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# **AP<sup>®</sup> Comparative Government and Politics 2015 Free-Response Questions**

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**2015 AP<sup>®</sup> COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS  
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

**COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

**Section II**

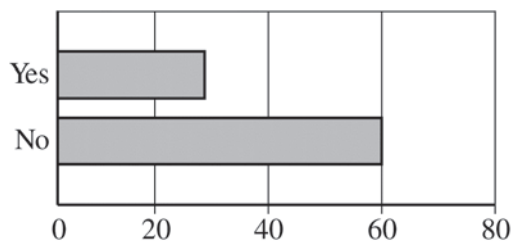
**Time—1 hour and 40 minutes**

**Directions:** You have 100 minutes to answer five short-answer concept questions, one conceptual analysis question, and two country context questions. Unless the directions indicate otherwise, respond to all parts of all eight questions. It is suggested that you take a few minutes to plan and outline each answer. We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes total on questions 1 through 5, 30 minutes on question 6, and 40 minutes total on questions 7 and 8. These suggested times do not reflect the weight of the questions as part of your AP exam score. In your responses, use substantive examples where appropriate.

Short-Answer Concepts: We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes total on questions 1 through 5.

1. Identify one ethnic minority group officially recognized by the Chinese government. Describe one special protection that the Chinese government extends to the group you identified. Explain why the Chinese government extends special protections to some of China's ethnic minority groups.
2. Describe why governments adopt austerity measures. Identify one austerity measure adopted by the British government since 2007. Explain one political consequence of that measure.
3. Identify one way members of the Guardian Council are selected. Describe two specific functions of the Guardian Council.
4. Explain how independent judiciaries strengthen democracy. Describe two actions that an authoritarian regime can take to undermine the independence of the judiciary.

PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO  
WERE ASKED IF THEY WERE SATISFIED WITH  
THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN RUSSIA



Source: Pew Research Global Attitudes Project, 2011

5. Write an empirical statement using the data from the graph above. Write a normative statement using the data from the graph above. Identify which type of statement a political scientist would use to make a factual argument: empirical or normative.

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Conceptual Analysis: We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes on question 6.

6. State sovereignty can be challenged by external factors.
- (a) Define sovereignty.
  - (b) Identify one international organization that challenges state sovereignty AND describe how it challenges state sovereignty.
  - (c) Describe a challenge that multinational corporations pose to state sovereignty.
  - (d) Describe a challenge that new information technologies pose to state sovereignty.
  - (e) Describe one method states use to maintain sovereignty in the face of challenges.

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Country Context: We suggest that you spend approximately 40 minutes (20 minutes each) on questions 7 and 8.

7. Party systems in Mexico and Russia affect the political legitimacy of each state.
- (a) Identify Mexico's historically dominant party, and identify the type of party system Mexico currently has.
  - (b) Describe two reforms since 1980 that facilitated Mexico's transition away from a dominant party system.
  - (c) Identify Russia's current dominant party.
  - (d) Describe two reforms since 2000 that allowed Russia to establish a dominant party system.
  - (e) Explain how a dominant party system can promote political legitimacy. Explain how a dominant party system can hinder political legitimacy.

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8. The governments of both Great Britain and Nigeria have responded to domestic terrorism in the last twenty years.
- (a) Identify one group that has engaged in terrorism in Great Britain and describe its major demand.
  - (b) Describe one policy response the government of Great Britain adopted to address domestic terrorism.
  - (c) Identify one group that has engaged in terrorism in Nigeria and describe its major demand.
  - (d) Describe one policy response the government of Nigeria adopted to address domestic terrorism.

**STOP**

**END OF EXAM**