



AP[®] Comparative Government and Politics 2014 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 one natural resource upon which Russia's economy depends.

Natural resources include:

- Oil
- Natural gas
- Coal

One point is earned for a correct description of how the Russian government's control over natural resources has changed since 2000.

Correct descriptions may include:

- The government has nationalized natural resource companies.
- Government control has increased over natural resources.
- Control of natural resource companies has been given to those loyal to Putin.
- The government has imprisoned company leaders and expropriated or destroyed the company (e.g., Khodorkovshy and Yukos).
- The government has imposed more restrictions on oil exports.
- The government has limited private sector ownership.
- The Russian government has limited the access of foreign investors in strategic sectors within Russia.

One point is earned for a correct description of a political consequence of the change in the Russian government's control over natural resources.

Correct descriptions may include:

- Increased corruption.
- Diminished power of oligarchs and creation of new political elite.
- Decreased political opposition to the government.
- Increased state revenue from natural resources created more legitimacy and insulated the government from the need for popular support.
- Increased Russian foreign policy leverage.
- Strengthened the government or the Putin regime.
- Greater centralization over economic policy.

A score of zero (0) is earned for an attempted 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 EACH correct description of the differences between Chinese Communist party leaders.

Acceptable differences may include:

- Earlier leaders had lower levels of education, but now most leaders are university trained.
- Most leaders were once military but are now mostly technocrats (business, finance, engineering).
- Leaders once valued ideological purity but are now more pragmatic.
- Leaders were once more revolutionary but now have greater technical expertise.
- Leaders once valued ideological purity but are now more business oriented.
- Most leaders under Mao worked their way up through the military or party ranks, while today's leaders are groomed for leadership positions or promoted through family connections.

Note: It is not sufficient to say that one set of leaders does not have the same background as the other set of leaders. The student must more fully describe the difference between the two sets of leaders.

One point is earned for a correct explanation of how one of the differences described above has influenced Chinese economic policy.

An acceptable explanation may include:

- Led to the creation of Special Economic Zones (SEZs)
- Influenced implementation of free market reforms
- Drove shift from central planning or five-year plans to economic liberalization
- Created a greater focus on international trade and foreign direct investment
- Fostered a more positive attitude toward globalization
- Promoted greater protection of private property

A score of zero (0) is earned for an attempted 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 a correct description of the role of the state in Great Britain's health care system.

An acceptable description may include:

- Nationalized, state-provided universal health care system or single-payer health care system
- State directed, funded health care system
- British government created National Health Service (NHS)

One point is earned for a correct description of how the age structure is changing in Great Britain.

An acceptable description is:

- The age structure in Great Britain is getting older.

NOTE: Description of aging must be connected to demographics and indicate a change.

One point is earned for a correct explanation of one consequence of the changing age structure on Great Britain's health care system.

Acceptable explanations include:

- Demands for care will increase.
- Costs for care will increase.
- Need for more health care providers.
- Less tax revenue coming in to pay for health care.
- Increased tax burden on working age population.

A score of zero (0) is earned for an attempted 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 identification of a country studied in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course that has a run-off election for its chief executive.

Acceptable identifications are:

- Iran, Nigeria, or Russia

One point is earned for a correct description of how the run-off system works in the identified country.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- In Russia and Iran, if there is no majority winner in Round 1, the top two candidates with the most votes in Round 1 face off in Round 2.
- In Nigeria, candidates must win a majority of votes in addition to a minimum of 25 percent of the total votes in two-thirds of all states. If there is no winner in Round 1, the top two candidates with the most votes in Round 1 face off in Round 2.

One point is earned for a correct explanation of why a country might establish a run-off system.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- To allow multiple candidates to participate in the process
- To allow voters freedom to select their most preferred candidates in the first round
- To permit voters an alternative candidate in the second round of voting
- To build or increase legitimacy of the electoral process and winning candidate
- To encourage majority outcomes that may generate support or a mandate from voters
- To motivate a sense of nationhood as a consequence of majority election outcomes

A score of zero (0) is earned for an attempted 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 a correct description of how the Nigerian armed forces undermined the stability of the Nigerian state between 1960 and 1999.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Frequent interventions or coups
- Undermining constitutionalism
- Undermining judicial independence
- Undermining of central bureaucracy or destroying civil service

One point is earned for correctly identifying the **president** (Obasanjo, Yar'Adua, Goodluck Jonathan) as the commander-in-chief of the armed forces in Nigeria as stipulated by the 1999 Constitution.

