

2016 AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

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

6. Forms of political participation vary in both democratic and authoritarian regimes.
- (a) Describe how participation in elections is different in democratic regimes and authoritarian regimes.
 - (b) Describe how political participation through social media is different in democratic regimes and authoritarian regimes.
 - (c) Describe how participation in civil society is different in democratic regimes and authoritarian regimes.
 - (d) Explain why people participate politically in democratic regimes. Explain why people participate politically in authoritarian regimes.
 - (e) Explain why authoritarian regimes allow certain forms of political participation.
 - (f) Explain why democratic regimes restrict certain forms of political participation.

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Question 6

7 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of how participation in elections is different in democratic regimes and authoritarian regimes.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Competitive, free, or fair elections versus restricted elections, not free or fair
- Lack of a choice in authoritarian regimes
- Multiparty versus single dominant party
- Government formation based on electoral results in democratic regimes
- Vetting of potential candidates in authoritarian regimes
- Executive accountability in democratic regimes
- Intimidation of opponents and dissidents in authoritarian regimes
- Use of state resources for incumbents in authoritarian regimes

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of how participation through social media is different in democratic regimes and authoritarian regimes.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Users of social media confront restrictions in authoritarian regimes
- Users of social media can freely post, discuss, or criticize in democratic regimes
- Social media is the only space for participation in some authoritarian regimes

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of how participation in civil society is different in democratic regimes and authoritarian regimes.

Correct descriptions may include:

- Plurality of options and experiences in democratic regimes, less regulated, less harassed in democratic regimes
- Higher degree of monitoring/restriction of civil society in authoritarian regimes
- More state infiltration of civil society in authoritarian regimes
- Creation of bogus civil society groups by authoritarian regimes
- Registration and vetting of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to a greater degree in authoritarian regimes

Note: Since the test taker is not asked to explain a difference in (a), (b), and (c), just describing two different things is acceptable.

Part (d): 2 points

One point is earned for a correct explanation of why people participate politically in democratic regimes.

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Question 6 (continued)

Acceptable explanations may include:

- To influence policy or voice support for government OR the opposition
- Efficacy
- To have their voices heard
- Civic duty

One point is earned for a correct explanation of why people participate politically in authoritarian regimes.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- Coercion
- Intimidation
- Personal benefits such as power or wealth
- To influence policy
- To air grievances
- To show support for government

Part (e): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct explanation of why authoritarian regimes allow certain forms of political participation.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- To gain internal or external legitimacy
- To provide an escape valve for discontent
- To build support for a policy or regime
- To intimidate opponents
- To give an illusion of influence
- To provide a mechanism for accountability

Part (f): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct explanation of why democratic regimes restrict certain forms of political participation.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- To address concerns about unrest and instability
- To protect minority rights
- To balance competing rights and interests
- To ensure a qualified electorate
- To ensure national security
- To allow efficiency in policymaking

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.