

**AP<sup>®</sup> COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS  
2016 SCORING GUIDELINES**

**Question 3**

**3 points**

One point is earned for correctly identifying **Statement B or C** as the statement that describes a correlation.

One point is earned for correctly identifying **Statement B** as the statement that describes causation.

One point is earned for a correct explanation of the difference between causation and correlation.

An acceptable explanation may include:

When two variables are correlated, there is an apparent association between them, but the nature of the relationship is unclear; whereas, causation implies a relationship such that a change in one variable produces a change in the second variable.

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.

- 3. Statement A: Governments should expand access to education for women and girls.
- Statement B: Expanding access to education for females increases rates of political participation.
- Statement C: Advanced liberal democracies tend to have higher rates of female literacy.
- Statement D: Female access to education is limited worldwide.

Identify the statement that describes a correlation. Identify the statement that describes a causal relationship. Explain the difference between causation and correlation.

Statement B describes a causal relationship.

Statement C describes a correlation.

A correlation is when there is a relationship or association between two variables; in this case, liberal democracies and female literacy. A causal relationship goes one step further and states that a change in variable X causes a change in variable Y; in this case, increased female education causes ~~an~~ increased rates of political participation.

(3B)

- 3. → Statement A: Governments should expand access to education for women and girls.
- ↳ Statement B: Expanding access to education for females increases rates of political participation.
- ↳ Statement C: Advanced liberal democracies tend to have higher rates of female literacy.
- Statement D: Female access to education is limited worldwide.

~~casual~~  
causal

Identify the statement that describes a correlation. Identify the statement that describes a causal relationship. Explain the difference between causation and correlation.

Statement C is a correlation. Statement B is a causal relationship.

A correlation is an outcome to a generalized situation, while a causation is a ~~direct and~~ specific outcome caused by a direct action

- 3. Statement A: Governments should expand access to education for women and girls.
- Statement B: Expanding access to education for females increases rates of political participation.
- Statement C: Advanced liberal democracies tend to have higher rates of female literacy.
- Statement D: Female access to education is limited worldwide.

Identify the statement that describes a correlation. Identify the statement that describes a causal relationship. Explain the difference between causation and correlation.

Statement B is a correlation while Statement C is a causal relationship.

A correlation is direct, meaning one thing will lead to another thing. Statement B states that if there is an expansion in access to education for females then there will be an increase in the rate of political participation. Education for females is correlated to an increase in the rates of political participation. However a causation is that one thing directly caused another. A cause, created an effect. Statement B can be rewritten as a causation: "Because of the expansion of access to education for females, there has been an increase in the rates of political participation."

**AP<sup>®</sup> COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**  
**2016 SCORING COMMENTARY**

**Question 3**

**Overview**

The intent of this question was to assess student understanding of the methodology used by political scientists in comparing relationships between two variables. The skills tested were conceptual and analytical. The students were provided with four statements and had three specific tasks: to identify the statement that describes a correlation, to identify the statement that describes a causal relationship, and to explain the difference between causation and correlation.

**Sample: 3A**

**Score: 3**

The response earned 1 point for identifying “Statement C” as the statement that describes a correlation. The response earned 1 point for identifying “Statement B” as the statement that describes a causal relationship. The response earned 1 point for explaining that the difference between causation and correlation is that “correlation is when there is a relationship or association between two variables. . . . A causal relationship goes one step further and states that a change in variable X causes a change in variable Y.”

**Sample: 3B**

**Score: 2**

The response earned 1 point for identifying “Statement C” as the statement that describes a correlation. The response earned 1 point for identifying “Statement B” as the statement that describes a causal relationship. The response does not correctly explain the difference between causation and correlation.

**Sample: 3C**

**Score: 1**

The response earned 1 point for identifying “Statement B” as the statement that describes a correlation. The response does not correctly identify the statement that describes a causal relationship. The response does not correctly explain the difference between causation and correlation.