

2017 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. Oil and natural gas play a significant role in the global economy. The production and export of these commodities also have economic and political consequences within energy-producing countries such as Nigeria and Russia.
- (a) Explain how large-scale oil production has stimulated economic development in Nigeria.
 - (b) Explain how large-scale oil production has limited economic development in Nigeria.
 - (c) Describe how the degree of central government control of oil and gas production differs between Nigeria and Russia.
 - (d) Describe one political consequence of oil production in Nigeria.
 - (e) Describe a different political consequence of oil and gas production in Russia.

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Question 7

5 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly explaining how large-scale oil production has stimulated economic development in Nigeria.

Correct explanations may include:

- Generates revenue to fund programs which promote economic development
- Increases jobs
- Increases access to global economy
- Attracts foreign direct investment

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly explaining how large-scale oil production has limited economic development in Nigeria.

Correct explanations include:

- Dependence on one resource makes economy vulnerable to commodity price changes.
- Government reliance on oil revenues has led to corruption instead of economic investment.
- Export of raw materials with no processing and value added has little effect on industrialization.
- It generates regional and sectoral economic inequalities leading to uneven development.
- Increased piracy of oil tankers and vandalism of pipelines discourages investment.
- Causes environmental damage, which limits future development.

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly describing how the degree of central government control of oil and gas production differs between Nigeria and Russia.

Correct explanations include:

- Russia has more central government control over oil and gas production than Nigeria.
- Russian oil and gas companies are state-owned or controlled whereas Nigerian oil and gas companies are joint ventures with multinational corporations (MNCs).

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Question 7 (continued)

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly describing a political consequence of oil production in Nigeria.

Correct explanations include:

- Social action by environmental groups.
- Exacerbates cleavages.
- Government corruption.
- Low accountability of the state.
- Limits democratic development.
- Increases revenue for public goods and services.
- Competition for political control over oil resources and revenues.
- MNCs exert pressure on governments for favorable policies.

Part (e): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly describing a different political consequence of oil production in Russia.

Correct explanations include:

- Supports state centralization of power.
- Resources used to strengthen one-party dominance.
- Russia uses resources as a foreign policy tool.
- Low accountability of the state.
- Limits democratic development.
- Politicized role of oligarchs.
- Government corruption.
- Increases revenue for public goods and services.
- Social action by environmental groups.

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.