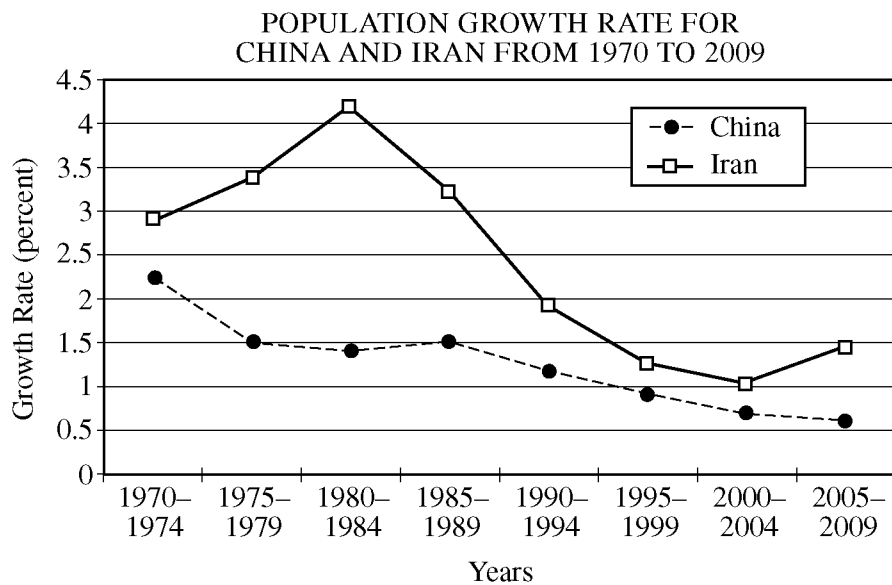


**2009 AP® COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

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

7. (a) Describe Russia's electoral system before the 2007 Duma elections. Explain how the electoral system shaped the pre-2007 Russian party system.
- (b) Describe a specific change to the Russian electoral system that was designed for the 2007 Duma elections and explain its impact on party competition.
- (c) Describe Mexico's current electoral system.
- (d) Describe one electoral reform made in Mexico in the 1990s and explain how that reform affected Mexico's party system.



Source: United Nations Population Division - World Population Prospects: 2006 Revision Population Database

8. Population growth rate is defined as the average annual percent change in the population resulting from a surplus or deficit of births over deaths.
- (a) Describe one trend shown in the graph for Iran and describe one trend shown in the graph for China.
- (b) Explain one policy Iran has used to address population growth issues. Explain one policy China has used to address population growth issues.
- (c) Explain why both Iran and China pursued population growth policies.
- (d) Describe one social or economic consequence of manipulating population growth rates.

STOP

END OF EXAM

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

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Question 7

7 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for an accurate description of Russia's electoral system before the 2007 Duma elections.

Acceptable descriptions include both of the following:

- A split electoral system, with one-half "first past the post" (FPTP) and one-half proportional representation (PR).
- A 5 percent threshold for parties to be included in the PR.

One point is earned for a correct explanation of how the electoral system shaped the pre-2007 Russian party system.

Acceptable explanations include any of the following:

- It allowed multiple parties to develop.
- It allowed for more demographically diverse parties.
- It permitted many independent candidates.
- It encouraged personality-based factions more than parties with ideology.

Note: FPTP, SMD (single-member district), winner-take-all, and plurality are all acceptable.

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for an accurate description of a specific change to the Russian electoral system that was designed for the 2007 Duma elections.

Acceptable descriptions include both of the following:

- The system became only PR (FPTP was removed).
- The party threshold was increased from 5 percent to 7 percent.

One point is earned for a correct explanation of the impact of the change on party competition.

Acceptable explanations include any of the following:

- It eliminated (made it very difficult for) all reform parties (Yabloko, "floating parties").
- It strengthened United Russia and other parties that tended to support Putin's agenda.
- It decreased the diversity of political viewpoints in the Duma.

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of Mexico's current electoral system.

The following is an acceptable description:

- A dual system of FPTP and PR in both chambers (Senate also has at-large PR).

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Question 7 (continued)

Part (d): 2 points

One point is earned for a correct description of one electoral reform made in Mexico in the 1990s.

Acceptable descriptions include any of the following:

- Creation of an electoral commission to regulate campaigns and elections (1990).
- All parties receive government funding and have access to the media.
- Increase in the number of Senate seats (from 68 to 128) (1993).
- Presence of foreign electoral observers was legalized (1994).
- Creation of a fully independent Federal Electoral Institute (IFE) (1996).
- A limit was set on how many seats one party can hold in the Chamber of Deputies (60 percent, or 300 of the 500 seats) (1996).
- PR was incorporated in the Senate for 32 of 128 seats (1996).
- A limit was set on party spending for campaigns (campaign finance spending limits).
- A party threshold for participation in PR was set at 2 percent (Senate and Chamber) (1996).
- Priests were legally allowed to cast votes.
- Legislation “recommending” that parties establish a gender quota for candidate lists (1996). (To earn this point the argument must show that the student is not referring to the stricter quota law passed in 2002.)

One point is earned for an accurate explanation of how that reform affected Mexico’s party system.

Acceptable explanations include any of the following:

- An increase in the power of nondominant parties.
- Removal of the prevailing party (PRI) from dominance.
- Created a true multiparty system (PAN, PRD, Green Party gained power).

Notes:

- The 180 PR seats added to the Chamber of Deputies occurred in 1988, NOT in the 1990s.
- The strict quota law mandating a quota for women on the ballot was implemented in 2002.

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

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