



AP[®] Comparative Government and Politics 2011 Free-Response Questions

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**2011 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 two distinct sources of political legitimacy established by the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Discuss one example of how having both those sources of political legitimacy simultaneously has led to tensions in Iran in the last fifteen years.
2. Describe a major function of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom. Explain one reason for the establishment of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom. Explain how membership in the European Union affects the judicial system in Great Britain.
3. Describe the single-member, winner-take-all electoral system. Describe the proportional representation electoral system. Explain why a proportional representation system is likely to lead to the election of a greater number of women in parliament.
4. Describe a major social cleavage in China. Discuss two policies the Chinese state has adopted since 1990 in response to that cleavage.
5. Globalization has both political and economic consequences. Define economic globalization. Describe one policy response of the Mexican government to economic globalization. Describe one organized response of Mexican citizens to economic globalization.

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

6. There are a variety of arrangements of power in executive-legislative relationships. Using your knowledge of the countries included in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course, complete the following tasks.
- (a) Describe the process used in a parliamentary system for the selection of the chief executive.
 - (b) Contrast the process you described in part (a) with the process used in a presidential system for the selection of the chief executive.
 - (c) Describe the process used in a parliamentary system for removing the chief executive.
 - (d) Contrast the removal process you described in part (c) with the process used in a presidential system for removing the chief executive.
 - (e) Other than the removal process, describe a check on executive power within a parliamentary system.

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

7. As in many multiethnic countries, religious and ethnic tensions are prominent in the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- (a) Describe federalism in Nigeria.
 - (b) Explain one way Nigeria's federal structure accommodates different religious groups AND one way the federal structure accommodates different ethnic groups.
 - (c) Identify the type of electoral system used in Nigeria.
 - (d) Explain two ways the Nigerian electoral system accommodates different ethnic groups.
 - (e) Explain why Nigeria's federal structure has been unable to resolve tensions in the Niger River delta.
8. Political scientists often examine political rights and civil liberties to assess regime type.
- (a) Define civil liberties. Explain the difference between political rights and civil liberties.
 - (b) Describe one example of how political rights have declined in Russia between 1995 and 2010. Describe one example of how civil liberties have declined in Russia between 1995 and 2010.
 - (c) Describe one example of how political rights have increased in Mexico between 1995 and 2010. Describe one example of how civil liberties have increased in Mexico between 1995 and 2010.
 - (d) Using the descriptions you provided in parts (b) and (c), assess the regime type in Mexico in 2010 and the regime type in Russia in 2010.

STOP

END OF EXAM