



AP[®] Comparative Government and Politics 2015 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 minority ethnic group officially recognized by the Chinese government. Acceptable identifications may include:

- Uighurs
- Tibetans
- Zhuang
- Manchu
- Mongol
- Hui

One point is earned for a correct description of a special protection that the Chinese government extends to this group.

Note: The description of the special protection must be linked to the group identified.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Language rights
- Exceptions to population control policies
- Educational curriculum
- Legislative seats reserved
- Autonomous regions
- Religion (can be seen as a cultural right if it is tied to the correct group)

One point is earned for a correct explanation of why the Chinese government extends special protections to some minority ethnic groups.

Acceptable explanations include:

- Reduce conflict or rebellion or unrest
- Prevent groups from seeking separation
- Increase legitimacy
- Increase access to natural resources
- Make policy comply with party doctrine
- Improve global image
- Create buffer from other states

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

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

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Question 2

3 points

One point is earned for a correct description of why governments adopt austerity measures.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- To fix budget deficit problems
- Pressure by international organizations
- Membership in supranational organizations that require monetary coordination
- Changes in government or party platform

Note: Stating that “the economy is bad” is not enough to earn credit.

One point is earned for a correct identification of an austerity measure adopted by the British government since 2007.

Acceptable identifications include:

- Raising taxes
- Cutting spending to welfare or social programs
- Raised fees for universities
- Reduced funding for QUANGOs

One point is earned for a correct explanation of a political consequence of that measure.

Acceptable explanations include:

- Loss of support for the Conservatives
- Greater support for the Conservatives
- Greater support for anti-austerity Scottish National Party (SNP) and UK Independence Party (UKIP)
- A revolt within the ranks of the Liberal Democrats and the Labour Party
- Liberal Democrats voted out of office
- Social movement activities such as protests and demonstrations

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

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

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Question 3

3 points

One point is earned for a correct identification of a way members of the Guardian Council are selected.

Acceptable identifications include:

- The supreme leader chooses one-half of Guardian Council members.
- The head of the judiciary nominates one-half of Guardian Council members.
- The Majles approves the nominees made by the judiciary.

One point is earned for EACH correct description of a specific function of the Guardian Council.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Vetting candidates for elections
- Monitoring elections
- Overseeing the Majles
- Approving legislation passed by the Majles
- Vetoing legislation passed by the Majles
- Making sure laws or government actions are compatible with Islamic law
- Making sure laws are compatible with the Constitution
- Advising the supreme leader on matters related to jurist guardianship

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

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

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Question 4

3 points

One point is earned for a correct explanation of how independent judiciaries strengthen democracy.

Acceptable explanations include:

- Maintain checks and balances
- Protect rights and liberties
- Establish rule of law
- Maintain separation of powers
- Hold government accountable
- Provide access point to the legal system for citizens
- Ensure free, fair, and contested elections

One point is earned for EACH correct description of an action that an authoritarian regime can take to undermine the independence of the judiciary.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Appointing loyal judges
- Removing or threatening removal of judges
- Promising rewards for loyalty or bribes
- Blackmailing or intimidating judges
- Refusing to implement or ignoring judicial decisions
- Limiting the court's powers or jurisdiction
- Allowing direct intervention by executive or police
- Controlling legal education or professional associations
- Ruling by decree or referendum

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

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

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Question 5

3 points

One point is earned for a correct empirical statement using data from the graph.

An acceptable statement may include:

- Sixty percent of Russians are not satisfied with the way things are going.
- Thirty percent of Russians are satisfied with the way things are going.
- More Russians are dissatisfied with the way things are going than are satisfied.

One point is earned for a correct normative statement using data from the graph.

An acceptable statement may include:

- Russia should change to a parliamentary system to satisfy the 60 percent of the population who are unhappy with the way things are going.
- Russians need to have a revolution because they are dissatisfied.
- Russia shouldn't change anything because 30 percent of the people are satisfied.
- Russia ought to become a democracy to address citizens' discontent.
- Based on the data, Russia's political system is terrible.

Note: The empirical and normative statements above are not exhaustive. The response must use data from the graph to earn credit.

One point is earned for correctly identifying an **empirical** statement as the type of statement that a political scientist would use to make a factual argument.

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

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

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Question 6

6 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct definition of sovereignty.

An acceptable definition will include at least TWO of the following:

- Supreme or independent authority
- Authority over a particular population or territory
- Recognition by other international actors

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for a correct identification of an international organization that challenges state sovereignty.

Acceptable identifications include:

- United Nations
- European Union
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
- Terrorist groups that meet certain conditions

Note: NAFTA is not an international organization.

