

**2018 AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

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

6. Social and economic cleavages often divide society and can have both positive and negative political consequences.
- a. Identify one social cleavage and one economic cleavage that commonly occur in societies.
 - b. Explain how leaders can use cleavages to strengthen a government's hold on power.
 - c. Explain how cleavages can undermine regime stability.
 - d. Describe one action governments take to address the negative consequences of the social cleavage identified in (a).
 - e. Describe a different action governments take to address the negative consequences of the economic cleavage identified in (a).

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Question 6

5 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct identification of one social cleavage and one economic cleavage that commonly occur in societies.

Acceptable identifications include:

- Social cleavages including: religion, ethnicity, class, gender, urban/rural, age, education, region
- Economic cleavages including: class, urban/rural, wealth, elites/masses, education, region

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct explanation of how leaders can use cleavages to strengthen a government's hold on power.

Acceptable explanations include:

- Reward core constituencies for their support of government leaders and/or policies.
- Use the existence of the cleavage to justify maintaining or increasing the government's hold on power.
- Increase legitimacy in the government because of its handling of the conflict caused by the cleavage.

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct explanation of how cleavages can undermine regime stability.

Acceptable explanations include:

- Creates conflict, which threatens regime stability
- Undermines sense of national identity, which lessens regime stability
- Weakens state's ability to enforce law and order
- Creates polarization, which challenges state legitimacy

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of an action governments take to address the negative consequences of the social cleavage identified in (a).

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Use of a federal system or devolution or autonomous zone to share power with local groups
- Promotion of a national identity or nationalism to unify the state
- Use of a proportional representation (PR) or mixed election system to create a multiparty system
- Employment of a quota system to ensure representation of multiple groups
- Passage of civil rights legislation to protect groups from discrimination
- Expansion of welfare programs or educational opportunities to change group status
- Deployment of force to repress or eliminate the cleavage

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Question 6 (continued)

Part (e): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of a different action governments take to address the negative consequences of the economic cleavage identified in (a).

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Use of tax or subsidy policies to decrease the cleavage
- Expansion of welfare programs or educational opportunities to reduce income inequality
- Establishment of job training programs and/or patronage positions to lessen the wealth gap
- Development of infrastructure projects to diminish regional or rural deficiencies

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

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