

1999

The College Board
Advanced Placement Examination

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS:
COMPARATIVE

Question 1

The relationship between the Prime Minister of Great Britain and the British House of Commons is both similar to and different from the relationship between the Prime Minister of France and the French National Assembly. Identify and discuss two ways in which the relationships are similar and two ways in which the relationships are different.

Question 2

Ethnic conflict can be a problem for a political system. Discuss how the government of either India or Mexico or Nigeria has dealt with ethnic conflict and how the post-1991 Russian government has dealt with ethnic conflict.

In your discussion, do each of the following.

- a. Describe one example of ethnic conflict in each country.
- b. Identify one principal method used by India or Mexico or Nigeria and one principal method used by post-1991 Russia to resolve ethnic conflict.
- c. Assess the impact of each government's response to ethnic conflict on political stability within the country.

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Question 1

6 POINTS total:

- **1 point** for identifying two ways in which the Prime Ministers (PMs) are similar
- **1 point** for identifying two ways in which the Prime Ministers are different
Note: 1 point for identifying one similarity and one difference
- **1 point** for a discussion of each of two similarities and each of two differences (4 total)

Notes:

- Discussion must be more than a re-statement of the similarities and differences
- Discussions must focus on the Prime Minister/legislative relationship
- Answers may refer to Prime Minister/ executive relationship as part of link between legislative and executive

Possible Examples of Similarities	Possible Examples of Differences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both have votes of confidence • Both are heads of government • Both are accountable to legislature • Both have cabinets • Both can be removed by legislature • Both set agenda • Both develop budget • Both are party leaders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PM in France can't be in Parliament (i.e. PM must resign from Parliament), PM in GB must be • PM in F does not have control of defense and foreign policy • Cohabitation possible in F, not in GB • Power of French PM can vary depending on personal relationship with President • Cabinet development: in GB shadow, F coalition • Constitutional systems: GB allows more flexibility because "unwritten" • Responsibility: GB is responsible to Parliament, in F to Parliament and President

0: Attempt to answer, no points earned

"—": No answer, blank, off task