

**2018 AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

Country Context: We suggest that you spend approximately 40 minutes (20 minutes each) on questions 7 and 8.

7. Nigeria and Russia both have constitutionally established federal systems.
- a. Describe one difference between a federal system and a unitary system.
 - b. Explain one common reason why both Nigeria and Russia adopted a federal system.
 - c. Describe two disadvantages of federalism in Nigeria.
 - d. Describe one institutional change that has limited federalism in Russia since 2000.
 - e. Explain why the Russian government has limited federalism since 2000.

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Question 7

6 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of one difference between a federal system and a unitary system.

An acceptable description includes:

- In a federal system power is shared between central and regional governments, while in a unitary system power resides in the central government.
- Regional governments have more authority in a federal system compared to a unitary system.

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct explanation of why both Nigeria and Russia adopted a federal system.

Acceptable explanations include:

- Accommodation of ethnic or religious or regional diversity to allow for regional representation
- To account for regional differences or local preferences in large countries
- To grant autonomy to regions

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for EACH correct description of a disadvantage of federalism in Nigeria.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Discourages national unity
- Exacerbates regionally-based ethnic differences
- Exacerbates regionally-based religious differences
- Increases regional conflict and instability
- Increases chances for corruption at the regional or local level

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of an institutional change that has limited federalism in Russia since 2000.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Cancellation of gubernatorial elections
- Creation of federal districts and presidential envoys
- Change in who is appointed to the Federation Council

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Question 7 (continued)

Part (e): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct explanation of why the Russian government has limited federalism since 2000.

Acceptable explanations include:

- Concentrate presidential powers
- Consolidate United Russia's powers
- Undermine regional opposition
- Curb secessionist tendencies
- Counter regionally orchestrated terrorism
- Increase national unity and national strength
- Reduce corruption at the regional or local level

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.