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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**

## **2018 SCORING GUIDELINES**

### **Question 2**

#### **3 points**

One point is earned for a correct description of a way in which the Iranian government discriminates against women.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Clothing restrictions.
- Women cannot run or be selected for president, Supreme Leader, the Guardian Council, or be appointed as a judge.
- A woman's testimony is not equal to a man's testimony.
- Punishments for adultery are more punitive for women.
- Women are not permitted to attend sporting events.
- Restrictions on women's university majors.
- Child custody and divorce laws favor men.
- Travel restrictions.
- Unequal inheritance laws.
- Citizenship passed through the father not the mother.

One point is earned for a correct description of a way in which the Iranian government treats men and women equally.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Access to education, including university.
- Women can vote.
- Women can drive.
- Women can run for political offices.
- Policy changes equalizing women's status.

One point is earned for a correct explanation of how gender discrimination undermines democratic principles.

Acceptable explanations include:

- Violates the democratic principle of equality under the law.
- Violates the democratic principle of all citizens having equal civil rights and liberties.
- Limitations on women's political participation go against equal access to leadership positions.
- Underrepresentation in government prevents women's voices from being heard.

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.

2. Describe one way in which the Iranian government discriminates against women. Describe one way in which the Iranian government treats men and women equally. Explain how gender discrimination undermines democratic principles.

2A

One way in which the Iranian government discriminates against women is ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~ evident in the Iranian government's adherence to the idea that a woman's "word" or testimony in court is worth half that of a man's. This makes ~~the~~ filing for divorce or testifying in court more difficult for women than it is for men. One way in which the Iranian government treats <sup>men and</sup> women equally is apparent in women's access to education as women make up significant (and at times even majority) portions of university populations. Gender discrimination undermines democratic principles because, in a democratic system, representation of the populace is key to its function. Thus, if women are not allowed equal representation in certain aspects of society or politics, the ~~system~~ ~~the~~ system that perpetuates this inequality is inherently not adherent to democratic principles of equality, freedom, and <sup>certainly</sup> representation.

2. Describe one way in which the Iranian government discriminates against women. Describe one way in which the Iranian government treats men and women equally. Explain how gender discrimination undermines democratic principles.

2B

The Iranian gov discriminates against women by not allowing them to drive. The gov treats men and women equally ~~in employment and pay~~ ~~in voting~~ in voting. Both men and women in Iran can vote. Gender discrimination undermines democratic principles by ~~denying~~ civil rights. These are rights that are granted to <sup>certain</sup> groups of people and not others.

2. Describe one way in which the Iranian government discriminates against women. Describe one way in which the Iranian government treats men and women equally. Explain how gender discrimination undermines democratic principles.

2C

The Iranian Government utilizes Sharia Law which heavily discriminates against women. Men and women have equal votes in elections. Gender discrimination causes one gender to be favored over another which undermines democratic principles.

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

## 2018 SCORING COMMENTARY

### Question 2

#### Overview

The intent of this question was for students to assess the degree to which gender discrimination exists in Iran and its impact on democratic principles. The skills tested were descriptive and explanatory. Students had three specific tasks: to describe one way in which the Iranian government discriminates against women, to describe one way the Iranian government treats men and women equally, and to explain how gender discrimination undermines democratic principles.

#### Sample: 2A

##### Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for describing one way the government discriminates against women as “adherence to the idea that a women’s ‘word’ or testimony in court is worth half that of a man’s.” The response is clear with a specific description of discrimination against women in Iran. Some additional acceptable descriptions include clothing restrictions, limitations on positions within the government, and restrictions on attending sporting events.

The response earned 1 point for describing one way the government treats men and women equally as “women’s access to education as women make up significant (and at times even majority) portions of university populations.” The response is clear with a specific description of equal treatment between men and women in Iran. Some additional acceptable descriptions include both women and men can vote, drive, and run for political office.

The response earned 1 point for explaining that gender discrimination undermines democratic principles: “[I]f women are not allowed equal representation in certain aspects of society or politics, the system that perpetuates this inequality is inherently not adherent to democratic principles of equality, freedom and mainly representation.” The response is clear with its explanation of how gender discrimination undermines democratic principles. Additional acceptable responses include violation of equality before the law and limitations on civil liberties and rights.

#### Sample: 2B

##### Score: 2

The response did not earn a point for a description of government discrimination against women in Iran. “The Iranian gov discriminaes [*sic*] against women by not allowing them to drive” did not earn a point because women are allowed to drive in Iran.

The response earned 1 point for describing one way the government treats men and women equally: “Both men and woman [*sic*] in Iran can vote.” The response is clear with a specific description of equal treatment between men and women in Iran. Some additional acceptable descriptions include that both women and men can drive, run for political office, and attend university.

The response earned 1 point for explaining, “Gender discrimination undermines democratic principles by Civil Rights [*sic*]. These are rights that are granted to certain groups of people and not others.” The response is clear with an explanation of how gender discrimination undermines democratic principles. Additional acceptable explanations include violation of equality before the law and underrepresentation in government.

**AP<sup>®</sup> COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS  
2018 SCORING COMMENTARY**

**Question 2 (continued)**

**Sample: 2C**

**Score: 1**

The response did not earn a point for a description of government discrimination against women in Iran. “The Iranian Government utilizes sharia law which heavily discriminates against women” did not earn a point because it does not provide a specific way the government discriminates against women.

The response earned 1 point for describing one way the government treats men and women equally: “Men and women have equal votes in elections.” The response is clear with a specific description of equal treatment between men and women in Iran. Some additional acceptable descriptions include both women and men can drive, run for political office, and attend university.

The response did not earn a point for an explanation of how gender discrimination undermines democratic principles. “Gender discrimination causes one gender to be favored over another which undermines democratic principles” does not refer to a specific democratic principle that is undermined by discrimination.