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# AP Comparative Government and Politics

## Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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**AP<sup>®</sup> COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**  
**2017 SCORING GUIDELINES**

**Question 7**

**5 points**

**Part (a): 1 point**

One point is earned for correctly explaining how large-scale oil production has stimulated economic development in Nigeria.

Correct explanations may include:

- Generates revenue to fund programs which promote economic development
- Increases jobs
- Increases access to global economy
- Attracts foreign direct investment

**Part (b): 1 point**

One point is earned for correctly explaining how large-scale oil production has limited economic development in Nigeria.

Correct explanations include:

- Dependence on one resource makes economy vulnerable to commodity price changes.
- Government reliance on oil revenues has led to corruption instead of economic investment.
- Export of raw materials with no processing and value added has little effect on industrialization.
- It generates regional and sectoral economic inequalities leading to uneven development.
- Increased piracy of oil tankers and vandalism of pipelines discourages investment.
- Causes environmental damage, which limits future development.

**Part (c): 1 point**

One point is earned for correctly describing how the degree of central government control of oil and gas production differs between Nigeria and Russia.

Correct explanations include:

- Russia has more central government control over oil and gas production than Nigeria.
- Russian oil and gas companies are state-owned or controlled whereas Nigerian oil and gas companies are joint ventures with multinational corporations (MNCs).

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**Question 7 (continued)**

**Part (d): 1 point**

One point is earned for correctly describing a political consequence of oil production in Nigeria.

Correct explanations include:

- Social action by environmental groups.
- Exacerbates cleavages.
- Government corruption.
- Low accountability of the state.
- Limits democratic development.
- Increases revenue for public goods and services.
- Competition for political control over oil resources and revenues.
- MNCs exert pressure on governments for favorable policies.

**Part (e): 1 point**

One point is earned for correctly describing a different political consequence of oil production in Russia.

Correct explanations include:

- Supports state centralization of power.
- Resources used to strengthen one-party dominance.
- Russia uses resources as a foreign policy tool.
- Low accountability of the state.
- Limits democratic development.
- Politicized role of oligarchs.
- Government corruption.
- Increases revenue for public goods and services.
- Social action by environmental groups.

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.

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

7. Oil and natural gas play a significant role in the global economy. The production and export of these commodities also have economic and political consequences within energy-producing countries such as Nigeria and Russia.
- Explain how large-scale oil production has stimulated economic development in Nigeria.
  - Explain how large-scale oil production has limited economic development in Nigeria.
  - Describe how the degree of central government control of oil and gas production differs between Nigeria and Russia.
  - Describe one political consequence of oil production in Nigeria.
  - Describe a different political consequence of oil and gas production in Russia.

(a) Large scale oil production has stimulated economic development in Nigeria because it has created many jobs for Nigerians, brought in a lot of money from foreign investors which gives more tax money to the government and has overall helped raise Nigeria's GDP.

(b) Large scale oil production has limited economic development in Nigeria because it has ~~not~~ made Nigeria's economy tied too closely to the international oil prices. When oil prices fall Nigeria struggles greatly to bring in money and this overall limits economic development. Nigeria relies too heavily on just oil and focuses many resources on it limiting other areas where they could develop their economy.

(c) The central government's control of oil and gas production differs in Russia and Nigeria because of the amount of control each country puts on the production. Russia has a much higher control on oil production. The

central government of Russia controls many more aspects of oil production and in the selling of oil. In Nigeria oil production is not as heavily controlled by the central government. Nigerian government allows more foreign investors to come produce their oil and overall Nigeria's central government has less control over oil production than Russia's central government.

(d) One political consequence of oil production in Nigeria is that it ~~brings corruption~~ it cause wars between different groups in the area for the oil, these groups fight for political power as well as access to the oil. These groups also fight the Nigerian central government causing political splits and much disagreement.

(e) A political consequence of oil in Russia is that it brings much corruption in the form of oligarchs and oil producer elites. The few people that have access to ~~the~~ the production of the oil have huge amounts of money that they use to corrupt certain sectors of the government to get them to make policy in their favor.

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

7. Oil and natural gas play a significant role in the global economy. The production and export of these commodities also have economic and political consequences within energy-producing countries such as Nigeria and Russia.
- (a) Explain how large-scale oil production has stimulated economic development in Nigeria.
- (b) Explain how large-scale oil production has limited economic development in Nigeria.
- (c) Describe how the degree of central government control of oil and gas production differs between Nigeria and Russia.
- (d) Describe one political consequence of oil production in Nigeria.
- (e) Describe a different political consequence of oil and gas production in Russia.

a) Oil production in Nigeria has stimulated the economy in Nigeria by allowing increased exportation of oil and therefore more money coming into the government and country.

b) However, the focus on oil production has meant that Nigeria doesn't have the resources to fuel their economy as much. Much of their oil is given to other countries, and less is kept for Nigeria's use.

c) In Nigeria, the government has limited control over oil and gas production, while in Russia the government has much more direct influence. Many of Russia's gas companies are controlled by Putin's political allies.

d) The production of oil in Nigeria has caused severe environmental problems in the Niger Delta over the years. The government's ignoring of this problem has led to the protests of the Ogoni people who live in the area. For many years they have been expressing their views about oil production in their lands. Some have begun using violence to make their concerns known.

