

# **2000 AP® COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

## **COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS Section II Time—100 minutes**

**Directions:** You have 100 minutes to answer all four of the following questions. It is suggested that you take a few minutes to plan and outline each answer. Spend approximately one-fourth of your time (25 minutes) on each question. Illustrate your essay with substantive examples where appropriate. Make certain to number each of your answers as the question is numbered below.

1. Identify and discuss two goals that a country hopes to achieve by establishing a presidential electoral system based on majority vote that requires runoff elections. Both Russia and France have established such a system. Using specific evidence, explain whether each of these goals has been achieved in the following countries.
  - Russia since 1993
  - France since 1962
2. The recruitment of political elites is important in any political system.
  - (a) Identify and discuss two factors that affect elite recruitment in both China and one of the following: India or Mexico or Nigeria.
  - (b) Is it easier to gain access into political elite membership in China or in one of the following: India or Mexico or Nigeria? Explain your answer, using the two factors you identified in (a) and your knowledge of the political systems of the countries.
3. Since the late 1980's, there have been several proposals, some of which have been adopted, to change the constitutional structure of the United Kingdom. Identify and describe three of these proposals. For each of these proposals, discuss one problem it was designed to address.
4. The following characteristics are often associated with democracies.
  - Sustained and recurring national elections
  - Competitive political parties
  - Civilian control over the military
  - An independent judiciary
  - (a) Select two of the characteristics above and for each of these two characteristics, explain how it contributes to democracy.
  - (b) Has each characteristic you selected in (a) contributed to democracy in either India or Mexico or Nigeria? Explain your answer.

**END OF EXAMINATION**

**Question 1 Rubric: Presidential run-off systems in France and Russia**

Identify and discuss two goals that a country hopes to achieve by establishing a presidential electoral system based on majority vote that requires run-off elections. Both Russia and France have established such a system. Using specific evidence, explain whether each of these goals has been achieved in the following countries

France since 1962  
Russia since 1993

**7 POINTS TOTAL**

**Identification of 2 goals: 1 point**

A list of possible answers is below. This list is not exhaustive.

- Political legitimacy
- Popular mandate
- Prevent electoral/institutional gridlock
- Policy leadership
- Independence from legislature
- Stability
- Strong executive
- Inclusion of wide-range of parties
- National unity
- Building coalitions among the electorate
- Increased political participation (turnout)

**\* Note: NO POINT IS AWARDED FOR IDENTIFICATION OF ONLY ONE GOAL**

Discussion of each goal: One point each (**2 points total**)

Explanation of two goals in France: 1 point per explanation (**2 points total**)

Explanation of two goals in Russia: 1 point per explanation (**2 points total**)

\* Note: Explanation of the two goals in France and in Russia must link to the presidential run-off system. An explanation must answer *how* and *why* the system achieves the goals.

\*Note: Maximum points possible for an answer that identifies and discusses only one goal: 3.

\* Note: Maximum points possible for an answer that discusses only one country: 5.

Attempts to answer question but earns no points: scored as zero (0)  
Blank or off-task: scored as a dash (-)