

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS 2015 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 2

3 points

One point is earned for a correct description of why governments adopt austerity measures.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- To fix budget deficit problems
- Pressure by international organizations
- Membership in supranational organizations that require monetary coordination
- Changes in government or party platform

Note: Stating that “the economy is bad” is not enough to earn credit.

One point is earned for a correct identification of an austerity measure adopted by the British government since 2007.

Acceptable identifications include:

- Raising taxes
- Cutting spending to welfare or social programs
- Raised fees for universities
- Reduced funding for QUANGOs

One point is earned for a correct explanation of a political consequence of that measure.

Acceptable explanations include:

- Loss of support for the Conservatives
- Greater support for the Conservatives
- Greater support for anti-austerity Scottish National Party (SNP) and UK Independence Party (UKIP)
- A revolt within the ranks of the Liberal Democrats and the Labour Party
- Liberal Democrats voted out of office
- Social movement activities such as protests and demonstrations

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

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

2. Describe why governments adopt austerity measures. Identify one austerity measure adopted by the British government since 2007. Explain one political consequence of that measure. college tuition

2A1

Government adopt austerity measures to balance the budget. One austerity measure adopted by the British government is an increase in college tuition to reduce the cost of running the universities by the federal government. This has led to student protests and unrest.

2. Describe why governments adopt austerity measures. Identify one austerity measure adopted by the British government since 2007. Explain one political consequence of that measure.

2B1

Governments adopt austerity measures in order to reduce national debt or government spending in times of economic hardship. The British government has reduced public spending on healthcare. This has led to a political backlash from people ~~to~~ who benefited from national healthcare subsidies, leading to a decrease in government popularity.

2. Describe why governments adopt austerity measures. Identify one austerity measure adopted by the British government since 2007. Explain one political consequence of that measure.

Governments adopt austerity measures in order to curb inflation. One austerity measure adopted by the British government since 2007 is to cut back the money supply in circulation, which helped improve the economy.

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2015 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 2

Overview

The intent of the question was to assess students' understanding of austerity policies and the political consequences of those measures in Great Britain after 2007. The skills tested were descriptive and explanatory. Students had three specific tasks: to describe why governments adopt austerity measures, to identify an austerity measure adopted by the British government since 2007, and to explain a political consequence of that measure.

Sample: 2A

Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for correctly describing that governments adopt austerity measures “to balance the budget.” The response earned 1 point for identifying “an increase in college tuition” as an austerity measure adopted by the British government since 2007. The response earned 1 point for explaining “[t]his has led to student protests and unrest” as a political consequence of that measure.

Sample: 2B

Score: 2

The response earned 1 point for correctly describing that governments adopt austerity measures “to reduce national debt or government spending in times of economic hardship.” The response earned 1 point for identifying “reduced public spending on healthcare” as an austerity measure adopted by the British government since 2007. The response did not earn a point for explaining a specific political consequence of that measure.

Sample: 2C

Score: 1

The response earned 1 point for correctly describing why governments adopt austerity measures: “to curb inflation.” The response did not earn a point for identifying an austerity measure adopted by the British government since 2007. The response did not earn a point for the explanation of a political consequence of that measure.