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7B<sub>2</sub>

ADDITIONAL ANSWER PAGE FOR QUESTION 7

e) In Russia, the production of oil and natural gas has led to accusations of corruption against the government. Putin placed allies of his, many former KGB members in charge of several of the country's gas & oil companies. This has been seen as an abuse of power, and an attempt by Putin to gain control of Russia's industries after the defeat of the oligarchs.

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

7. Oil and natural gas play a significant role in the global economy. The production and export of these commodities also have economic and political consequences within energy-producing countries such as Nigeria and Russia.
- (a) Explain how large-scale oil production has stimulated economic development in Nigeria.
  - (b) Explain how large-scale oil production has limited economic development in Nigeria.
  - (c) Describe how the degree of central government control of oil and gas production differs between Nigeria and Russia.
  - (d) Describe one political consequence of oil production in Nigeria.
  - (e) Describe a different political consequence of oil and gas production in Russia.

7C1

A.) Large-scale oil production has stimulated economic development in Nigeria by sky-rocketing their revenue which some has gone to improve the state of living within Nigeria especially the southern parts.

B.) Large-scale oil production has limited economic development in Nigeria because <sup>a majority of the</sup> money that is being ~~is~~ brought into the country is going into the leaders and military's pockets. Also it has limited economic development by reducing agriculture production and making Nigeria ~~the~~ practically fully dependent on their oil sales.

C.) Russia's control of oil and gas is owned by oligarchs, who are individual families who are close acquaintances with Putin where as ~~the~~ Nigeria has its oil nationalized and state owned.

D.) One political consequence of oil production in Nigeria is that its large revenue has increased the



7C2

militaries legitimacy. ~~with~~

E.) A political consequence in Russia is that since it is its country's main oil supply ~~is~~ it has a hold on the government (Putin) and its decisions.

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## 2017 SCORING COMMENTARY

### Question 7

#### Overview

The intent of this question was for students to compare the economic and political consequences of oil and gas production in Nigeria and Russia. The skills tested were descriptive and analytical. Students had five specific tasks: to explain how large-scale oil production has stimulated economic development in Nigeria, to explain how large-scale oil production has limited economic development in Nigeria, to describe how the degree of central government control of oil and gas production differs between Nigeria and Russia, to describe a political consequence of oil production in Nigeria, and to describe a different political consequence of oil production in Russia.

#### Sample: 7A

##### Score: 5

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for explaining that “oil production has stimulated economic development in Nigeria because it has created many jobs for Nigerians.” In part (b) the response earned 1 point for explaining that “oil production has limited economic development in Nigeria because it has made Nigerias [*sic*] economy tied too closely to the international oil prices. When oil prices fall Nigeria struggles greatly to bring in money.” In part (c) the response earned 1 point for describing how the degree of central government control of oil and gas production differs between Nigeria and Russia by contrasting that “Nigeria’s central government has less control over oil production than Russia’s central government.” In part (d) the response earned 1 point for describing that a “political consequence of oil production in Nigeria is that it cause [*sic*] wars between different groups in the area for the oil, these groups fight for political power as well as access to the oil.” In part (e) the response earned 1 point for describing a different political consequence of oil and gas production in Russia as “the few people that have access to the production of the oil have huge amounts of money that they use to corrupt certain sectors of the government.”

#### Sample: 7B

##### Score: 3

In part (a) the response does not correctly explain how oil production has stimulated economic development in Nigeria. In part (b) the response does not correctly explain how oil production has limited economic development in Nigeria. In part (c) the response earned 1 point for describing how the degree of central government control of oil and gas production differs between Nigeria and Russia by stating that in “Nigeria, the government has limited control over oil and gas production, while in Russia the government has much more direct influence.” In part (d) the response earned 1 point for describing that one political consequence of the production of oil in Nigeria is that it “has caused severe environmental problems in the Niger Delta over the years. The government’s ignoring of this problem has led to the protests of the Ogoni people who live in the area.” In part (e) the response earned 1 point for describing that a different political consequence of the production of oil and gas in Russia is that it “has lead [*sic*] to accusations of corruption against the government.”

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**Question 7 (continued)**

**Sample: 7C**

**Score: 2**

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for explaining that “oil production has stimulated economic development in Nigeria by sky-rocketing their [*sic*] revenue [of] which some has gone to improve the state of living within Nigeria.” In part (b) the response earned 1 point for explaining that oil production in Nigeria “has limited economic development by reducing agricultural production and making Nigeria practically fully dependent on their [*sic*] oil sales.” In part (c) the response does not correctly describe how the degree of central government control of oil and gas production differs in Nigeria and Russia. In part (d) the response does not correctly describe a political consequence of oil production in Nigeria. In part (e) the response does not correctly describe a different political consequence of oil and gas production in Russia.