One point is earned for a correct description of how the armed forces have been used to strengthen the stability of Nigeria since 1999.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Providing internal security against potential threats such as Boko Haram or the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND)
- Serving as a symbol of national unity
- Being involved in external peacekeeping operations in the region

A score of zero (0) is earned for an attempted 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 correctly identifying a function of a legislature that is common to both democratic and authoritarian regimes.

Acceptable identifications include:

- Representation
- Passing laws or budgets

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct explanation of how a function of a legislature can strengthen democracy.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- Responds to public demand for legislative action
- Allows for clear and open debate about policy
- Facilitates compromise between factions
- Legislates to extend political rights or civil liberties
- Restricts power of executive

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for EACH correct description of ways a legislature can be controlled in an authoritarian regime.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Manipulates election rules for parties and voters
- Controls election results
- Creates a dominant or single party system
- Appoints representatives
- Limits legislative meeting time
- Limits or restrain debate of opposing views
- Limits or prohibit changes to executive proposals
- Co-opts or represses dissenting legislators
- Prohibits legislative oversight

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Question 6 (continued)

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct explanation of why authoritarian regimes maintain legislatures.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- To maintain political legitimacy
- To establish the pretense of popular support
- To respond to international pressure
- To provide a forum for superficial debate
- To recognize cleavages in an effort to reduce tension
- To support government propaganda
- To build party support or compliance

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

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

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Question 7

6 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for a definition of a unitary system.

Acceptable definitions include:

- In a unitary system, political power resides in the national government, with little or no power delegated to local governments.
- In a unitary system, political power resides in the central government, and local governments do not have constitutional status.

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of how Great Britain has decentralized power since 1997.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Great Britain has devolved power to regions, specifically Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as London.
- The national parliament has passed reforms devolving policymaking power to regional governments in certain areas, including health, education, judicial issues, and some taxation.

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for a definition of federalism.

Acceptable definitions are:

- In a federal system, the central and subnational governments share power.
- In a federal system, national and subnational governments are established by the constitution with certain enumerated powers.

Part (d): 1 point

- One point is earned for a correct explanation of how Mexico's political system limited the decentralization of power prior to 2000.

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Question 7 (continued)

Acceptable explanations may include that prior to 2000:

- The Mexican president was very powerful. Most governors of states came from the same party as the president and had to do the president's bidding.
- Due to the dominance of the PRI, the president and the central government had significant informal powers over governors and other regional officials.
- Revenues were highly centralized. Although some powers were transferred in the 1980s to the local level, funding was not. Some revenue was given to municipalities in the 1990s, but states were unable to bring in their own tax revenues.
- The *dedazo* allowed the president to select his successor without input from the states.

Part (e): 2 points

One point is earned for a correct explanation of an advantage of decentralization for public policies, and one point is earned for a correct explanation of a disadvantage of decentralization for public policies.

Acceptable advantages of decentralization may include:

- It allows for policy innovation at the local level.
- It ensures that local policies serve local needs.
- It allows for competition between states or regions that improves policies.
- It promotes political efficacy, political participation, or democracy at the local level.
- It decreases costs at the central level or local level.
- It acts as a local check on central power.
- It allows for better representation of local ethnic and other groups.

Acceptable disadvantages of decentralization may include:

- It allows for policy incoherence or contradictory policy between regions or between federal and local governments.
- It makes federal or local policy implementation slower, inefficient, or more difficult.
- It allows for inequality between regions and undermines national unity.
- It leads to corruption at the local level.
- It increases competition for resources among regions and exacerbates ethnic and local tensions.

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

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

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Question 8

6 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for EACH correct description of two formal powers of Iran's supreme leader.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Commander-in-chief
- Appoints one-half of the Guardian Council
- Appoints OR removes the head of the judiciary
- Supervises domestic and foreign policies, also known as jurist's guardianship
- Vets candidates for Majles and presidency
- Calls referenda
- Declares war and peace

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for EACH correct identification of two official positions that China's head of state typically holds.

Acceptable identifications include:

- General Secretary or Leader of the Chinese Communist Party or head of Politburo
- President of the PRC
- Chairman of the Central Military Commission or Commander-in-chief

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of a similarity in the sources of authority of Iran's supreme leader and of China's head of state.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Both have been appointed by other government bodies.
- Both have constitutional sources of power.
- Both have power from a revolutionary legacy.
- In both countries, military support is a source of authority.

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Question 8 (continued)

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of a difference in the sources of authority of Iran's supreme leader and of China's head of state.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- In China, the party or political experience is a source of authority, while in Iran religion is a source of authority.
- In China, economic performance is a source of authority, while in Iran religion is a source of authority.

Note: It is not sufficient to state that the second country does not have the same source of authority as the first country; the student must describe the difference more fully.

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

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