

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
2014 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 5

3 points

One point is earned for a correct description of how the Nigerian armed forces undermined the stability of the Nigerian state between 1960 and 1999.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Frequent interventions or coups
- Undermining constitutionalism
- Undermining judicial independence
- Undermining of central bureaucracy or destroying civil service

One point is earned for correctly identifying the **president** (Obasanjo, Yar'Adua, Goodluck Jonathan) as the commander-in-chief of the armed forces in Nigeria as stipulated by the 1999 Constitution.

One point is earned for a correct description of how the armed forces have been used to strengthen the stability of Nigeria since 1999.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Providing internal security against potential threats such as Boko Haram or the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND)
- Serving as a symbol of national unity
- Being involved in external peacekeeping operations in the region

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.

- 5. Describe how the Nigerian armed forces undermined the stability of the Nigerian state between 1960 and 1999. Identify the commander in chief of the armed forces in Nigeria as stipulated by the Nigerian Constitution of 1999. Describe how the Nigerian armed forces have been used to strengthen the stability of the Nigerian state since 1999.

The Nigerian armed forces played a key role in the instability of the Nigerian state between 1960 & 1999. This is because, during this time period, various military coups took place, violently placing a military leader in power. Leadership kept changing hands because of these military coups & this constant changing of rule caused instability in the country. This stopped in 1999 with the Nigerian Constitution of 1999 that put the president in charge as commander in chief of the armed forces. Since then they have been used to stabilize the Nigerian state by fighting political violence such as the Boko-Haram terrorist group that is causing political issues in Nigeria.

5. Describe how the Nigerian armed forces undermined the stability of the Nigerian state between 1960 and 1999. Identify the commander in chief of the armed forces in Nigeria as stipulated by the Nigerian Constitution of 1999. Describe how the Nigerian armed forces have been used to strengthen the stability of the Nigerian state since 1999.

The Nigerian armed forces undermined the stability of the Nigerian state between 1960 & 1999 because they repeatedly staged coups that interrupted democratic rule. As stipulated by the Nigerian Constitution of 1999, the Nigerian armed forces are now led by the president, who acts as commander in chief. This has allowed for more peaceful transitions between democratic leaders because the military can now be used to keep peace amongst the people rather than disrupt it.

5. Describe how the Nigerian armed forces undermined the stability of the Nigerian state between 1960 and 1999. Identify the commander in chief of the armed forces in Nigeria as stipulated by the Nigerian Constitution of 1999. Describe how the Nigerian armed forces have been used to strengthen the stability of the Nigerian state since 1999.

Between 1960 & 1999, Nigeria has been experiencing many regime changes from military coups initiated by the Nigerian armed forces. The commander in chief of the armed forces in Nigeria as stipulated by the Nigerian Constitution of 1999 is Obasanjo. Since 1999, Nigeria has not experienced a military coup and has been working as a non-authoritarian, republic. However, the legitimacy of the government and the elections are still being questioned by the people. The current president is Goodluck Jonathan.

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
2014 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 5

Overview

The intent of the question was for students to describe how the Nigerian armed forces undermined the stability of the Nigerian state between 1960 and 1999, to identify who is stipulated by the 1999 Constitution to serve as commander-in-chief, and to describe how the Nigerian armed forces have strengthened the stability of Nigeria since 1999. The skills required were descriptive, used to identify how the Nigerian military frequently intervened in politics from 1960 to 1999, how the president has been the commander-in-chief of the armed forces since 1999, and the ways the military has strengthened stability since 1999.

Sample: 5A

Score: 3

The response earned 1 point by correctly describing the Nigerian armed forces as undermining the stability of the state from 1960 to 1999 by being responsible for “various military coups.” The response earned 1 point by correctly identifying the Nigerian president as the commander- in-chief. The response earned 1 point by correctly describing how the Nigerian armed forces have strengthened stability since 1999 “by fighting political violence such as the Boko-Haram terrorist group.”

Sample: 5B

Score: 2

The response earned 1 point by correctly describing the Nigerian armed forces as undermining the stability of the state from 1960 to 1999 because they “repeatedly staged coups.” The response earned 1 point by correctly identifying the Nigerian president as the commander- in-chief. The response did not earn a point for correctly describing the how the Nigerian armed forces have strengthened stability since 1999.

Sample: 5C

Score: 1

The response earned 1 point for correctly describing the Nigerian armed forces as undermining the stability of the state from 1960 to 1999 by initiating “many regime changes from military coups.” The response did not earn a point for correctly identifying the Nigerian president as the commander-in-chief. The response identifies the person but not the office of president. The response did not earn a point for correctly describing the how the Nigerian armed forces have strengthened stability since 1999.