

**AP<sup>®</sup> COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**  
**2012 SCORING GUIDELINES**

**Question 5**

**3 points**

**One point** is earned for correctly identifying the Guardian Council as the institution that controls which candidates can run for the Majles.

**One point** is earned for a correct description of how the Guardian Council controls the selection process. An acceptable description includes:

- Candidates apply to run and the Guardian Council accepts or denies the nomination.
- Candidates are vetted.
- Candidates are evaluated using political criteria for placement on the ballot.

**One point** is earned for a correct explanation of how the candidate selection process influences electoral competition. An acceptable explanation includes:

- Limits the number of candidates and therefore reduces electoral competition.
- Favors some ideas or groups and therefore reduces electoral competition.

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

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

5. Identify the institution in Iran that controls which candidates can run for the Majles. Describe how this institution controls the selection process. Explain how the candidate selection process influences electoral competition.

The institution that controls candidacy for the majles is the guardian council. This institution allows candidates to run based on if their beliefs are compatible with the current regime and if they will ~~not~~ threaten the conservative politicians in place. This leads to significantly less competitive elections because candidates who could legitimately challenge the government in place are barred from running

5. Identify the institution in Iran that controls which candidates can run for the Majles. Describe how this institution controls the selection process. Explain how the candidate selection process influences electoral competition.

The Guardian ~~Board~~ Council is the institution that controls candidates for the Majles. It bases standards for candidates on religious texts and requires candidates to live up to these standards in order to run. This selection process significantly hinders electoral competition, as apt potential leaders can be weeded out at the discretion of a few individuals.

5. Identify the institution in Iran that controls which candidates can run for the Majles. Describe how this institution controls the selection process. Explain how the candidate selection process influences electoral competition.

The institution in Iran that controls which candidates can run for the Majles is the Guardian Council. The Guardian Council controls the selection process by determining who is on the Majles and when members of the Majles are done. The candidate selection process influences electoral competition because only certain people can be part of the Majles and there are a limited number of seats. Therefore people are going to try harder to get a spot. Overall, competition is created when it is harder to get into office.

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

## 2012 SCORING COMMENTARY

### Question 5

#### Overview

The intent of this question was for students to examine the connection between a country's candidate selection process and electoral competition in legislative elections. The question required students to make this conceptual linkage by using the candidate selection process for the Iranian Majles. Students had three specific tasks: to identify the institution in Iran that controls which candidates can run for the Majles, to describe how this institution controls the selection process, and to explain how the candidate selection process influences electoral competition.

#### Sample: 5A

##### Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for correctly identifying the “guardian council” as the institution in Iran that controls which candidates can run for the Majles.

The response earned 1 point for correctly describing that this institution controls the selection process as it “allows candidates [*sic*] to run based on if their beliefs are compatible with the current regime.”

The response earned 1 point for correctly explaining how the candidate selection process “leads to significantly [*sic*] less competitive [*sic*] elections because candidates [*sic*] who could legitimately challenge the government in place are barred from running.”

#### Sample: 5B

##### Score: 2

The response earned 1 point for correctly identifying the “Guardian Counsel [*sic*]” as the institution in Iran that controls which candidates can run for the Majles.

The response did not earn a point for describing how this institution controls the selection process.

The response earned 1 point for correctly explaining how the candidate selection process “significantly hinders electoral competition, as apt potential leaders can be weeded out at the discretion of a few individuals.”

#### Sample: 5C

##### Score: 1

The response earned 1 point for correctly identifying the Guardian Council as the institution in Iran that controls which candidates can run for the Majles.

The response did not earn a point for describing how this institution controls the selection process.

The response did not earn a point for explaining how the candidate selection process reduces electoral competition.