

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

Country	GDP per Capita, PPP (2014)	Environmental Performance Index* Score, 2014	10-Year Improvement in Environmental Performance Index
China	\$7,593	43	2.6%
Great Britain	\$45,603	77	3.4%
Mexico	\$10,362	55	7.94%
Nigeria	\$3,185	39	3.73%

Source: World Bank (GDP per capita at purchasing power parity PPP)

*Environmental Performance Index is an aggregation of 20 indicators reflecting national level environmental data for 166 countries. Higher EPI scores indicate better environmental performance.

8. Using the table and your knowledge of comparative politics, complete the tasks below.
 - a. Identify the country from the table with the poorest environmental performance in 2014.
 - b. Write a statement that describes the relationship between environmental performance in 2014 and the level of economic development.
 - c. Describe one cause of the relationship between environmental performance and the level of economic development.
 - d. Explain why Great Britain had the highest Environmental Performance Index score in 2014 but one of the lower rates of improvement in environmental performance over time.
 - e. Describe one political response by Chinese citizens to their country's environmental problems.
 - f. Describe one policy response by the Chinese government to the country's environmental problems.

STOP

END OF EXAM

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Question 8

6 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly identifying Nigeria as the country from the table with the poorest environmental performance in 2014.

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct statement that describes the relationship between environmental performance in 2014 and the level of economic development.

An example of a correct statement is:

- Wealthier countries tend to have higher environmental performance scores.
- Higher GDP per Capita correlates with higher Environmental Performance Index (EPI) scores.
- Developing countries tend to have lower environmental performance scores.
- Lower GDP per capita correlates with lower EPI scores.

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of one cause of the relationship between environmental performance and the level of economic development.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Wealthier countries have more money to spend on the environment.
- Wealthier countries are less industrial and have more service-oriented economies.
- Wealthier countries have greater state capacity to address environmental issues.
- Wealthier countries invest more in research, development, and innovation related to the environment.
- Wealthier countries tend to focus more on post-materialist issues, such as the environment.
- Developing countries have fewer resources to devote to environmental issues.
- Developing countries focus more on basic material problems.
- Developing countries must focus more resources on their economies than wealthier countries.

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct explanation of why Great Britain had the highest EPI score in 2014, but one of the lower rates of improvement in environmental performance over time.

Acceptable explanations include:

- Many of the environmental standards had already been put into place.
- Less room for environmental improvement.
- Less political focus because remaining environmental problems seem more marginal and less threatening.

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Question 8 (continued)

Part (e): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of a political response by Chinese citizens to their country's environmental problems.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Protesting about environmental concerns, such as air and water pollution
- Forming organizations such as NGOs and interest groups to advocate for solutions to the problem
- Using petitions to change environmental policy
- Filing lawsuits related to environmental problems

Part (f): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of a policy response by the Chinese government to the country's environmental problems.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Locating factories outside of urban areas, limiting the times when factories may operate, shutting down factories, or regulating factory emissions
- Creating more stringent fuel emission standards, controlling traffic, investing in mass transit, or promoting bicycle use
- Investing in new technologies, including renewable energy supplies
- Signing the Paris Climate Agreement in order to reduce pollution
- Banning coal in rural areas
- Regulating logging to curb deforestation or planting trees
- Creating a new environmental bureaucracy or ministry

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.