

2011 AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

Conceptual Analysis: We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes on question 6.

6. There are a variety of arrangements of power in executive-legislative relationships. Using your knowledge of the countries included in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course, complete the following tasks.
- (a) Describe the process used in a parliamentary system for the selection of the chief executive.
 - (b) Contrast the process you described in part (a) with the process used in a presidential system for the selection of the chief executive.
 - (c) Describe the process used in a parliamentary system for removing the chief executive.
 - (d) Contrast the removal process you described in part (c) with the process used in a presidential system for removing the chief executive.
 - (e) Other than the removal process, describe a check on executive power within a parliamentary system.

Country Context: We suggest that you spend approximately 40 minutes (20 minutes each) on questions 7 and 8.

7. As in many multiethnic countries, religious and ethnic tensions are prominent in the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- (a) Describe federalism in Nigeria.
 - (b) Explain one way Nigeria's federal structure accommodates different religious groups AND one way the federal structure accommodates different ethnic groups.
 - (c) Identify the type of electoral system used in Nigeria.
 - (d) Explain two ways the Nigerian electoral system accommodates different ethnic groups.
 - (e) Explain why Nigeria's federal structure has been unable to resolve tensions in the Niger River delta.
8. Political scientists often examine political rights and civil liberties to assess regime type.
- (a) Define civil liberties. Explain the difference between political rights and civil liberties.
 - (b) Describe one example of how political rights have declined in Russia between 1995 and 2010. Describe one example of how civil liberties have declined in Russia between 1995 and 2010.
 - (c) Describe one example of how political rights have increased in Mexico between 1995 and 2010. Describe one example of how civil liberties have increased in Mexico between 1995 and 2010.
 - (d) Using the descriptions you provided in parts (b) and (c), assess the regime type in Mexico in 2010 and the regime type in Russia in 2010.

STOP

END OF EXAM

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2011 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 6

5 points

Part (a): 1 point is earned for a description of the process used in a parliamentary system for the selection of the chief executive. An acceptable description includes the following:

- The head of the majority party becomes prime minister.
 - If a majority exists, the head of the party becomes the prime minister.
 - If no majority exists, the largest minority party usually names the prime minister in a coalition government.

Note: No point is earned for “legislature selects the executive” without reference to party or coalition.

Part (b): 1 point is earned for a correct contrast of the process described in part (a) with the process used in a presidential system for the selection of the chief executive. An acceptable contrast includes the following:

- Parliamentary — legislature selects the head of government.
- Presidential — executive is chosen separately from legislature.
- The people elect the president.

Note: Parts (a) and (b) may be read together. The response must demonstrate that the executive and legislature are fused in a parliamentary system and not fused in a presidential system.

Part (c): 1 point is earned for a description of the process used in a parliamentary system for removing the chief executive. An acceptable description includes the following:

- Legislature gives vote of no confidence.
- Party removal is internal party decision.

Part (d): 1 point is earned for a contrast of the process described in part (c) with the process used in a presidential system for removing the chief executive. An acceptable contrast includes: legislature removes president.

Note: The response must contrast with part (c) to earn a point; just mentioning impeachment is not enough to earn a point.

Part (e): 1 point is earned for a description of a check on executive power within a parliamentary system. An acceptable description includes the following:

- Cabinet resignation.
- Backbencher resistance or revolt.
- Question time.
- Upper house can delay legislation.
- Judiciary can overturn laws passed by the executive or parliament.
- Parliament can refuse to pass legislation/budget proposed by the executive.
- Must call for an election within a set time.

Note: Response earns no credit in part (e) for only stating “vote of no confidence.”