

# AP<sup>®</sup> COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

## 2012 SCORING GUIDELINES

### Question 4

#### 3 points

**One point** is earned for a correct description of the relationship between interest groups and the state in a pluralist system. Acceptable descriptions include:

- Groups compete for access.
- Groups are not formally linked to the legislative process.
- Groups are autonomous.

**One point** is earned for a correct description of the relationship between interest groups and the state in a corporatist system. Acceptable descriptions include:

- Government controls access.
- Relationship is fundamentally cooperative.
- Formal relationship exists between the government and interest groups.

**One point** is earned for the correct identification of a country that was corporatist but is now pluralist. Acceptable identifications include:

- Mexico
- Great Britain

A score of zero (0) is earned for an answer that earns no points.

A score of dash (—) is earned for a blank answer.

4. Describe the relationship between interest groups and the state in a pluralist system. Describe the relationship between interest groups and the state in a corporatist system. Identify one country studied in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course that historically was corporatist but is now pluralist.

In a pluralist interest group system, many interest groups vie for influence in the state. They oftentimes compete with one another. In a corporatist system, the interest groups fall in a hierarchy, all under a few dominant interest groups that work cooperatively with the state. Mexico was once a corporatist system, with a few interest groups operating at the forefront with the dominant PRI. Now, with the ascendancy of the PAN and the PRI's broken dominance, many more interest groups are able to vie for government influence and express themselves.

4. Describe the relationship between interest groups and the state in a pluralist system. Describe the relationship between interest groups and the state in a corporatist system. Identify one country studied in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course that historically was corporatist but is now pluralist,

In a pluralist system, interest groups compete against one another to influence policy decision. In a pluralist system, the interest groups have a lot of ~~resistance~~ influence over the state on policy. In a corporatist system, the state controls which interest groups can and cannot ~~exist~~ exist. ~~Great Britain is an example.~~ Great Britain is an example.

4. Describe the relationship between interest groups and the state in a pluralist system. Describe the relationship between interest groups and the state in a corporatist system. Identify one country studied in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course that historically was corporatist but is now pluralist.

Interest groups don't prosper as well in a pluralist systems because they need to win majority of votes. Interest groups in corporatist systems ~~are~~ go together better because the interest group needs less votes to get a candidate elected. Mexico did this.

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## 2012 SCORING COMMENTARY

### Question 4

#### Overview

The intent of this question was to assess students' knowledge and understanding of corporatism and pluralism and to examine their ability to apply these concepts to country-specific knowledge. The skills tested were conceptual and descriptive: to describe concepts and identify countries. Students had three specific tasks: to describe the relationship between interest groups and the state in a corporatist system, to describe the relationship between interest groups and the state in a pluralist system, and to identify which of the six countries studied in the course was corporatist but is currently pluralist.

#### Sample: 4A

##### Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for correctly describing the relationship between interest groups and the state in a pluralist system by stating that “many interest groups vie for influence in the state.”

A second point was earned for correctly describing the relationship between interest groups and the state in a corporatist system: “interest groups fall in a hierarchy, all under a few dominant interest groups that work cooperatively with the state.”

The response earned a third point for correctly identifying Mexico as historically corporatist but now pluralist.

#### Sample: 4B

##### Score: 2

The response earned 1 point for correctly describing the relationship between interest groups and the state in a pluralist system by stating that “interest groups compete against one another to influence policy decision [*sic*].”

The response does not correctly describe the relationship between interest groups and the state in a corporatist system and therefore did not earn the point.

The response earned a second point for correctly identifying Great Britain as historically corporatist but now pluralist.

#### Sample: 4C

##### Score: 1

The response states that interest groups in a pluralist system “need to win majority of votes.” This does not correctly describe the relationship between the state and interest groups in a pluralist system and therefore did not earn the point.

The response does not correctly describe the relationship between the state and interest groups in a corporatist system and therefore did not earn the point.

The response earned 1 point for correctly identifying Mexico as historically corporatist but now pluralist.