

**2007 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. The referendum is a feature of democratic politics.
 - (a) Define referendum and describe one advantage for a government of holding a referendum.
 - (b) Identify the official who has the power to call a referendum in Great Britain. Describe one example of the use or proposed use of one specific national referendum in Great Britain.
 - (c) Identify the official who has the power to call a referendum in Russia. Describe one example of the use or proposed use of one specific national referendum in Russia.

8. (a) Describe one similarity in the procedure for selecting the President in Iran and in Nigeria.
(b) Describe two differences in the procedure for selecting the President in Iran and in Nigeria.
(c) Explain why the Nigerian President has more power than the Iranian President.

STOP

END OF EXAM

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Question 7

6 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for the definition of a referendum. One point is earned for describing an advantage.

A common definition is: National vote by the electorate on an issue referred by the government.

Acceptable advantages include:

- Avoid responsibility.
- Enhance power of executive.
- Bypass the legislature.
- More democratic.
- Shift accountability.
- Forces decision/shuts off debate.
- Legitimacy.

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for correctly identifying the official who has the power to call a referendum in Great Britain. One point is earned for correctly describing one example.

Individual: Prime Minister/Tony Blair (through an act of Parliament).

- “The queen” does not earn a point.
- Naming previous prime ministers does not earn a point.
- No point is earned for stating an incorrect title with a name.

Acceptable referendums may include:

- Scottish Parliament.
- Welsh Assembly (parliament is OK).
- Northern Ireland Assembly.
- Single currency/EMU/euro (proposed).
- EU constitution (proposed).

Information given on the referendum must be accurate to earn credit.

No point is given for the House of Lords proposal or joining the EU as an example of a British referendum.

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for correctly identifying the official who has the power to call a referendum in Russia. One point is earned for correctly describing one example.

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Question 7 (continued)

Individual: President/Vladimir Putin.

- Naming previous presidents does not earn a point.
- No point is earned for stating an incorrect title with a name.

Acceptable referendums may include:

- Ratification of the Russian Constitution.
- Yeltsin as President.
- Chechnya.

Proposed referendum refers to a national governmental initiative: e.g., "white paper." No point is earned for citizens' initiatives, press, public debates, or proposals by external organizations.

The national referendum described in parts (b) and (c) must have been proposed by the chief executive and be in regard to one of the nations in the multinational state.

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.