

2008 AP® COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Section II

Time—1 hour and 40 minutes

Directions: You have 100 minutes to answer five short-answer concept questions, one conceptual analysis question, and two country context questions. Unless the directions indicate otherwise, respond to all parts of all eight questions. It is suggested that you take a few minutes to plan and outline each answer. We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes total on questions 1 through 5, 30 minutes on question 6, and 40 minutes total on questions 7 and 8. These suggested times do not reflect the weight of the questions as part of your AP exam score. In your responses, use substantive examples where appropriate. Make certain to number each of your answers as the questions are numbered below.

Short-Answer Concepts: We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes total on questions 1 through 5.

1. Define political socialization. Identify one agent of political socialization. Explain how the agent you have identified promotes political socialization.
2. Explain what it means to say that a government has transparency. Describe two examples that show how the Chinese government since 1997 limits transparency.
3. Define sovereignty. Describe two ways in which member states give up some sovereignty as members of the European Union.
4. Define theocracy. Identify two national-level institutions in Iran for which members are directly elected by citizens.
5. Define a welfare state. Describe two examples of social welfare policy important to Great Britain.

Conceptual Analysis: We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes on question 6.

6. States vary in terms of their party systems and electoral systems.
 - (a) Identify and explain the type of electoral system that tends to create a multiparty system.
 - (b) Identify and explain the type of electoral system that tends to create a two-party system.
 - (c) Describe one reason that a one-party system might emerge.
 - (d) Explain one advantage each of multiparty, two-party and one-party systems in a multiethnic society.

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Question 6

6 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct identification and explanation of the type of electoral system that creates a multiparty system. An acceptable identification and explanation is:

- Proportional representation (PR); in electoral systems with PR, seats are distributed according to the proportion of votes a party captures.
- A mixed- or split-electoral system that has both PR and the first-past-the-post (FPTP) system.
- There is a high threshold requirement for parties in PR systems; such parties must gain a certain percentage of votes to be elected.

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct identification and explanation of the type of electoral system that creates a two-party system. An acceptable identification and explanation is:

- Single-member district plurality (SMDP): a system that provides for a single seat within a district; the seat is awarded to the person winning the greatest number of votes in the district.
- Single-member majority districts: winner take all, first past the post.

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of how a one-party system might emerge. An acceptable description may include:

- A revolution or coup that installs a single party.
- Emergence of a charismatic leader.
- An economic crisis that leads citizens to unify around a single leader/party.
- Constitutional imposition of a single party.
- An external threat that leads citizens to unify around a single party.
- Ethnic/religious fragmentation.

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Question 6 (continued)

Part (d): 3 points

One point is earned for each correct explanation of an advantage of multiparty, two-party, and one-party systems in a multiethnic society.

An acceptable explanation of an advantage for a multiparty system includes:

- The multiparty system provides representation for a greater number of ethnic groups.
- Parties are more accountable.
- Parties are more representative of different divisions in society.

An acceptable explanation of an advantage for a two-party system includes:

- A two-party system creates a big tent that militates against tendencies to ethnic fragmentation.
- There is a closer relationship between representatives and constituencies.
- Governments are more stable.
- The two-party system is more efficient at governing and lawmaking than a multiparty system.
- The two-party system simplifies voters' decisions.
- The two-party system promotes a greater consensus.

An acceptable explanation of an advantage for a one-party system includes:

- A one-party system may create stability by enacting uniform policies.
- A one-party system enhances policy continuity.
- A one-party system can be more efficient, acting with a single voice (but this answer needs to be explained; simply saying "more efficient" does not earn a point).
- A one-party system unites different ethnicities into one group (e.g., nationalism).

Notes:

- Just giving the name of the electoral system does not earn the point; it needs to be explained.
- "Winner take all" does not necessarily earn a point and must be accompanied by an explanation and linkage to a national-level electoral system.
- No point is earned if the response confuses the concepts of majority and plurality.
- "Strong central government" is not an adequate description of a benefit of the one-party system.

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

A score of dash (—) is earned for a blank or off-task answer.