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# AP Comparative Government and Politics

## Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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- ☑ Free Response Question 4
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**AP<sup>®</sup> COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**  
**2017 SCORING GUIDELINES**

**Question 4**

**3 points**

One point is earned for correctly identifying Christians, Jews, or Zoroastrians as a religious minority with a reserved seat in the Majles.

Note: No credit is earned for B'hai or Sunni.

One point is earned for EACH correct explanation of why Iran reserves seats for some minority groups.

Correct explanations may include:

- Cooption and giving representation to:
  - give a voice to some minorities
  - appease some minorities
  - gain support from some minorities
  - reduce tensions and political unrest
- External or internal legitimacy
- Respect for People of the Book
- Upholding constitutional protections of some religious rights

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.

4. Identify a religious minority that has one or more reserved seats in the Majles. Explain two reasons why Iran reserves seats for some minority groups.

4A

A religious minority that has one or more reserved seats in the Majles in Iran would be the Jews. One reason as to why Iran reserves seats for some minority groups is due to their respect for the People of the Book, which are those that follow the Abrahamic religions. Jews get seats reserved in the Majles due to them being People of the Book. Another reason is to get representation from the minority population for their voices to be heard since they are also Iranian citizens.

4. Identify a religious minority that has one or more reserved seats in the Majles. Explain two reasons why Iran reserves seats for some minority groups. 4B

The Sunni Muslims have reserved seats in the Majlis. Iran reserves seats for minority groups first to quell national uprisings. The Green Revolution was national outcry as Iranians did not feel that the election was fair or truly representative. Reserved seats in the Majlis allow Iranian minorities to have some say in government. Another reason Iran reserves minority seats is to salvage and promote their international legitimacy. In the UN, Iran is not regarded as a credible source on human rights or minority rights, however, reserved seats give the Iranian government some capital to leverage in the international arena.

- 4C
4. Identify a religious minority that has one or more reserved seats in the Majles. Explain two reasons why Iran reserves seats for some minority groups.

A ~~one~~ religious minority that has one or more reserved seats in the Majles is the Sikhs.

Iran reserves seats for minority groups because it is a highly theocratic government that must consider the diversity of its population. Iran also reserves such seats in order to prevent religious violence and attempt to some degree of tolerance.

# AP<sup>®</sup> COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

## 2017 SCORING COMMENTARY

### Question 4

#### Overview

The intent of this question was to assess students' knowledge of Iran's reservation of some Majles seats for some minority groups. The skills tested were descriptive and explanatory. Student had two specific tasks: to identify a minority group that has a reserved seat in Iran's Majles legislature and to explain why Iran reserves seats for some minority groups.

#### Sample: 4A

##### Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for correctly identifying a religious minority that has one or more reserved seats in the Majles as "the Jews." The response earned 1 point for explaining that one reason why Iran reserves seats in the Majles for some minority groups is "their respect for the People of the Book." The response earned 1 point for explaining that one reason why Iran reserves seats in the Majles for some minority groups is "to get representation from the minority population for their voices to be heard."

#### Sample: 4B

##### Score: 2

The response did not earn a point for identifying a religious minority that has one or more seats reserved in the Majles. The response earned 1 point for explaining that one reason why Iran reserves seats in the Majles for some minority groups is "to have some say in government." The response earned 1 point for explaining that one reason why Iran reserves seats in the Majles for some minority groups is to "promote their international legitimacy."

#### Sample: 4C

##### Score: 1

The response did not earn a point for identifying a religious minority that has one or more seats reserved in the Majles. The response earned 1 point for explaining that one reason why Iran reserves seats in the Majles for some minority groups is "to prevent religious violence." The response did not earn a point for explaining a second reason why Iran reserves seats in the Majles for some minority groups.