One point is earned for a correct description of how the international organization challenges state sovereignty.

An acceptable response will demonstrate that the international organization attempts to or succeeds in exerting control or authority in sovereign states.

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of how multinational corporations (MNCs) challenge state sovereignty.

An acceptable response will demonstrate that MNCs attempt to, or successfully, exert leverage or control.

Examples may include challenges to any of the following policies:

- Labor
- Environmental
- Land rights
- Tax
- Budgetary
- Legal

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Question 6 (continued)

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of how new information technologies challenge state sovereignty.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Provide access to information, reducing public support
- Provide access to information, challenging political legitimacy
- Increase government internal or external accountability
- Threat to national security or the capacity to govern from cybersecurity incidents

Part (e): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of a method states use to maintain sovereignty in the face of challenges.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Control information
- Leave the international organization
- Restrict multinational corporations
- Nationalize industry
- Join the international organization to influence policy direction
- Ignore or defy international organizations

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

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

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Question 7

8 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly identifying the PRI as Mexico's historically dominant party AND for identifying Mexico's current party system as multiparty.

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for EACH correct description of a reform that facilitated Mexico's transition away from a dominant party system.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- The establishment of the IFE
- More autonomy and strength for the IFE
- The elimination of *el dedazo*
- A series of electoral reforms to encourage minority representation
- Privatizing state-owned corporations, decreasing patronage
- Decentralization reform, reducing PRI power at the subnational level
- Zedillo's decision to use primaries for the PRI

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly identifying United Russia as Russia's current dominant party.

Note: A response merely stating "Putin's party" does not earn a point.

Part (d): 2 points

One point is earned for EACH correct description of a reform that allowed Russia to establish a dominant party system.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Increasing the threshold
- Instituting election rule changes that encourage dominant party selection by candidates
- Eliminating gubernatorial elections or appointment of governors
- Creating unequal access to media
- Raising registration requirements for parties
- Allowing only legally registered parties to run for office
- Using selective court decisions to disqualify candidates

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Question 7 (continued)

Part (e): 2 points

One point is earned for a correct explanation of how a dominant party can promote political legitimacy.

Acceptable explanations include:

- Promotes stability
- Brings about policy continuity
- Creates more efficient policymaking, reduces gridlock
- Gains a majority of votes in an election
- Boosts nationalism
- Creates a better investment environment
- Enacts necessary reforms

One point is earned for a correct explanation of how a dominant party can hinder political legitimacy.

Acceptable explanations include:

- Limits competitiveness or voter choice
- Increases chances for authoritarianism
- Undermines checks and balances
- Reduces representativeness or popular voice
- Undermines the opposition
- Encourages corruption

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

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

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Question 8

6 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for correctly identifying one group that has engaged in terrorism in Great Britain.

One point is earned for correctly describing the group's major demand.

Group that has engaged in terrorism in Great Britain in the last 20 years	The group's major demand
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• IRA (Irish Republican Army)• Northern Irish extremist groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Withdrawal of British troops from Northern Ireland• Unify with Republic of Ireland• Increased autonomy for Northern Ireland from Great Britain
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Al Qaeda• Islamic extremists	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Withdrawal of British troops from Iraq/Afghanistan• Ending British support for Israel• Ending Western influence in Muslim world

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly describing a policy response the government of Great Britain adopted to address domestic terrorism:

- Funding for antiterrorism policing and alert systems
- Stricter laws about immigration
- CCTV surveillance
- Limitations of civil liberties
- Public education campaigns
- Dialogue with religious communities
- Withdrawal of troops from contested areas

For Northern Ireland only:

- Peace treaty (Good Friday Peace Accord)
- Devolution to a Northern Ireland Parliament (Stormont)
- Power-sharing agreement

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Question 8 (continued)

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for correctly identifying one group that has engaged in terrorism in Nigeria.

One point is earned for correctly describing the group's major demand.

Group that has engaged in terrorism in Nigeria in the last 20 years	The group's major demand
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boko Haram• ISIS (ISIL/Islamic State/Daesh)• Al Qaeda• Islamic extremists	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Islamic State• Rejection of Western influence• Rejection of modernization• Rejection of female empowerment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MEND• MOSOP• Niger Delta extremists	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmental justice• Economic justice/equitable access to oil revenues

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly describing a policy response the government of Nigeria adopted to address domestic terrorism:

- Deployed the military
- Requested international support
- Negotiated amnesties
- Initiated payments to disrupted communities
- High-level arrests

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

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