

**2010 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. Describe a major difference between federal and unitary systems. Identify one country among the six AP Comparative Government and Politics countries that has a federal system. Identify one country among the six that has a unitary system.
2. Use the following information to complete the tasks below.

SELECTED NATIONAL INDICATORS FOR TWO COUNTRIES		
	Country X	Country Y
Population	75 million	150 million
HDI ranking	43	88
GDP per capita	\$27,000	\$2,500
Percent of workforce in agriculture	4%	37%

- (a) Identify which country is more economically developed, Country X or Country Y.
- (b) Select one of the indicators listed in the table and explain how that indicator can be used to support your answer in (a).
- (c) Select another indicator listed in the table and explain how that indicator can be used to support your answer in (a).
3. Many outside observers express concern that Russia's political system became more authoritarian during the 2000-2008 presidency of Vladimir Putin. Explain three changes made during Putin's presidency that are evidence that the Russian political system became more authoritarian.
4. Define a rentier (rent-seeking) state. Identify one rentier state among the six AP Comparative Politics and Government countries. Describe a problem that a rentier state typically faces that has an impact on economic development.
5. Define a parliamentary system. Explain two challenges to the sovereignty of the parliament in Great Britain.

# **AP® COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

## **2010 SCORING GUIDELINES**

### **Question 1**

#### **3 Points**

**One point** is earned for a correct description of a major difference between federal and unitary systems.

Acceptable descriptions of a major difference include any of the following:

- A federal system has a constitutional (formal) division of power between national and subnational levels of government, while in unitary systems, all the power is constitutionally (formally) given to the national government.
- In a unitary system, devolution may occur, and subnational levels of government may have regional autonomy, but these powers may be rescinded by the national government. In a federal system, regional autonomy is constitutionally (formally) protected.
- In a unitary system, powers held by subnational levels of government are delegated by the central government, and no powers are reserved to the subnational level. In a federal system, subnational levels of government have separate, formally reserved powers.

**One point** is earned for a correct identification of one country of the six AP Comparative Government and Politics countries that has a federal system.

Acceptable answers include:

- Russia
- Mexico
- Nigeria

**One point** is earned for a correct identification of one country of the six AP Comparative Government and Politics countries that has a unitary system.

Acceptable answers include:

- Great Britain
- China
- Iran

Note: To earn a point for a correct description of a major difference, students must describe the major difference, not just define a federal and/or unitary system.

A score of 0 is earned for an attempted answer that merits no points.

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