

2014 AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

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

6. Legislatures are important institutions in both authoritarian and democratic regimes.
- (a) Identify a function of a legislature that is common to both democratic and authoritarian regimes.
 - (b) Explain how a function of a legislature can strengthen democracy.
 - (c) Describe two ways a legislature can be controlled in an authoritarian regime.
 - (d) Explain why authoritarian regimes maintain legislatures.

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Question 6

5 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly identifying a function of a legislature that is common to both democratic and authoritarian regimes.

Acceptable identifications include:

- Representation
- Passing laws or budgets

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct explanation of how a function of a legislature can strengthen democracy.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- Responds to public demand for legislative action
- Allows for clear and open debate about policy
- Facilitates compromise between factions
- Legislates to extend political rights or civil liberties
- Restricts power of executive

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for EACH correct description of ways a legislature can be controlled in an authoritarian regime.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Manipulates election rules for parties and voters
- Controls election results
- Creates a dominant or single party system
- Appoints representatives
- Limits legislative meeting time
- Limits or restrain debate of opposing views
- Limits or prohibit changes to executive proposals
- Co-opts or represses dissenting legislators
- Prohibits legislative oversight

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Question 6 (continued)

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct explanation of why authoritarian regimes maintain legislatures.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- To maintain political legitimacy
- To establish the pretense of popular support
- To respond to international pressure
- To provide a forum for superficial debate
- To recognize cleavages in an effort to reduce tension
- To support government propaganda
- To build party support or compliance

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

A score of dash (—) is earned for a blank answer.