



AP[®] Comparative Government and Politics 2012 Scoring Guidelines

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AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

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Question 1

3 points

One point is earned for correctly identifying Mexico as the country that limits the chief executive to one term.

One point is earned for a correct description of how a one-term limit can be an advantage for a political system. Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Prevents consolidation of power of a single leader over time.
- Checks executive excess or power, such as preventing emergence of dictators.
- Makes president less election focused.
- Provides opportunity for new ideas, policies, or goals.

One point is earned for a correct description of how a one-term limit can be a disadvantage for a political system. Acceptable descriptions include:

- Forces good executives to leave office.
- Leaves insufficient time to achieve goals.
- Inhibits policy continuity.
- Weakens accountability.
- Is less responsive to public.
- Creates lame duck period for executive.
- Discourages building experience within the executive.
- Leads to poorly designed policy.

Note: Students may NOT use the same factor as an advantage and a disadvantage.

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

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

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Question 2

3 points

One point is earned for a correct definition of political socialization. An acceptable definition includes:

- The process by which people form their ideas about politics and acquire their ideas about government
- The process by which political values are formed and transmitted from one generation to the next

One point is earned for **each** of two descriptions of methods currently used by Russian authorities to socialize citizens. Acceptable descriptions include:

- State-controlled media sets agenda and primes citizens on important issues, as well as controlling the debate and establishing norms.
- The government controls textbook content and educational curriculum to shape people's ideas about government.
- Progovernment youth organizations such as Nashi and progovernment rallies have been organized to support the regime.
- Proregime Internet campaigns are used to depict Putin as a strong and capable leader.
- The Russian Orthodox Church bolsters the legitimacy of the regime.

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

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

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Question 3

3 points

One point is earned for **each** of two explanations of how current environmental problems in China resulted from its economic liberalization. Current environmental problems may include:

- air pollution
- habitat loss
- land contamination
- urban sprawl
- water pollution

Acceptable explanations for how the problems listed above resulted from economic liberalization may include:

- expansion of industry
- lack of government regulation
- increased use of automobiles
- increased consumption
- poor infrastructure

Notes: Explanations must demonstrate linkage to economic liberalization. Explanation may be the same for two distinct environmental problems.

One point is earned for a correct description of a policy the Chinese government developed in response to the environmental problem identified above. Acceptable descriptions of a policy include:

- temporarily shutting down factories
- physically moving factories
- implementation of green technologies and subsidies to companies using them
- reduced use of automobiles or controls on automobile emissions
- better legal framework for policy regulation
- greater planning in or increased infrastructure development

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

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

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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.

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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.

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Question 6

5 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct definition of the concept of a state. Acceptable definitions include:

- An organization that maintains control over a given territory
- A set of political institutions that generate and execute policy within a defined territory
- The entity that has the monopoly on the legitimate use of coercion within a given territory

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct explanation of how a nation is different from a state. Acceptable explanations include:

- A state is a set of institutions that maintain control over a given territory, while a nation is a group of people bound by common traits (such as race, language, religion, and ethnicity) and political identity or aspirations.
- A nation refers to a group of people and not an institutional mechanism or set territory.

Note: Students do NOT need to define nation to earn this point.

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of a challenge that governments face in securing stability in multinational states. An acceptable challenge may include:

- Conflicting interest among groups
- Competition among groups
- Perceived lack of legitimacy or authority of the central government
- Fragmentation
- Pressure for more autonomy
- Secession
- Intergroup conflict
- Civil war

Part (d): 2 points

One point is earned for each correct discussion of a policy that governments take to address the challenge described in part (c). Acceptable policies may include:

- Granting more autonomy
- Devolution
- Federal structure
- Legislative, bureaucratic, military, or executive quotas
- Informal political arrangements
- Changes to the electoral system

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Question 6 (continued)

- Constitutional protection
- Negotiations to address or resolve grievances
- Creating a state-based, patriotic identity (i.e., civic culture, symbols)
- Partition
- Suppression
- Co-opting local or national authorities
- Weakening national groups
- Co-opting media, reframing national groups as threats

Note: The two policies discussed must be distinct.

