



AP[®] Comparative Government and Politics 2011 Scoring Guidelines

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AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

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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.

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Question 2

3 points

One point is earned for a description of a major function of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom. Major functions of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom include the following:

- Final court of appeals
- Judicial review
- Protects human/civil rights and liberties
- Ruling on devolution disputes
- Ruling on incompatibility of UK law with European Union (EU) law
- Check on legislative-executive power

Note: The Supreme Court of the United Kingdom exercises judicial review in limited circumstances. It does not have the power to declare a law unconstitutional.

One point is earned for an explanation of a reason for the establishment of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom. Reasons for the establishment of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom include the following:

- Enhance legitimacy
- Improve transparency by clarifying the role of the court
- Separate judicial authority from the House of Lords
- Achieve consistency with international norms
- Resolve devolution disputes
- Achieve Blair-led Labour Party goal

One point is earned for a correct explanation of how membership in the EU affects the judicial system in Great Britain. Acceptable explanations include the following:

- European Court of Justice (ECJ) is highest legal authority.
- EU law supersedes UK law in judicial decision making.
- Loss of sovereignty.
- More laws to adjudicate.

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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.

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Question 4

3 points

One point is earned for a correct description of a social cleavage in China. Acceptable descriptions include the following:

- Ethnic (Xinjiang, Tibet, Uighurs)
- Urban/rural
- Interior/coastal or East/West
- Generational
- Class, rich/poor, income
- Gender

Note: A very short description is enough as long as a division is implied. The following responses **do not** earn credit: religion generally or by name; a place name; elite/nonelite; party/nonparty; an issue or controversy/ Falun Gong.

One point is earned for each correct discussion of a policy the Chinese state has adopted in response to that cleavage. Acceptable discussions of policies may include the following:

- Urban/rural
 - Migrant policies and residency requirements
 - Incentives for foreign or domestic investment in rural areas
 - Local/village elections (e.g., 1998 organic village law)
 - New agriculture/rural land policies
 - Antipoverty programs, including New Socialist Countryside 2006 policy
 - Infrastructure development such as roads, dams and communications in rural areas
 - Improved education (compulsory education, building of more schools)
 - Limited rural pensions in some areas
 - Policies on rural protests
 - Devolution of social policies to be more responsive to local or rural needs
 - Tax policies
 - Subsidies

Note: One-child policy (or relaxation of one-child policy) is **not** an answer unless the response specifically cites governmental reactions to the 2008 earthquake. If the response does not correctly identify a cleavage, it cannot earn a policy point.

- Ethnic
 - Crackdown on protest by ethnic minorities and use of military to maintain order
 - Restricting information into and out of ethnic minority regions
 - Increased infrastructural/development projects in ethnic areas (including water)
 - Improved access to education
 - Subsidies to ethnic/border regions (agricultural, educational)
 - Incentives for foreign or domestic investment
 - Increased efforts to recruit more ethnic minorities into the regional and national leadership

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Question 4 (continued)

- Interior/coastal or East/West
 - Shifting focus of development to the West/Great Western Development program
 - Infrastructure, development and land reclamation projects in the West (including water)
 - Improved access to education
 - Incentives for foreign or domestic investment in West to reduce disparities
 - Promotion of charity/donations

- Class/rich or poor/income gap
 - Public spending to create jobs
 - Programs to help retrain unemployed, especially from state-owned enterprises (SOEs)
 - Increased tolerance of localized protests as long as they do not target the party
 - Arrests of workers, low-income people and migrants who target the party
 - Crackdown on lawyers representing workers or low-income people
 - Promotion of benefits for migrant workers
 - Community provisions of social services
 - Tax policies

- Generational
 - Provision of limited pension for rural older people
 - Provision of community services for older people
 - Very gradual relaxation of one-child policy in urban areas

- Gender
 - New laws against/raising awareness about domestic violence and sexual harassment
 - Criminalization of sex-selected abortion
 - Hosting of 1995 conference on women in Beijing
 - Toleration of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that target women's issues
 - Efforts to reduce sex trafficking

Note: Each policy must plausibly be in response to the given cleavage. If it is a policy that was introduced before 1990 but has been renewed, shifted, revised, etc., responses must show some awareness or context. Simple continuation does not earn a point.

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Question 5

3 points

One point is earned for a correct definition of economic globalization. A definition of economic globalization includes that it is an extensive system of global international trade and economic relations.

Note: The response must address the system/interconnectedness/export and import, not just foreign trade; that is, the definition cannot be simply about expanding the domestic economy but must include the international system.

