

**AP<sup>®</sup> COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS  
2014 SCORING GUIDELINES**

**Question 8**

**6 points**

**Part (a): 2 points**

One point is earned for EACH correct description of two formal powers of Iran's supreme leader.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Commander-in-chief
- Appoints one-half of the Guardian Council
- Appoints OR removes the head of the judiciary
- Supervises domestic and foreign policies, also known as jurist's guardianship
- Vets candidates for Majles and presidency
- Calls referenda
- Declares war and peace

**Part (b): 2 points**

One point is earned for EACH correct identification of two official positions that China's head of state typically holds.

Acceptable identifications include:

- General Secretary or Leader of the Chinese Communist Party or head of Politburo
- President of the PRC
- Chairman of the Central Military Commission or Commander-in-chief

**Part (c): 1 point**

One point is earned for a correct description of a similarity in the sources of authority of Iran's supreme leader and of China's head of state.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Both have been appointed by other government bodies.
- Both have constitutional sources of power.
- Both have power from a revolutionary legacy.
- In both countries, military support is a source of authority.

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**Question 8 (continued)**

**Part (d): 1 point**

One point is earned for a correct description of a difference in the sources of authority of Iran's supreme leader and of China's head of state.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- In China, the party or political experience is a source of authority, while in Iran religion is a source of authority.
- In China, economic performance is a source of authority, while in Iran religion is a source of authority.

Note: It is not sufficient to state that the second country does not have the same source of authority as the first country; the student must describe the difference more fully.

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.

8. There are similarities and differences in the sources of authority for leaders in China and Iran.
- Describe two formal powers of Iran's supreme leader.
  - Identify two official positions that China's head of state typically holds today.
  - Describe one similarity in the sources of authority of Iran's supreme leader and of China's head of state.
  - Describe one difference in the sources of authority of Iran's supreme leader and of China's head of state.

a) Two formal powers of Iran's supreme leader include the power to declare war as well as the power to select 6 members of the Guardian Council.

b) Typically <sup>today</sup>, China's head of state is both the general secretary of the CCP (Chinese Communist Party), as well as the President of ~~the People's Republic of~~ China.

c) Both Iran's supreme leader and China's head of state (namely as president) have authority and legitimacy from their respective country's constitution. Both <sup>Iran</sup> ~~Iran~~ and China have formal constitutions which define the roles of either the supreme leader or president, and act as a source of authority for those leaders.

ADDITIONAL ANSWER PAGE FOR QUESTION 8.

d) A difference in the source of authority of Iran's Supreme Leader and China's head of state is that another source of authority for the Supreme Leader is derived religiously. ~~So~~ The Supreme Leader has authority and legitimacy by virtue of his being a Shiite Muslim, enforcing Sharia law, serving as top imam. China's head of state does not have any comparable religious source of authority. ~~China's~~ China's head of state ~~derives~~ also derives authority from the CCP, Chinese Communist Party. Iran's Supreme Leader does not similarly derive authority from any particular political party.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

8. There are similarities and differences in the sources of authority for leaders in China and Iran.
- Describe two formal powers of Iran's supreme leader.
  - Identify two official positions that China's head of state typically holds today.
  - Describe one similarity in the sources of authority of Iran's supreme leader and of China's head of state.
  - Describe one difference in the sources of authority of Iran's supreme leader and of China's head of state.

One formal power of Iran's Supreme Leader is the power to appoint half of the Guardian Council. Appointing half of the Guardian Council allows the Supreme leader to choose people who share the same ideologies and viewpoints. Another formal power of Iran's Supreme Leader is the power to declare war.

Two official positions that China's head of state typically holds today is president and General Secretary.

One similarity in the source of authority of Iran's Supreme Leader and of China's head of state is that they both hold ultimate power.

One difference in the source of authority of Iran's supreme leader and of China's head of state is that the Supreme Leader is the head cleric who interprets sharia law while the General Secretary in China is the head member of the Chinese Communist Party.

8. There are similarities and differences in the sources of authority for leaders in China and Iran.
- Describe two formal powers of Iran's supreme leader.
  - Identify two official positions that China's head of state typically holds today.
  - Describe one similarity in the sources of authority of Iran's supreme leader and of China's head of state.
  - Describe one difference in the sources of authority of Iran's supreme leader and of China's head of state.

a) Iran's Supreme leader can remove people from ~~the~~ held offices and can also veto laws created by the legislature.

b) the Head of state in China is the president as well as the premier.

c) Iran and China's leader both derive authority from their legislatures below them.

d) Iran's supreme leader is given authority through religious means while China's is given authority through secular means. Iran is a theocracy so religion is the basis of power, and since the supreme leader is the head of religion he is the head of power. China has no official religion so power is allocated through political rather than religious means.

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

## 2014 SCORING COMMENTARY

### Question 8

#### Overview

This question required students to compare the powers and sources of authority of Iran's supreme leader and China's head of state. The skills tested were descriptive and analytical: to describe two formal powers of the supreme leader in Iran, to identify two official positions that China's head of state typically holds today, and to describe one similarity and one difference in the sources of authority of Iran's supreme leader and China's head of state.

#### Sample: 8A

##### Score: 6

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for describing a formal power of Iran's supreme leader as "the power to declare war." The response earned 1 point for describing a formal power of Iran's supreme leader as "the power to select 6 members of the Guardian Council."

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for identifying an official position of China's head of state as "General Secretary of the CCP." The response earned 1 point for identifying an official position of China's head of state as "the President of China."

In part (c) the response earned 1 point for describing a similarity in the sources of authority of Iran's supreme leader and China's head of state as "their respective country's [*sic*] constitution."

In part (d) the response earned 1 point for describing a difference in the sources of authority of Iran's supreme leader and China's head of state as "the source of authority for the supreme leader is derived religiously" while "China's head of state . . . derives authority from the CCP."

#### Sample: 8B

##### Score: 4

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for describing a formal power of Iran's supreme leader as "the power to appoint half of the Guardian Council." The response earned 1 point for describing a formal power of Iran's supreme leader as "declare war."

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for identifying a position held by China's head of state as "president." The response earned 1 point for identifying a position held by China's head of state as "General Secretary."

In part (c) the response did not correctly describe a similarity in the sources of authority of Iran's supreme leader and of China's head of state and did not earn a point.

In part (d) the response did not correctly describe a difference in the sources of authority of Iran's supreme leader and of China's head of state and did not earn a point.

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**Question 8 (continued)**

**Sample: 8C**

**Score: 2**

In part (a) the response did not correctly describe two formal powers of Iran's supreme leader and did not earn a point.

In part (b) the response earned 1 point for identifying a position held by China's head of state as "president."

In part (c) the response did not correctly describe a similarity in the sources of authority of Iran's supreme leader and of China's head of state and did not earn a point.

In part (d) the response earned 1 point for describing a difference in the sources of authority between Iran's supreme leader and China's head of state as "Iran's supreme leader is given authority through religious means while . . . China has no official religion so power is allocated through political rather than religious [*sic*] means."