

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2016 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 2

3 points

One point is earned for an accurate description of a cause of the protests that occurred in Russia between 2011 and 2012.

An acceptable description may include:

- Accusations of electoral fraud
- Concern about Putin's consolidation of power
- Complaints about corruption in and around the Kremlin
- Concern about Orthodox Church support for Putin
- Opposition candidate harassment

One point is earned for EACH correct explanation of a reason why the 2011 and 2012 protests had a limited political impact.

An acceptable explanation may include:

- State-controlled media
- Popular support of Putin
- Selective reprisals against protestors
- Weak civil society
- Consolidation of the political elite
- Strong economy
- New legislation to limit protests

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

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

2. Describe one cause of the protests that occurred in Russia in 2011 and 2012. Explain two reasons why the protests had a limited political impact.

Protests mainly occurred due to the voting results of that year's election, which caused Vladimir Putin to win in a landslide that seemed statistically suspicious. The protests had little effect both because the government controls the media and because Putin has a high popularity rating, meaning dissent is coming from the minority.

2. Describe one cause of the protests that occurred in Russia in 2011 and 2012. Explain two reasons why the protests had a limited political impact.

ZB

One cause of the protests in Russia in 2011/2012 was evidence of electoral fraud and corruption during its presidential elections. In many regions, there was evidence of ballot-box stuffing because polls showed that Putin had over 100% of the vote. Many protested that these elections being conducted were supposed to be democratic however they were rigged. Although, these protests were not effective because Putin's authoritarian system easily quiets any opposition or protest, basically anything that is a threat to his power. Also, another reason is because he ~~also~~ already has a great deal of legitimacy because not only is he a strong and charismatic leader but he uses rational-legal means (following constitutional rules regarding presidency) to legitimize his leadership. The Russian public for the most part has been very content with how Putin has governed Russia and so the electoral fraud has minimal effect on Putin's election.

2. Describe one cause of the protests that occurred in Russia in 2011 and 2012. Explain two reasons why the protests had a limited political impact.

Protests that took place in Russia recently (2011-2012) had to do with the political corruption of how Putin won another term. Protests including this one had a limited term impact because the change was not effective via a protest.

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2016 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 2

Overview

The intent of this question was to assess students' understanding of the 2011–2012 Russian protest movement, and the reasons why those protests had a limited impact. The skills tested were descriptive and explanatory. Students had three specific tasks: to describe one cause of the protests that occurred in Russia in 2011 and 2012 and to give two explanations (two tasks) for why those protests had limited political impact.

Sample: 2A **Score: 3**

The response earned 1 point for correctly describing that the “protests mainly occurred due to the voting results of that year’s election, which . . . seemed statistically suspicious.” The response earned 1 point for explaining that the protests had little impact because “the government controls the media” and 1 point because “Putin has a high popularity rating.”

Sample: 2B **Score: 2**

The response earned 1 point for correctly describing that the protests occurred because of “evidence of electoral fraud and corruption during its presidential elections.” The response earned 1 point for explaining that the protests had little impact because “the Russian public for the most part has been very content with how Putin has governed Russia.” The response did not earn a second explanation point.

Sample: 2C **Score: 1**

The response earned 1 point for correctly describing that the protests “had to do with the political corruption of how Putin won another term.” The response did not earn any points for explaining why those protests had a limited political impact.