



AP[®] Comparative Government and Politics 2013 Scoring Guidelines

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AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

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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.

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Question 2

3 points

One point is earned for correctly identifying **Statement X** as the empirical statement.

One point is earned for correctly identifying **Statement Y** as the normative statement.

One point is earned for a correct explanation of the difference between a normative and an empirical statement.

An acceptable explanation is:

Normative statements contain subjective or value-related judgments, while empirical statements contain factual or objective statements.

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.

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Question 3

3 points

One point is earned for a correct description of the difference between a revolution and a coup d'état.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- A revolution is an uprising of the masses, and a coup d'état is conducted by military forces.
- A revolution encompasses a large number of people, while a coup d'état comprises few individuals.
- Revolutions result in regime change, and a coup d'état often leads to military rule.
- Revolutions involve fundamental change, and a coup results in change of leadership.
- Revolutions often last for long periods of time, and a coup d'état occurs over a short period of time.

Note: Difference must be along the same trait.

One point is earned for correctly identifying **Nigeria** as the country where there has been several successful coups d'état.

One point is earned for correctly describing a political consequence of coups d'état in Nigeria.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Loss of legitimacy of government.
- Great political instability because of the coups.
- Government controlled by military for a number of years.
- Hindered development of democratic institutions.
- Reduced trust in military.
- A formal effort to reduce incentives for coups d'état such as:
 - establishing a new constitution in 1999
 - the election of former general Obasanjo as the first president under the new constitution
 - enactment of a law that forced the retirement of military officers who had held political office.

Note: The timeline for political consequence has to be accurate.

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.

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Question 4

3 points

One point is earned for a correct definition of political legitimacy.

Acceptable definitions of political legitimacy include:

- Citizens believe the government has the right to rule.
- Political legitimacy is the popular and voluntary acceptance of an authority.

One point is earned for a correct description of a source of political legitimacy for the office of the president in Russia.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Popular election.
- Constitution gives the president the right to rule, which people view as legitimate.
- Constitution limits the president's power, which people view as legitimate.

One point is earned for a correct description of a different source of political legitimacy for the office of the supreme leader in Iran.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- God/Allah-given right to rule.
- Theocratic right to interpret Sharia law (jurist guardianship).
- Constitutional authority to rule over other institutions.
- Assembly of Religious Experts (if linked to religion, popular election of assembly or constitution).

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.

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Question 5

3 points

One point is earned for a correct definition of the concept of supranational organization.

An acceptable definition is:

An organization that has national governments as members with its own sovereign powers over member states.

Note: These powers may be specific to policy areas. Students may use the terms country, state, or nation-state in their response.

One point EACH (2 points total) is earned for correctly identifying a supranational organization and a country that is a member of the organization.

Acceptable identifications include:

- Nigeria — The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- Great Britain — World Trade Organization (WTO) and the European Union (EU)
- Russia — WTO
- China — WTO
- Mexico — WTO

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.

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Question 6

6 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct definition of economic liberalization.

An acceptable definition is:

- Economic liberalization involves the reduction of state intervention in the economy.
- Move to free market policies, if explained in part (b).

Note: The definition must indicate that liberalization is a process.

Part (b): 2 points

One point EACH is earned (for a total of **2 points**) for a correct description of actions that governments take in pursuing a policy of economic liberalization.

An acceptable description of subsidies is:

Governments reduce or eliminate subsidies.

An acceptable description of tariffs is:

Governments reduce or eliminate tariffs.

An acceptable description of ownership of companies and firms is:

Governments privatize state-owned companies.

An acceptable description of foreign direct investment is:

Governments open up the economy to foreign direct investments.

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly identifying an international organization that promotes economic liberalization.

An acceptable identification may include:

- The World Bank
- The European Union (EU)
- World Trade Organization (WTO)
- The International Monetary Fund
- United Nations

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Question 6 (continued)

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for each correct explanation of a reason for pursuing economic liberalization.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- Foreign direct investment in order to bring money into the country.
- Domestic firms that are more competitive, more efficient, or more innovative.
- A diversified economy.
- Benefits to consumers, including lower price or more options.
- Reduced budget deficits.
- Compliance with structural adjustment policies.
- Desire to join an international organization, like the EU.

Part (e): 1 point

One point is earned for each correct explanation of a reason for resisting economic liberalization.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- Reduced government control, influence, or sovereignty.
- Widening income inequality.
- Domestic firms unable to compete.
- Environmental damage.
- Deteriorating working conditions.
- Reduced elite control over resources.
- Increased unemployment.
- Fear of instability or vulnerability, linked to a specific policy.

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.

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Question 7

8 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for the correct definition of a hybrid regime.

An acceptable definition is:

A hybrid regime has elements of both democracy and authoritarianism.

Note: Definitions that identify hybrid regimes as illiberal or transitional regimes are not sufficient. Definitions that refer only to deficiencies in democratic institutions and processes are not sufficient. Definitions need to reflect both authoritarian and democratic elements.

