

4. Develop an argument as to whether having direct elections strengthens the authority and stability of nondemocratic regimes.

Use one or more of the following course concepts in your response:

- Competition
- Legitimacy
- Political participation

In your response, you should do the following:

- ✓ Respond to the prompt with a defensible claim or thesis that establishes a line of reasoning using one or more of the provided course concepts.
- ✓ Support your claim with at least TWO pieces of specific and relevant evidence from one or more course countries. The evidence should be relevant to one or more of the provided course concepts.
- ✓ Use reasoning to explain why your evidence supports your claim or thesis, using one or more of the provided course concepts.
- ✓ Respond to an opposing or alternate perspective, using refutation, concession, or rebuttal.

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 4: Argument Essay**5 points**

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria	
Row A Claim/Thesis (0–1 points)	0 points Does not meet the criteria for one point.	1 point Responds to the prompt with a defensible claim or thesis that establishes a line of reasoning.
Decision Rules and Scoring Notes		
Responses that do not earn this point: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only restate the prompt. Do not make a claim that responds to the prompt. 	Responses that earn this point: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond to the prompt rather than restating or rephrasing the prompt and establish a line of reasoning. Provide a defensible claim or thesis that establishes a line of reasoning as to whether having direct elections strengthens the authority and stability of nondemocratic regimes using one or more of the provided course concepts: competition, legitimacy, political participation. 	
Examples that do not earn this point: Restate the prompt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>"Direct elections strengthen the authority and stability of authoritarian regimes."</i> <i>"Direct elections weaken the stability of nondemocratic regimes."</i> Do not respond to the prompt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>"Nondemocratic regimes sometimes have direct elections when they are not quite authoritarian."</i> <i>"Competition is not required in direct elections in authoritarian regimes."</i> 		Examples that earn this point: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>"Direct elections in nondemocratic regimes can help build legitimacy by creating the appearance of competition and mass participation, which leads to more authority and stability."</i> <i>"Direct elections in authoritarian regimes can undermine their authority and stability when there is evidence of widespread electoral fraud, which also undermines legitimacy."</i>
Additional Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The claim or thesis must consist of one or more sentences that may be located anywhere in the response. A claim or thesis that meets the criteria can be awarded the point whether or not the rest of the response successfully supports that line of reasoning. 		