



AP[®] Comparative Government and Politics 2016 Scoring Guidelines

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AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS 2016 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 1

3 points

One point is earned for an accurate definition of referendum.

An acceptable definition is:

A referendum is when citizens vote directly on a specific policy or issue.

One point is earned for a correct description of one referendum that has taken place in Great Britain in the past twenty years. One point is also earned for a political consequence of that referendum.

An acceptable description and political consequence may include:

Description	Consequence
Scottish independence referendum (2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retention of Scotland as part of Great Britain • More devolution of power to Scotland • Increased importance of Scottish National Party (SNP) • More seats for SNP in parliament • Independence supporters remain unsatisfied • Short-term decline in image of SNP
Alternative Vote referendum (2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retention of first-past-the-post or winner-take-all electoral system • Continued dominance of two parties • Underrepresentation of minority parties and Liberal Democrats • Coalition tension
Devolution referendum (1997)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly • Devolution of power • More decentralization
Greater London Authority referendum (1998)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly elected mayor of London
North Ireland Belfast Agreement referendum (1998)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for Good Friday Agreement • Creation of devolved legislature for North Ireland
Welsh devolution referendum (2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased law-making powers for Welsh Assembly

A score of zero (0) is earned for an attempted answer that earns no points or for 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 an accurate description of a cause of the protests that occurred in Russia between 2011 and 2012.

An acceptable description may include:

- Accusations of electoral fraud
- Concern about Putin's consolidation of power
- Complaints about corruption in and around the Kremlin
- Concern about Orthodox Church support for Putin
- Opposition candidate harassment

One point is earned for EACH correct explanation of a reason why the 2011 and 2012 protests had a limited political impact.

An acceptable explanation may include:

- State-controlled media
- Popular support of Putin
- Selective reprisals against protestors
- Weak civil society
- Consolidation of the political elite
- Strong economy
- New legislation to limit protests

A score of zero (0) is earned for an attempted answer that earns no points or for 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 correctly identifying **Statement B or C** as the statement that describes a correlation.

One point is earned for correctly identifying **Statement B** as the statement that describes causation.

One point is earned for a correct explanation of the difference between causation and correlation.

An acceptable explanation may include:

When two variables are correlated, there is an apparent association between them, but the nature of the relationship is unclear; whereas, causation implies a relationship such that a change in one variable produces a change in the second variable.

A score of zero (0) is earned for an attempted answer that earns no points or for 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 EACH correct description of a domestic factor that influenced the relaxation of China's one-child policy.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Male preference causes sex selective abortion or infanticide.
- Kidnappings or trafficking of females due to a shortage of females.
- Challenges of caring for an aging population.
- Concerns about filling labor shortages, including rural shortages.
- Anticipated population decline in the future.
- Too much of a decline in the birth rate.
- Concerns about uneven policy implementation
- Concerns about unregistered children who do not have access to state services.
- The redundancy of the policy given similar impacts of economic or educational modernization.

Note: Just stating that there are more males than females is not enough of a description.

One point is earned for a correct description of an international factor that influenced the relaxation of China's one-child policy.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Pressure from states and nongovernmental organizations, such as women's groups and human rights groups, on the Chinese government over human rights issues
- Efforts to counter brain drain, to attract back to China those who have left by allowing them to have more than one child
- China seeking to build trust with powerful countries that oppose the policy

Note: No significant pressure from multinational corporations or foreign businesses yet; no sanctions have been used or implemented against China by outside forces.

A score of zero (0) is earned for an attempted answer that earns no points or for 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 description of the executive term limit rule in Mexico.

An acceptable description is:

Mexico has a one term limit (six-year term).

One point is earned for a correct description of the executive term limit rule in Nigeria.

An acceptable description is:

Nigeria allows for reelection of the executive (for a maximum of two four-year terms).

NOTE: The important thing is the limited number of terms, not the exact number of years.

One point is earned for a correct explanation of why many countries emerging from authoritarian rule utilize term limits.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- To prevent accumulation of power by a single leader
- To prevent continued domination by a single leader
- To respond to a history of abuse of power or personalistic rule
- To introduce new leadership or new policy ideas
- To limit opportunities for corruption

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

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

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Question 6

7 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of how participation in elections is different in democratic regimes and authoritarian regimes.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Competitive, free, or fair elections versus restricted elections, not free or fair
- Lack of a choice in authoritarian regimes
- Multiparty versus single dominant party
- Government formation based on electoral results in democratic regimes
- Vetting of potential candidates in authoritarian regimes
- Executive accountability in democratic regimes
- Intimidation of opponents and dissidents in authoritarian regimes
- Use of state resources for incumbents in authoritarian regimes

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of how participation through social media is different in democratic regimes and authoritarian regimes.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Users of social media confront restrictions in authoritarian regimes
- Users of social media can freely post, discuss, or criticize in democratic regimes
- Social media is the only space for participation in some authoritarian regimes

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of how participation in civil society is different in democratic regimes and authoritarian regimes.