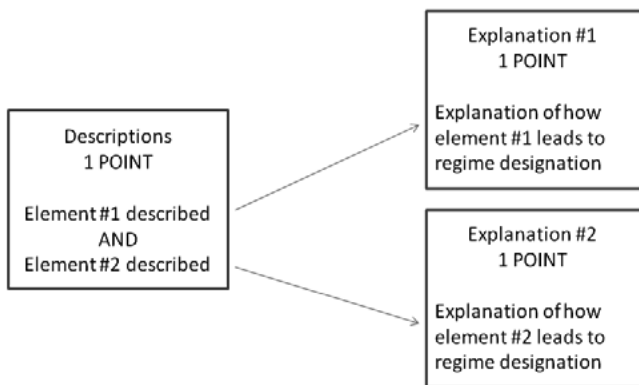
Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly identifying Russia as a **hybrid regime** AND China as an **authoritarian regime**.

Part (c): 3 points

One point is earned for descriptions of characteristics of TWO of the elements of Russia's political system.

One point is earned for each correct explanation (for a total of **2 points**) of how TWO of the following characteristics contribute to the regime designation in Russia.



Note: Description and explanation must be linked.

Note: The examples below are not exhaustive; they are meant to illustrate the need for responses to reflect both authoritarianism and democratic elements.

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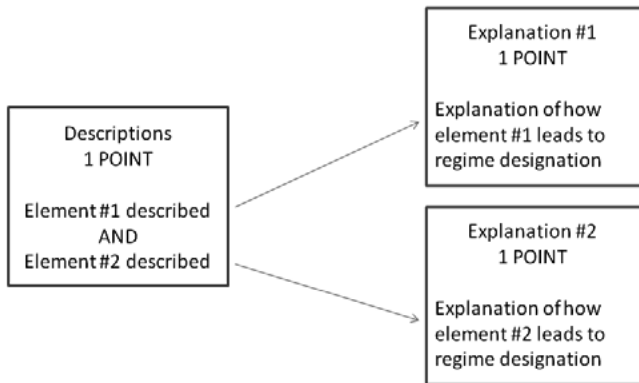
Question 7 (continued)

<i>Element</i>	<i>Acceptable descriptions include ...</i>	<i>Acceptable explanations include ...</i>
<i>Electoral</i>	Multiparty elections →	BUT some parties are excluded from electoral process
<i>Competition</i>	Some parties excluded →	BUT elections include parties other than United Russia
<i>Civil</i>	NGOs, mass protests allowed →	BUT they are restricted, leaders sometimes arrested
<i>Society</i>	Restrictions on NGOs, protests →	BUT some NGOs and mass protests are allowed
<i>Media</i>	Small market media mostly free →	BUT large market media government-owned, controlled
	Large market media government-owned, controlled →	BUT small market media mostly free

Part (d): 3 points

One point is earned for descriptions of characteristics of TWO of the elements of China's political system.

One point is earned for each correct explanation (for a total of **2 points**) of how TWO of the following characteristics contribute to the regime designation in China.



Note: Description and explanation must be linked.

Note: Response must highlight authoritarian elements, albeit limited democratic elements are possible.

Note: The examples below are not exhaustive; they are meant to illustrate the need for responses to connect the description of elements of the political system in China to a central authority.

<i>Element</i>	<i>Acceptable descriptions include...</i>	<i>Acceptable explanations include...</i>
<i>Electoral Competition</i>	Real electoral competition is not allowed ...	BY the state and/or the Communist Party
<i>Civil Society</i>	There is widespread persecution of activists ...	BY the government
<i>Media</i>	Media are widely censored	BY the leadership/party elites

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.

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Question 8

7 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of a significant ethnic division in Mexico.

An acceptable description may include:

- Amerindian (indigenous) and mestizos.
- Amerindian (indigenous) and whites (Spanish).
- Mestizos and whites (Spanish).

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for correctly identifying an ethnic movement in Mexico since 1990.

An acceptable identification may include:

- Zapatistas/EZLN (Zapatista Army of National Liberation).
- Indigenous peoples in Chiapas.

One point is earned for correctly explaining why the movement arose in Mexico since 1990.

An acceptable explanation may include:

- The movement arose due to socioeconomic inequality and discrimination.
- The movement arose as a response to the negative impact of NAFTA.

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of a significant ethnic division in Nigeria.

An acceptable description may include:

- Three major ethnic groups (Hausa/Fulani, Yoruba, Igbo).
- Hausa/Fulani and Yoruba.
- Hausa/Fulani and Igbo.
- Yoruba and Igbo.

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Question 8 (continued)

Part (d): 2 points

One point is earned for correctly identifying an ethnic movement in Nigeria since 1990.

An acceptable identification may include:

- MEND: Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta.
- MOSOP: Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People.
- Indigenous peoples in Niger Delta (Ijaw).
- OPC: Oodua People's Congress (Yoruba).
- MASSOB: Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (Igbo).
- Boko Haram (only acceptable if directly tied to Hausa/Fulani ethnic group).

One point is earned for correctly explaining why the movement arose in Nigeria since 1990.

An acceptable explanation may include:

- The movement arose due to socioeconomic inequality and discrimination.
- The movement arose due to exploitation of local natural resources by the government and foreign oil companies.

Part (e): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct explanation of why ethnicity has played a more significant role in Nigeria than in Mexico.

An acceptable explanation may include:

- Nigeria has a greater diversity of ethnic groups that are often in conflict with each other.
- British colonial “divide and conquer” tactics left a legacy of greater ethnic conflict in Nigeria.
- Nigerian elites politicize ethnicity more extensively to win support.
- Ethnic identity in Nigeria is stronger than national identity.

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.