

2015 AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

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

6. State sovereignty can be challenged by external factors.
- (a) Define sovereignty.
 - (b) Identify one international organization that challenges state sovereignty AND describe how it challenges state sovereignty.
 - (c) Describe a challenge that multinational corporations pose to state sovereignty.
 - (d) Describe a challenge that new information technologies pose to state sovereignty.
 - (e) Describe one method states use to maintain sovereignty in the face of challenges.

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Question 6

6 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct definition of sovereignty.

An acceptable definition will include at least TWO of the following:

- Supreme or independent authority
- Authority over a particular population or territory
- Recognition by other international actors

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for a correct identification of an international organization that challenges state sovereignty.

Acceptable identifications include:

- United Nations
- European Union
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
- Terrorist groups that meet certain conditions

Note: NAFTA is not an international organization.

One point is earned for a correct description of how the international organization challenges state sovereignty.

An acceptable response will demonstrate that the international organization attempts to or succeeds in exerting control or authority in sovereign states.

Part (c): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of how multinational corporations (MNCs) challenge state sovereignty.

An acceptable response will demonstrate that MNCs attempt to, or successfully, exert leverage or control.

Examples may include challenges to any of the following policies:

- Labor
- Environmental
- Land rights
- Tax
- Budgetary
- Legal

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Question 6 (continued)

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of how new information technologies challenge state sovereignty.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Provide access to information, reducing public support
- Provide access to information, challenging political legitimacy
- Increase government internal or external accountability
- Threat to national security or the capacity to govern from cybersecurity incidents

Part (e): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct description of a method states use to maintain sovereignty in the face of challenges.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Control information
- Leave the international organization
- Restrict multinational corporations
- Nationalize industry
- Join the international organization to influence policy direction
- Ignore or defy international organizations

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

A score of dash (—) is earned for a blank.