

2006 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. The increasing international integration of economies has led to political debate in Great Britain and China.
- (a) For Great Britain, describe one argument for and one argument against joining the European Union (EU) single currency.
 - (b) Describe the current British government's response to the issue of the EU single currency.
 - (c) For China, describe one argument for and one argument against the privatization of industry.
 - (d) Describe the Chinese government's response to global pressures to privatize industry.
8. The process of democratization elicits both support and resistance. Respond to the following in the context of the past two decades.
- (a) Describe two measures taken by Iranian political leaders to democratize Iran's political process.
 - (b) Describe two ways in which Iranian political leaders have resisted democratization.
 - (c) Describe two measures taken by Nigerian political leaders to democratize Nigeria's political process.
 - (d) Describe two ways in which Nigerian political leaders have resisted democratization.

STOP

END OF EXAM

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Question 7

6 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for a description of one argument for joining the European Union (EU) single currency, and 1 point is earned for a description of one argument against joining the EU single currency.

Acceptable descriptions of arguments for joining the EU single currency may include:

- European solidarity.
- Economic advantages. Response must explain why (e.g., lowering of transaction costs, compete with United States). “Transaction costs” alone is not sufficient to earn the point.
- “Improving trade” alone is not sufficient to earn the point.
- Larger market for goods.
- Easier access to market.

Acceptable descriptions of arguments against joining the EU single currency include:

- Psychological attachment to the pound.
- Nationalism.
- Sovereignty issues.
- Loss of control over interest rates.
- The United Kingdom’s economy is better off if not part of single currency (must explain why).
- The United Kingdom has a stronger economy.

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for a description of the current British government’s response to the issue of the EU single currency.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- They did not join.
- The Prime Minister has promised to hold a referendum.
- “Wait and see” approach.
- “Five tests” of economic conditions.

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for a description of one argument for privatization of industry in China, and 1 point is earned for a description of one argument against the privatization of industry.

Acceptable descriptions of arguments for privatization of industry include:

- Efficiency.
- To attract domestic and foreign investment.
- Addresses market needs/consumer demands.
- People have incentives to work/innovate (opportunity for upward mobility).
- Competition (response must explain for what; e.g., innovation, quality).

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Question 7 (continued)

- State industries were not performing well (this is an alternative).

Acceptable descriptions of arguments against privatization of industry include:

- Loss of control.
- Creation of oligarchs.
- Higher unemployment.
- Ideological inconsistency.
- Creates economic inequality (regional or personal).
- Loss of legitimacy of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).
- Loss of social safety net.
- Harms the agricultural economy.

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for a description of the Chinese government's response to global pressures to privatize industry.

Acceptable descriptions may include:

- Privatization of some industries (consumer goods, etc.), but retained state control over some crucial industries.
- Internet—must be explained in terms of privatization.
- Special economic zones.
- Acknowledged private property in constitution.
- Allowed capitalists in the CCP.

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

A score of dash (—) is earned for a blank or off-task answer.