

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2013 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 1

3 points

One point is earned for correctly identifying the **Conservative (or Tory) Party** and the **Liberal Democrats** as the parties that formed the coalition government in Great Britain following the 2010 parliamentary elections.

Note: the response must identify both parties to earn 1 point.

One point is earned for a correct explanation of one reason why the parties formed a coalition. Acceptable explanations include:

- The Conservative Party did not earn a majority of seats in the House of Commons, so they needed to form a coalition.
- The Conservative Party formed a coalition with the Liberal Democrats rather than another party because their political platforms are the most similar.

Note: When the parties are identified incorrectly, a point can be earned for a generic explanation of the reasons for coalition formation.

One point is earned for a correct description of a domestic policy issue that has threatened the coalition. Acceptable descriptions include, but are not limited to:

- EU and Euro policy
- Alternative Vote Referendum
- Budget issues, such as austerity measures, budget cuts, or tax policy
- Reform of the National Health Service (NHS)

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

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

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. Make certain to number each of your answers as the questions are numbered below.

Short-Answer Concepts: We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes total on questions 1 through 5.

1. Identify the two parties that formed the coalition government in Great Britain following the 2010 parliamentary elections. Explain one reason why they formed a coalition. Describe a domestic policy issue that has threatened the coalition.

The two parties are the Conservative and Liberal Democrats. They formed this coalition in order to have a majority in Parliament, since neither had the majority after the 2010 election. Adoption of the Euro has threatened the coalition. Conservatives are opposed ~~the~~ to the adoption of the Euro as currency, where as the Liberal Democrats are for the adoption.

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1B

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. Make certain to number each of your answers as the questions are numbered below.

Short-Answer Concepts: We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes total on questions 1 through 5.

1. Identify the two parties that formed the coalition government in Great Britain following the 2010 parliamentary elections. Explain one reason why they formed a coalition. Describe a domestic policy issue that has threatened the coalition.

The Conservative and Lib-Dem parties formed a coalition. The two parties formed a coalition since no single party gained a 50% majority of the popular vote and thus could be considered representative of the population's will. A domestic issue is whether or not the UK should remain in the EU.

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1C

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. Make certain to number each of your answers as the questions are numbered below.

Short-Answer Concepts: We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes total on questions 1 through 5.

1. Identify the two parties that formed the coalition government in Great Britain following the 2010 parliamentary elections. Explain one reason why they formed a coalition. Describe a domestic policy issue that has threatened the coalition.

Two parties that formed the coalition government in Great Britain were the Liberal Democrats and the Conservative parties. They formed a coalition in order to gain enough support. One domestic policy issue that has threatened the coalition is Great Britain's parliament's right to call a vote of no confidence. If the party or parties in power aren't doing as well as could be the other parties can call a vote of no confidence in hopes of kicking out the party in power and having new elections.

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2013 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 1

Overview

The intent of this question was for students to identify which parties in Great Britain formed the coalition government after the 2010 parliamentary elections, why they formed a coalition, and what challenges the coalition faced. The skills tested were descriptive and analytical: to identify the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats as the coalition partners following the 2010 parliamentary elections, to explain why they had to form a coalition, and to describe a domestic policy issue that threatens the coalition.

Sample: 1A

Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for correctly indentifying the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats as the parties that formed a coalition in 2010.

The response earned 1 point for correctly explaining that the parties formed a coalition “in order to have a majority in Parliament”.

The response earned 1 point for correctly describing the “adoption of the Euro” as a domestic issue that “threatened the coalition”.

Sample: 1B

Score: 2

The response earned 1 point for correctly indentifying the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats as the parties that formed a coalition in 2010.

The response does not correctly explain why the parties formed a coalition and therefore earned no points.

The response earned 1 point for correctly describing “whether or not the UK should remain in the EU” as a domestic issue that threatens the coalition.

Sample: 1C

Score: 1

The response earned 1 point for correctly identifying the Liberal Democrats and the Conservatives as the parties that formed a coalition in 2010.

The response does not correctly explain why the parties formed a coalition.

The response does not correctly describe a domestic issue that has threatened the coalition.