

2002 AP® COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

4. Political parties sometimes change their policy positions over time.

(a) Describe how the British Labour Party has changed its policy position since 1979 in one of the areas listed below.

- European Union
- Privatization and deregulation
- Devolution

(b) Describe how the British Conservative Party has changed its policy position since 1979 in one of the areas listed below.

- European Union
- Privatization and deregulation
- Devolution

(c) Identify and explain how one factor has contributed to the change in Labour Party policy position described in (a).

(d) Identify and explain how one factor has contributed to change in Conservative Party policy position described in (b).

END OF EXAMINATION

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Question 4

Total: 6 points

Parts A and B – **1 point each**

Parts C and D – possible **2 points each** – 1 point for each factor and 1 point for each explanation

Part A: Description of change in **Labour** policy in **one** of the following areas (**1 point**)

- European Union – increased support
- Privatization and deregulation – increased support from previous opposition
- Devolution – increased support

Part B: Description of change in **Conservative** policy in one of the following areas (**1 point**)

- European Union – initial strong opposition under Thatcher; moderation under Major, current splits/disagreement
- Privatization and deregulation – increasing under Thatcher, moderation under Major and leadership that follows
- Devolution – lip service under Thatcher, some movement toward support among membership in recent years

Parts C and D: Possible contributing factors to change: **1 point** for identification, **1 point** for explanation

If student misses (a)/(b) no points can be earned for (c)/(d) (e.g., do not give credit for simply mentioning public opinion.) If the student incorrectly describes the change in party policy or if the student chooses a static point in time, no credit is awarded for (a)/(b), NOR is credit awarded for (c)/(d) unless there is a discussion about change in the chosen policy area.

Generalized statement about the relationship between the factor and political party policy can earn one point for identification (as long as the factor is correct) and no point for an explanation. To earn the point for the explanation, the student's answer must contain specific references to changes in policy in Great Britain.

Score of zero (0) for attempted answer that earns no points

Score of dash (—) for blank or off-task answer

Point Matrix

	Labour	Conservative
Change	1 point	1 point
Factor ID	1 point	1 point
Factor Explain	1 point	1 point