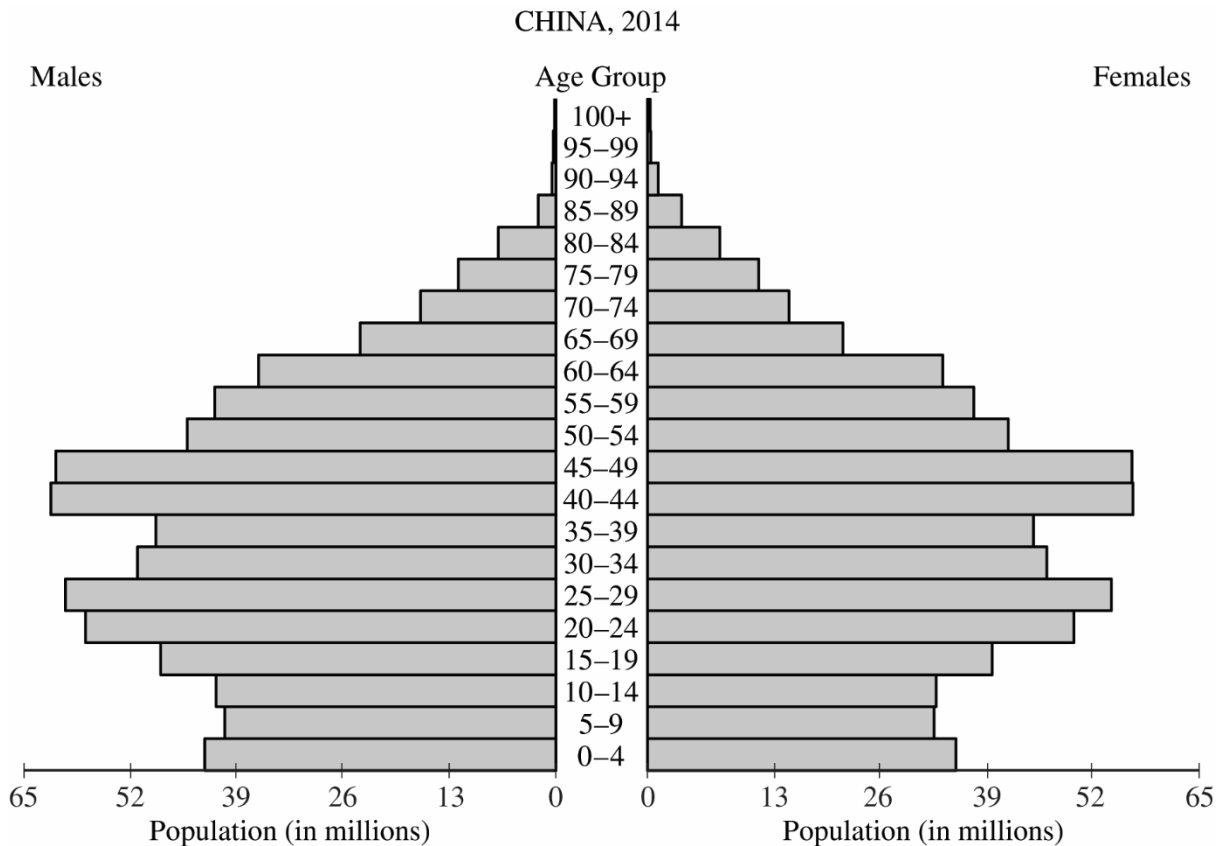


**2019 AP® COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**  
**FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

Country Context: We suggest that you spend approximately 40 minutes (20 minutes each) on questions 7 and 8.

7. Elections are held in both democratic and authoritarian regimes.
- (a) Describe one reason that authoritarian regimes hold elections.
  - (b) Explain how presidential elections since 2000 strengthened or weakened democracy in Russia.
  - (c) Explain how presidential elections since 2000 strengthened or weakened democracy in Mexico.
  - (d) Identify one factor other than elections that strengthens democracy. Explain how that factor contributes to democracy.
- 



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## **2019 SCORING GUIDELINES**

### **Question 7**

**5 points**

**Part (a):**

One point is earned for correctly describing one reason that authoritarian regimes hold elections.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- To build internal or external legitimacy
- To help the regime maintain control or power
- To prevent unrest, build support for the system, or create the perception of representation
- To shape policies or leadership
- To build a favorable reputation in the international community

**Part (b):**

One point is earned for correctly explaining how presidential elections since 2000 strengthened or weakened democracy in Russia.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- Weakened democracy because of less competition
- Weakened democracy because there was no alternation of party control or top leadership
- Weakened democracy because voter fraud reduced legitimacy or political efficacy
- Weakened democracy because liberal parties were weakened
- Strengthened democracy because of stabilized parties
- Strengthened democracy because of increased legitimacy or political efficacy

**Part (c):**

One point is earned for correctly explaining how presidential elections since 2000 strengthened or weakened democracy in Mexico.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- Strengthened democracy because of more competition
- Strengthened democracy because of alternation of parties in power or development of multiparty system
- Strengthened democracy because of increased legitimacy or political efficacy
- Weakened democracy because of widespread fraud reducing legitimacy or political efficacy
- Weakened democracy because of the use of state resources in elections
- Weakened democracy because of the return of the formerly dominant party

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### **Question 7 (continued)**

#### **Part (d):**

One point is earned for correctly identifying one factor other than elections that strengthens democracy.

Acceptable factors may include:

- Civil rights or civil liberties
- Civil society
- Independent judiciary
- Linkage institutions including media, interest groups, or political parties
- The establishment and adherence of rule of law
- Checks on power
- Governmental transparency

One point is earned for correctly explaining how that factor contributes to democracy.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- Increased political participation not related to voting
- Consideration of alternate viewpoints
- Increased protection of civil liberties
- Prevent concentration of governmental power
- Increased accountability of government officials
- Increased legitimacy or political efficacy

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

A score of (—) is earned for a blank.