

2017 AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

8. The media serves an important function in all political systems.
- (a) Identify one governmental constraint on media freedom in China in the past decade AND explain how it helps sustain the authoritarian regime in China.
 - (b) Explain why China has allowed some media freedom in the past decade.
 - (c) Explain how the media helps sustain democracy in Mexico.
 - (d) Describe one nongovernmental constraint on media freedom in Mexico in the past decade.
 - (e) Explain why democratic regimes place constraints on media.

STOP

END OF EXAM

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Question 8

6 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for correctly identifying a governmental constraint on media freedom in China AND one point is earned for an explanation of how it helped sustain the authoritarian regime in the past decade.

Acceptable identifications may include:

- Government censorship
- State control of the media
- Prosecution or intimidation of journalists
- Denying entry to or expelling foreign journalists

Acceptable explanations may include:

- To prevent emergence of dissent or opposition
- To prevent challenges to regime legitimacy
- To maintain regime support
- To prevent mobilization of opposition

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly explaining why China has allowed some media freedom in the past decade.

Correct explanations include:

- Increasing legitimacy
- External pressure
- Allowing criticism of local officials
- Reducing corruption at the local or national level
- Difficulty in controlling the media, given modern technology

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly explaining how the media has helped sustain democracy in Mexico in the past decade.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- Providing a check on government actions
- Providing accountability
- Ensuring fair elections
- Ensuring a voice for the opposition
- Encouraging citizen participation

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Question 8 (continued)

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly describing one nongovernmental constraint on media freedom in Mexico in the past decade.

Correct descriptions may include:

- Increased violence against journalists by nongovernmental actors
- Intimidation by drug cartels
- Consolidation of media by private owners
- Limited access to media such as the Internet

Part (e): 1 point

One point is earned for correctly explaining why democratic regimes place constraints on media.

Correct explanations of why constraints are necessary in a democracy may include:

- To protect minority rights
- To protect national security
- To prevent libel and slander
- To prevent the encouragement of violent activities
- To maintain moral standards

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.