

**2004 AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Section II

Time—100 minutes

Directions: You have 100 minutes to answer all four of the following questions. Unless the directions indicate otherwise, respond to all parts of all four questions. It is suggested that you take a few minutes to plan and outline each answer. Spend approximately one-fourth of your time (25 minutes) on each question. In your response, use substantive examples where appropriate. Make certain to number each of your answers as the question is numbered below.

1. Federal and unitary systems structure the relationship between national and subnational units.
 - (a) Define a unitary system of government. Define a federal system of government.
 - (b) Describe one advantage of a federal system and one advantage of a unitary system.
 - (c) Describe how federal or unitary systems are reflected in the national legislatures in Britain and in Russia.
 - (d) Describe how, since the late 1990's, Britain has become more federal and Russia has become more unitary.

2. Social cleavages, including ethnicity, region, class, and religion have important implications for political parties.
 - (a) Describe a major social cleavage in France, and explain how a specific political party has responded to it.
 - (b) For the response explained in (a), describe one consequence of the party's response in France.
 - (c) Describe a major social cleavage in India or Mexico or Nigeria, and explain how a specific political party has responded to it.
 - (d) For the response explained in (c), describe one consequence of the party's response in India or Mexico or Nigeria.

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2004 SCORING GUIDELINES**

Question 1

8 Points

- a) (2 pts)** 1 point for definition of unitary and 1 point for definition of federal system. No extra points for an extended definition of either. No credit for FEDERAL: “always local government”; no credit for UNITARY “no local governments.”
- b) (2 pts)** 1 point for each advantage, no extra points for an extended description of just one advantage. Student does not have to make a correct association between a country and a system of government as long as the discussion of the advantage is correct.
- c) (2 pts)** 1 point each for description of how system is reflected in the national legislatures in Britain and in Russia. No credit for merely describing a legislative arrangement or particular institution; no credit for restating definitions from part A.
- d) (2 pts)** 1 point for describing how each country has become more federal or more unitary. The description must go beyond identification to describe “how.”

Score of zero (0) for attempted answer that earns no points.

Score of dash (—) for blank or off-task answer.