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

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

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Question 7

7 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for a description of the general pattern of internal migration within Mexico. An acceptable description is:

- South to north
- Rural to urban

One point is earned for a description of the general pattern of internal migration within China. An acceptable description is:

- West to east
- Rural to urban
- Interior to coast

Note: Answer must show directionality.

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for a correct description of an economic policy that prompted migration within Mexico. An acceptable description includes:

- Import substitution industrialization policies — domestic industry protection via tariffs initially stimulates economic growth, but lack of competition allows inefficiencies and growth stalls.
- The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) allowed a range of economic liberalization policies to emerge in Mexico.

Typical policies include the adoption of free trade, the creation of Maquiladora zones, and removal of agriculture subsidies.

One point is earned for a correct description of an economic policy that prompted migration within China. An acceptable description includes:

- Fewer government restrictions and regulations in the economy
- Shifting emphasis from agriculture to industry

Examples include creation of Special Economic Zones (SEZs); Four Modernizations; foreign direct investment; abolition of people's commune system; Township Enterprise System; Town and Village Enterprises; Household Responsibility System.

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for each correct description of a political consequence of the migration within Mexico. Acceptable descriptions include:

- Changing face of party politics

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Question 7 (continued)

- Weakening of the PRI
- Rise of the PAN and PRD
- Issues that government has to address related to migration (e.g., drugs and crime)
- Government addressing new labor issues that arise in urban areas
- Protests
- Loss of legitimacy

One point is earned for each correct description of a political consequence of the migration within China. Acceptable descriptions include:

- Protests
- Infrastructure issues that government has to address
- Loss of legitimacy

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct comparison of how the governments have responded to migration pressures. Acceptable comparisons may present general or specific policy comparisons.

An example of a general policy comparison is China actively responding to internal migration while Mexico is not actively responding to internal migration.

Examples of specific policy comparisons include:

- Chinese reduction of social benefits for migrants compared with Mexican government untargeted poverty reduction policies
- Chinese creation of the New Socialist Countryside compared with Mexican support of business development in the North

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

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

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Question 8

7 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for **each** correct description of a function exercised in both the House of Commons and the Duma. Acceptable functions include:

- Makes laws and passes bills.
- Conducts votes of no confidence.
- Debates policy issues.
- Represents the people.
- Appropriates funds and makes budgets.
- Approves/elects (NOT selects) the prime minister.

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for correctly identifying the electoral system in Great Britain. Acceptable identification is:

- Single-member district (SMD).
- First past the post (FPTP).
- Plurality.
- Winner-take-all.

One point is earned for correctly explaining the electoral system's effect on party representation. Acceptable explanations include:

- Encourages a two party system.
- Overrepresents largest parties.
- Underrepresents smaller parties.
- Discourages voters from choosing third party.
- Regional parties have the opportunity to be represented if they win a plurality of votes in a district.

Note: If the student incorrectly identifies the electoral system in parts (b) or (c), no point is awarded for the effect on party.

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for correctly identifying the electoral system in Russia. Acceptable identification is proportional representation with threshold.

Note: Thresholds of 5 percent and 7 percent are acceptable for credit; other percentages are not.

One point is earned for correctly explaining the electoral system's effect on party representation. Acceptable explanations include:

- United Russia/single party dominates.

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Question 8 (continued)

- Reduces representation of small parties.
- Fosters nonideological or catch-all parties.

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for each correct explanation of why the House of Commons is more effective than the Duma in limiting the power of the executive. Acceptable explanations include:

- The majority party in the House of Commons can ask the prime minister to step down without calling for new elections, whereas the president in Russia can eventually dissolve the Duma if the president disagrees with a vote of no confidence.
- There is fusion of power in Great Britain, where the prime minister sits in Parliament, whereas in Russia there is separation of power and the president does not sit in the Duma.
- A vote of no confidence in the House of Commons is relatively easy to conduct, but it is difficult to impeach the Russian president.
- The majority party in the House of Commons selects the prime minister, but the president in Russia selects the prime minister, who is more accountable to the president than to the Duma.
- The Russian president can dissolve the Duma if the Duma rejects the same prime minister candidate three times, but this is not the case in Great Britain.
- Britain has Question Time, but the Duma cannot hold cabinet members accountable.

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

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