

COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
SECTION II
Time—1 hour and 30 minutes
4 Questions

Directions: You have 1 hour and 30 minutes to answer one conceptual analysis question, one quantitative analysis question, one comparative analysis question, and one argument essay. Unless the directions indicate otherwise, respond to all parts of all four questions. It is suggested that you take a few minutes to plan and outline each answer. It is also suggested that you spend approximately 10 minutes total on question 1, 20 minutes each on questions 2 and 3, and 40 minutes total on question 4. 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. You may plan your answers in this orange booklet, but no credit will be given for anything written in this booklet. **You will only earn credit for what you write in the separate Free Response booklet.**

1. (a) Define political legitimacy.
- (b) Describe a source of political legitimacy for a regime.
- (c) Explain how a specific factor can undermine the political legitimacy of a regime.
- (d) Explain why authoritarian regimes seek legitimacy.

**Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the separate Free Response booklet
and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number.**

Question 1: Conceptual Analysis**4 points**

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- (a) Define political legitimacy. **1 point**

Acceptable definitions include:

- Legitimacy is the citizens' belief that the government has the right to use power in the way that it does.
- Legitimacy exists when citizens accept that the government has the right or authority to rule.

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- (b) Describe a source of political legitimacy for a regime. **1 point**

Acceptable descriptions include:

- A constitution outlining the powers of government and the procedures that must be followed produces acceptance for the regime.
- The electoral process and its results are respected by the people, which produces acceptance for the regime.
- Tradition creates unity through appeal to common historical experiences that garners acceptance of the regime.
- Political stability provides predictability that helps to sustain acceptance of the regime by the people.
- Governmental effectiveness provides results that garner acceptance from the people.
- Economic growth provides results that garner acceptance from the people.
- Ideology provides unity through the appeal to a common belief system that garners acceptance from the people.
- Religion creates unity through the belief in a common faith and grants authority based on that faith.
- Nationalism creates a national identity that unifies the people and garners acceptance for the regime.

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- (c) Explain how a specific factor can undermine the political legitimacy of a regime. **1 point**

Acceptable explanations include:

- Corruption in the political system undermines political legitimacy for the regime because the process is distorted and does not operate as intended. It reduces trust in the system and leaders.
- A lack of free, fair, and competitive elections undermines political legitimacy for a regime because the results do not accurately reflect the will of the people.
- The alteration of previously-accepted rules and constitutional provisions to benefit current political leaders undermines political legitimacy because it changes the status quo.
- Social unrest undermines political legitimacy for the regime because it challenges the effectiveness and capacity of the regime.

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- A weak economy undermines political legitimacy for the regime because it does not provide the economic growth expected from the regime.

(d) Explain why authoritarian regimes seek legitimacy. **1 point**

Acceptable explanations include:

- Authoritarian regimes seek legitimacy in order to maintain political stability and resist pressures for regime change.
- Authoritarian regimes seek legitimacy in order to improve their image and gain international support.
- Authoritarian regimes seek legitimacy in order to maintain sovereignty without having to resort to coercion.
- Authoritarian regimes seek legitimacy because with less resistance from the people, it is easier/less costly for the regime to accomplish its goals.

Total for question 1 **4 points**