Correct descriptions may include:

- Plurality of options and experiences in democratic regimes, less regulated, less harassed in democratic regimes
- Higher degree of monitoring/restriction of civil society in authoritarian regimes
- More state infiltration of civil society in authoritarian regimes
- Creation of bogus civil society groups by authoritarian regimes
- Registration and vetting of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to a greater degree in authoritarian regimes

Note: Since the test taker is not asked to explain a difference in (a), (b), and (c), just describing two different things is acceptable.

Part (d): 2 points

One point is earned for a correct explanation of why people participate politically in democratic regimes.

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Question 6 (continued)

Acceptable explanations may include:

- To influence policy or voice support for government OR the opposition
- Efficacy
- To have their voices heard
- Civic duty

One point is earned for a correct explanation of why people participate politically in authoritarian regimes.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- Coercion
- Intimidation
- Personal benefits such as power or wealth
- To influence policy
- To air grievances
- To show support for government

Part (e): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct explanation of why authoritarian regimes allow certain forms of political participation.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- To gain internal or external legitimacy
- To provide an escape valve for discontent
- To build support for a policy or regime
- To intimidate opponents
- To give an illusion of influence
- To provide a mechanism for accountability

Part (f): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct explanation of why democratic regimes restrict certain forms of political participation.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- To address concerns about unrest and instability
- To protect minority rights
- To balance competing rights and interests
- To ensure a qualified electorate
- To ensure national security
- To allow efficiency in policymaking

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

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Question 7

7 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of one similarity in the way that legislators are chosen in Iran and Mexico.

An acceptable description may include:

Legislators are elected by voters.

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for a correct description of one formal constraint on the way that legislators are chosen in Iran that does not exist in Mexico.

An acceptable description may include:

- Candidates have to be vetted by the Guardian Council in Iran.
- Candidates must be Muslims, with the exception of the represented religious minorities.

One point is earned for a correct explanation of how the formal constraint affects the level of democracy.

Acceptable explanations must connect to the reduced level of democracy and may include:

- Restricts voter choice
- Restricts access to the ballot
- Restricts participation
- Limits competition

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of one power common to the legislatures of Iran and Mexico.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Both make laws
- Both approve budgets
- Both can impeach the president
- Both can oversee the executive branch
- Both confirm presidential appointments
- Both approve treaties

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Question 7 (continued)

Part (d): 2 points

One point is earned for a correct description of one formal constraint on the power of the legislature in Iran that does not exist in Mexico.

An acceptable description may include:

- Legislation must be approved by the Guardian Council.
- Laws and policies must conform to the principles of Islam, Jurist Guardianship, or Sharia law.
- Power over the supreme leader is limited.

One point is earned for a correct explanation of how the constraint affects the level of democracy.

Acceptable explanations must connect to the reduced level of democracy and may include:

- Reduces power of people's representatives
- Weakens checks and balances or separation of powers
- Gives unelected officials veto power
- Undermines legislative independence

Part (e): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct explanation of why an independent legislature strengthens democracy.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- Creates checks and balances
- Increases the voice of the people
- Prevents concentration of power
- Increases political efficacy
- Better represents interests

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

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

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Question 8

6 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of the difference between levels of perceived corruption in China and Great Britain.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- There is greater corruption in China.
- There is less corruption in Great Britain.

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of the difference between levels of political freedom in China and Great Britain.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- There is less political freedom in China.
- There is more political freedom in Great Britain.

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct explanation of how political freedoms affect the ability of democracies such as Great Britain to fight corruption.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- Freedom of press allows people to criticize the government.
- Transparency highlights corruption within government.
- Elections allow policy makers to be removed.
- Freedom to assemble allows citizens to protest corruption.
- Fair trial rights can make it more difficult to prosecute corrupt officials.
- Question Time in parliament allows legislators to raise questions about corruption.

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of one way that China is attempting to limit corruption.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- There are campaigns to fight corruption.
- Oversight committees have been established to investigate corruption.
- Corrupt leaders have been removed or demoted.
- There has been public punishment of corrupt leaders, such as show trials.
- Village elections allow for greater accountability.
- There is training or education for cadres on corruption.
- Citizens can use mobile and online technology to report corrupt officials.
- Rules regulating gifts are more strictly enforced.

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Question 8 (continued)

Part (e): 2 points

One point is earned for a correct description of one shared political reason why China and Great Britain seek to limit corruption.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- To increase political legitimacy
- To increase political efficacy
- To foster trust in government
- To foster greater accountability
- To solidify hold on power
- To limit antigovernment sentiment such as protests
- To improve international reputation

One point is earned for a correct description of one shared economic reason why China and Great Britain seek to limit corruption.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- To prevent theft of government revenues
- To reassure trade and investment partners
- To project or protect economic stability
- To improve outlook for future economic growth

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

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