



AP[®] Comparative Government and Politics 2016 Free-Response Questions

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**2016 AP[®] 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. Define referendum. Describe one referendum that took place in Great Britain in the last twenty years. Describe one political consequence of the referendum result.
2. Describe one cause of the protests that occurred in Russia in 2011 and 2012. Explain two reasons why the protests had a limited political impact.
3. Statement A: Governments should expand access to education for women and girls.
Statement B: Expanding access to education for females increases rates of political participation.
Statement C: Advanced liberal democracies tend to have higher rates of female literacy.
Statement D: Female access to education is limited worldwide.

Identify the statement that describes a correlation. Identify the statement that describes a causal relationship. Explain the difference between causation and correlation.

4. Describe two domestic factors that influenced the relaxation of China's one-child policy. Describe one international factor that influenced the relaxation of the policy.
5. Describe the executive term limit rule in Mexico. Describe the executive term limit rule in Nigeria. Explain why many countries emerging from authoritarian rule use executive term limits.

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

6. Forms of political participation vary in both democratic and authoritarian regimes.
- (a) Describe how participation in elections is different in democratic regimes and authoritarian regimes.
 - (b) Describe how political participation through social media is different in democratic regimes and authoritarian regimes.
 - (c) Describe how participation in civil society is different in democratic regimes and authoritarian regimes.
 - (d) Explain why people participate politically in democratic regimes. Explain why people participate politically in authoritarian regimes.
 - (e) Explain why authoritarian regimes allow certain forms of political participation.
 - (f) Explain why democratic regimes restrict certain forms of political participation.

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

7. A country's level of democracy is influenced by the independence of its legislature.
- (a) Describe one similarity in the way that legislators are selected in Iran and Mexico.
 - (b) Describe one formal constraint on the way that legislators are selected in Iran that does not exist in Mexico. Explain how this formal constraint affects the level of democracy in Iran.
 - (c) Describe one power that the legislatures of Iran and Mexico share.
 - (d) Describe one formal constraint on the power of the legislature in Iran that does not exist in Mexico. Explain how this formal constraint affects the level of democracy in Iran.
 - (e) Explain how having an independent legislature strengthens democracy.

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POLITICAL FREEDOM AND PERCEPTIONS OF CORRUPTION, 2013		
	Great Britain	China
*Civil liberties	1	7
*Political rights	1	6
**Perception of corruption	76	40

* Freedom House scores range from 1–7; 1 = best, 7 = worst.

** Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index ranges from 0–100; 0 = highly corrupt, 100 = very clean.

Sources: Freedom House Freedom in the World 2013; Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index 2013

8. Corruption is a challenge faced by regimes that have different levels of civil liberties and political rights.
- (a) Based on the information in the table, describe the difference between the levels of perceived corruption in China and Great Britain.
 - (b) Based on the information in the table, describe the difference between the levels of political freedom in China and Great Britain.
 - (c) Explain how political freedoms affect the ability of democracies such as Great Britain to fight corruption.
 - (d) Describe one way that China is attempting to limit corruption.
 - (e) Describe one shared political reason why China and Great Britain seek to limit corruption. Describe one shared economic reason why China and Great Britain seek to limit corruption.

STOP

END OF EXAM