

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2014 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 4

3 points

One point is earned for a correct identification of a country studied in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course that has a run-off election for its chief executive.

Acceptable identifications are:

- Iran, Nigeria, or Russia

One point is earned for a correct description of how the run-off system works in the identified country.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- In Russia and Iran, if there is no majority winner in Round 1, the top two candidates with the most votes in Round 1 face off in Round 2.
- In Nigeria, candidates must win a majority of votes in addition to a minimum of 25 percent of the total votes in two-thirds of all states. If there is no winner in Round 1, the top two candidates with the most votes in Round 1 face off in Round 2.

One point is earned for a correct explanation of why a country might establish a run-off system.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- To allow multiple candidates to participate in the process
- To allow voters freedom to select their most preferred candidates in the first round
- To permit voters an alternative candidate in the second round of voting
- To build or increase legitimacy of the electoral process and winning candidate
- To encourage majority outcomes that may generate support or a mandate from voters
- To motivate a sense of nationhood as a consequence of majority election outcomes

A score of zero (0) is earned for an attempted answer that earns no points.

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

4. Identify one country studied in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course that provides for a runoff for the election of its chief executive. Describe how the runoff election system works in the country you identified. Explain why a country might establish a runoff election system.

Russia provides for a runoff for the election of its chief executive. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes, then the two candidates with the most votes compete in a runoff election ensuring that one of them will then receive a majority of the vote. A country might establish a runoff election system to ensure that there is widespread support for the chief executive. If elections only required a plurality of votes, a candidate could win the election with 40% of the population voting against them. A runoff ensures that even if they are not ~~everyone's~~ everyone's favorite candidate, they will still have the support of the majority of voters.

4. Identify one country studied in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course that provides for a runoff for the election of its chief executive. Describe how the runoff election system works in the country you identified. Explain why a country might establish a runoff election system.

Nigeria provides for a runoff for the election of its chief executive, the president. The runoff system works by having an initial plurality vote, but where the people can vote for any candidate running for president. After the votes are tallied, the top two presidential candidates that received the most votes, participate in a second election where the people can vote for one of those two candidates. A country might establish a runoff election system so that the majority of people ^{who vote} ~~who~~ are in support of the elected president. Also, it gives citizens a chance to choose their next best choice in leadership, for example if their desired candidate is eliminated in the first round.

4. Identify one country studied in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course that provides for a runoff for the election of its chief executive. Describe how the runoff election system works in the country you identified. Explain why a country might establish a runoff election system.

The nation of Iran holds a runoff election every four years to determine who the President of Iran is. Candidates for President are vetted by other branches of the Iranian government, and the remaining candidates are put on the ~~ballot~~ ballot. A country may establish a runoff election in order to give voice to citizens who may not have a particular candidate in any ^{of the} other election systems.

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2014 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 4

Overview

The intent of this question was for students to identify a country studied in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course that utilizes a run-off electoral system for its chief executive, then describe the system used in the country identified, and then explain why any country might establish a run-off election system. The skills tested were identification, description, and analysis. These skills were used to identify either Russia, Iran or Nigeria; describe the run-off system chosen (these do vary); and to then analyze the concept of run-off systems. The question was both country-specific, student's choice, and conceptual in nature.

Sample: 4A

Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for correctly identifying Russia as a country studied in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course that provides for a runoff for the election of its chief executive. The response earned 1 point for correctly describing Russia's run-off system by saying, "If no candidate receives [sic] a majority of the votes, then the two candidates with the most votes compete in a runoff election ensuring that one of them will then receive [sic] a majority of the vote." The response earned 1 point for correctly explaining why a country might establish a run-off election system, noting that it provides "widespread support for the chief executive. A runoff ensures that even if they are not everyone's favorite candidate, they will still have the support of the majority of voters."

Sample: 4B

Score: 2

The response earned 1 point for correctly identifying Nigeria as a country studied in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course that provides for a runoff for the election of its chief executive. The response did not earn a point for correctly describing Nigeria's run-off system. The response earned 1 point for correctly explaining why a country might establish a run-off election system by saying that "it gives citizens a chance to choose [sic] their next best choice in leadership, for example if their desired candidate is eliminated in the first round."

Sample: 4C

Score: 1

The response earned 1 point for correctly identifying Iran as a country studied in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course that provides for a runoff for the election of its chief executive. The response did not earn a point for correctly describing the run-off system. The response did not earn a point for correctly explaining why a country might establish a run-off election system.