One point is earned for a description of a policy response of the Mexican government to economic globalization. A correct description may include the following:

- Participation in a regional or bilateral trade agreement (e.g., NAFTA)
- Liberalization of the economy and adoption of neoliberal and privatization policies
- Creation of Maquiladoras and export promotion zones
- More legislation friendly to foreign business
- Diversification of the economy
- Domestic business sector investment
- Decision to continue nationalized status of subsoil resources (PEMEX/oil)

One point is earned for description of an organized response of Mexican citizens to economic globalization. Responses may include the following:

- Chiapas movement in Oaxaca or southern Mexico
- Teacher protests in Oaxaca over PAN's probusiness policy in 2006
- Election of probusiness parties in 2000 and 2006 to accelerate globalization
- Creation of international unions (United Steel Workers alliance with Los Mineros)

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Question 6

5 points

Part (a): 1 point is earned for a description of the process used in a parliamentary system for the selection of the chief executive. An acceptable description includes the following:

- The head of the majority party becomes prime minister.
 - If a majority exists, the head of the party becomes the prime minister.
 - If no majority exists, the largest minority party usually names the prime minister in a coalition government.

Note: No point is earned for “legislature selects the executive” without reference to party or coalition.

Part (b): 1 point is earned for a correct contrast of the process described in part (a) with the process used in a presidential system for the selection of the chief executive. An acceptable contrast includes the following:

- Parliamentary — legislature selects the head of government.
- Presidential — executive is chosen separately from legislature.
- The people elect the president.

Note: Parts (a) and (b) may be read together. The response must demonstrate that the executive and legislature are fused in a parliamentary system and not fused in a presidential system.

Part (c): 1 point is earned for a description of the process used in a parliamentary system for removing the chief executive. An acceptable description includes the following:

- Legislature gives vote of no confidence.
- Party removal is internal party decision.

Part (d): 1 point is earned for a contrast of the process described in part (c) with the process used in a presidential system for removing the chief executive. An acceptable contrast includes: legislature removes president.

Note: The response must contrast with part (c) to earn a point; just mentioning impeachment is not enough to earn a point.

Part (e): 1 point is earned for a description of a check on executive power within a parliamentary system. An acceptable description includes the following:

- Cabinet resignation.
- Backbencher resistance or revolt.
- Question time.
- Upper house can delay legislation.
- Judiciary can overturn laws passed by the executive or parliament.
- Parliament can refuse to pass legislation/budget proposed by the executive.
- Must call for an election within a set time.

Note: Response earns no credit in part (e) for only stating “vote of no confidence.”

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Question 7

7 points

Part (a): 1 point is earned for a description of federalism in Nigeria. An acceptable description includes **both** of the following:

- A conceptual reference to shared or divided power between central or national government and state/local/regional/subnational governments with sovereign, protected or reserved powers
- Specific reference to Nigeria, including the following:
 - Ethnic or religious divisions
 - Asymmetric or weak states
 - Increased number of states to decentralize power and increase legitimacy

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for an explanation of one way Nigeria's federal structure accommodates different religious groups. Acceptable explanations include the following:

- Choice of Shari'a law in some states
- Guaranteed freedom of religion

Note: Responses that state "presidency switching" or "religious state creation" do not earn a point.

One point is earned for an explanation of one way Nigeria's federal structure accommodates different ethnic groups. Acceptable explanations include the following:

- State creation
- Federal Character, which guarantees representation of ethnicity since states are ethno-political divisions

Note: Federal Character applies to the cabinet. Responses that state "administration, officials or government" earn credit. Responses that state "legislature" **do not** earn credit.

Part (c): 1 point is earned for an identification of the type of electoral system used in Nigeria. Acceptable identifications include the following:

- First-past-the-post (FPTP)
- Single-member districts (SMD) or single-member-plurality districts (SMPD)
- Winner-take-all
- Plurality

Note: A response of "majority or majoritarian" earns no points unless it specifically refers to presidential elections; a response of "proportional representation" or any mixed system **does not** earn a point.

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Question 7 (continued)

Part (d): 2 points

One point is earned for each explanation of ways in which the Nigerian electoral system accommodates different ethnic groups. Acceptable explanations include the following:

- Broad electoral support for presidential candidates through minimum thresholds across states and/or regions
- Broad electoral support for presidential candidates through presidential majority electoral system
- Broad party support across states, regions or both
- Requirement of three senators from each state
- Demarcation of voting districts to allow for ethnic representation in lower house

Note: Responses that state “presidency switching” and Federal Character **do not** earn a point.

Part (e): 1 point is earned for an explanation of why Nigeria’s federal structure has been unable to resolve tensions in the Niger River delta. Acceptable explanations include the following:

- Oil wealth and resources are centralized, not federal; lack of local control.
- Corruption at the central and local level (police and security) is beyond control of the federal system.

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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.