

2019 AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

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

6. There are different types of party systems around the world.
- (a) Describe one type of party system. Explain one way that type of party system influences policy making.
 - (b) Describe another type of party system. Explain one way that type of party system influences policy making.
 - (c) Explain how a country's party system is influenced by the type of electoral system in the country.
 - (d) Explain how regime change can lead to a change in the type of party system in a country.

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Question 6

6 points

Part (a):

One point is earned for correctly describing a type of party system.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- In a single-party system, only one party is allowed to exist and hold power.
- In a dominant-party system, one party controls the government, although other parties exist.
- In a two-party or two-plus-party system, only two parties hold power.
- In a multiparty system, three or more parties are electorally competitive and/or hold power.

One point is earned for correctly explaining how that type of party system influences policy making.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- A single-party system
 - produces a closed policy process that only reflects the views of the governing party
 - produces a more efficient decision-making process
 - creates policies intended to keep the party in power
- A dominant-party system
 - produces a closed policy process that only reflects the views of the governing party
 - produces a more efficient decision-making process
 - creates policies intended to keep the party in power
- A two-party system
 - integrates opposing viewpoints into the policy process that can lead to instability or gridlock
 - integrates opposing viewpoints into the policy process that can require negotiation and compromise
 - encourages centrist policies
- A multiparty system
 - integrates multiple viewpoints into the policy process that can lead to instability or gridlock
 - integrates multiple viewpoints into the policy process that require negotiation and compromise
 - gives voice to minority, ethnic, or regionalist parties in the policy process

Part (b):

One point is earned for correctly describing a type of party system.

See acceptable descriptions in Part (a).

One point is earned for correctly explaining how that type of party system influences policy making.

See acceptable explanations in Part (a).

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Question 6 (continued)

Part (c):

One point is earned for correctly explaining how a party system is influenced by the type of electoral system.

Acceptable explanations include:

- In a proportional representation (PR) system, the percentage of votes roughly translates into the percentage of seats, allowing more parties or smaller parties to gain seats.
- In a PR system, the use of multimember districts allows more parties or smaller parties to gain seats.
- In a single-member district (SMD) system, only one party can win any given seat, preventing smaller, minor, or third parties from winning.
- An SMD system encourages strategic voting, favoring larger parties.

Part (d):

One point is earned for correctly explaining how regime change can lead to a change in the type of party system.

Acceptable explanations include:

- Countries that transition from authoritarian to democratic are more likely to hold free and fair elections that permit a change from a single-party to a two-party or multiparty system.
- Countries that transition from democratic to authoritarian are more likely to ban opposition parties or rig elections in favor of the governing party.
- Regime change may level the playing field and permit opposition parties to be electorally competitive.
- Countries change the constitution or the fundamental laws structuring the government in a way that transforms the party system.

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.