

**2008 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. Various economic changes have affected the legal system in China.
 - (a) Describe two reforms to the legal system in China in the past two decades.
 - (b) Explain two reasons that reforms to the legal system have occurred.
 - (c) Describe two important features of the Chinese legal system that have not changed in the past two decades.
8. Mexico and Russia have each experienced economic liberalization and political liberalization.
 - (a) Define economic liberalization and define political liberalization.
 - (b) Describe one economic liberalization policy pursued in Mexico since 1985 and one economic liberalization policy pursued in Russia since 1991.
 - (c) Describe one political liberalization policy undertaken in Mexico since 1985 and one political liberalization policy undertaken in Russia since 1991.
 - (d) Compare one consequence of economic liberalization on social class in Mexico with one consequence of economic liberalization on social class in Russia.

STOP

END OF EXAM

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Question 7

6 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for each correct description of reforms to the legal system in China in the past two decades. Acceptable descriptions include:

- Refinements to civil law and criminal law.
- Some autonomy for the courts.
- Creation of new types of courts (local, specialized).
- Establishment of commercial law, contract law, property rights.
- Requirements for judges.
- Establishment of law schools and more lawyers.
- Allocation of monies for reform of the legal system.
- Establishment of legal advisory offices.

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for each correct explanation of reasons for legal reforms. Acceptable explanations include:

- The state's desire to promote and enhance international trade and investments.
- International pressure surrounding high-profile events like the Olympics.
- Development of market mechanisms (capitalism) in China that require codified laws and procedures.
- Domestic pressure for the rule of law from citizen groups in China.
- The need to meet requirements in order to join the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Note: Simply stating "capitalism" without an explanation that links it to law and legal codification does not earn a point.

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Question 7 (continued)

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for each correct description of important features of the Chinese legal system that have not changed in the past two decades. Acceptable descriptions include:

- The party controls the law, the courts, and the legal system.
- No judicial review.
- High rates of conviction.
- High rates of incarceration.
- Use of capital punishment.
- The burden of proof is on the defendant, not the state.
- Courts are inquisitorial, not adversarial.
- *Guanxi*—connections.

Note: Just mentioning or defining the rule of law is not sufficient to earn a point.

A score of zero (0) is earned for an attempted answer that earns no points.

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