~the~~ and ensure the legitimacy of elections, further expanding the influence of Mexican citizens' political right to vote.

8B

Civil liberties are citizen's rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Not to be confused with political rights which involve a citizen's right to participate in government, civil liberties involve individual expression, personal freedom, and success. In Russia, citizens have had increasingly less access to government since 1995. This has led to less participation and restrict political rights. Civil liberties in Russia have also declined as citizens are having their personal freedoms ignored. Since 1995, Mexico's citizens have enjoyed increasing political rights. Increased eligibility as well as voter access has increased the political participation of citizens. Also, civil liberties in Mexico have increased as citizens are able to peacefully protest and petition the government, expressing their will and free speech. The democratic regime of Mexico is much more advanced than that of Russia who is still experience an illiberal democracy that limits freedoms and political rights.

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a) Civil liberties are rules that are given to every citizen, whereas political rights are only applied to certain citizens.

b) Political rights have declined due to a push towards a ~~communist~~ ^{socialist} state. Civil rights have declined due to a push towards a ~~communist~~ ^{socialist} state.

c) Political ~~rights~~ rights have increased due to a governmental push towards democracy. Civil liberties have increased due to a governmental push towards democracy.

d) The regime type in Mexico is Democratic

The regime type in Russia is Socialist

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2011 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 8

Overview

The intent of this question was for students to consider the concepts of civil liberties, political rights and regime type within the context of Mexico and Russia over the last decade and a half. The skills tested required description and definition as well as higher-order skills of explanation and assessment. Students had eight specific tasks, divided into four parts: (a) to define civil liberties and explain the difference between political rights and civil liberties; (b) to describe one example each of the decline of political rights and civil liberties in Russia between 1995 and 2010; (c) to describe one example each of the increase of political rights and civil liberties in Mexico between 1995 and 2010; and (d) to assess the regime type in Mexico and Russia in 2010.

Sample: 8A

Score: 8

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for defining civil liberties as “personal freedoms . . . such as freedom of speech.” The response also earned 1 point for explaining the difference between political rights and civil liberties as “[p]olitical rights are the abilities of citizens to participate in political activities.”

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for describing an example of the decline of political rights in Russia as “people can no longer vote for their regional governors.” The response earned 1 point for describing an example of the decline of civil liberties in Russia by noting that “[i]t has become dangerous to criticise [*sic*] the government, and media companies that do so are quickly squelched.”

In part (c) the response earned 1 point for describing the increase in political rights in Mexico by noting that “the PRI, the main political party in Mexico for the past 70 years, has recently lost power” and “elections are now competitive.” The response earned 1 point for describing an example of the increase in civil liberties in Mexico by noting that the “government-controlled media [are now] allowed to express multiple opinions.”

In part (d) the response earned 1 point for assessing Mexico as “a liberal democracy” and 1 point for assessing Russia as “an illiberal democracy, bordering on authoritarian.”

Sample: 8B

Score: 4

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for defining civil liberties as “citizen’s rights to life, liberty,” and “personal freedom.” The response also earned 1 point for explaining the difference between political rights and civil liberties by noting that political rights “involve a citizen’s right to participate in government.”

In part (b) the response earned no points because no specific examples are given.

In part (c) the response earned no points because there was no significant increase in “eligibility as well as voter access” between 1995 and 2010 (political rights), and citizens in Mexico have long had the right “to peacefully protest and petition the government” (civil liberties).

In part (d) the response earned 1 point for assessing Mexico as “democratic” and 1 point for assessing Russia as “an illiberal democracy.”

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Question 8 (continued)

Sample: 8C

Score: 1

The response earned no points in parts (a), (b), or (c).

In part (d) the response earned 1 point for assessing Mexico as “Democratic” and no point for assessing Russia as “Socialist.”