

AP® Comparative Government and Politics

Practice Exam

The questions contained in this AP® Comparative Government and Politics Practice Exam are written to the content specifications of AP Exams for this subject. Taking this practice exam should provide students with an idea of their general areas of strengths and weaknesses in preparing for the actual AP Exam. Because this AP Comparative Government and Politics Practice Exam has never been administered as an operational AP Exam, statistical data are not available for calculating potential raw scores or conversions into AP grades.

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AP® Comparative Government and Politics

Directions for Administration

The AP Comparative Government and Politics Exam is 2 hours and 25 minutes in length and consists of a multiple-choice section and a free-response section.

- The 45-minute multiple-choice section contains 55 questions and accounts for 50 percent of the final grade.
- The 100-minute free-response section contains 8 questions and accounts for 50 percent of the final grade.

Students should be given a 10-minute warning prior to the end of each section of the exam. A 10-minute break should be provided after Section I is completed.

The actual AP Exam is administered in one session. Students will have the most realistic experience if a complete morning or afternoon is available to administer this practice exam. If a schedule does not permit one time period for the entire practice exam administration, it would be acceptable to administer Section I one day and Section II on a subsequent day.

Many students wonder whether or not to guess the answers to the multiple-choice questions about which they are not certain. It is improbable that mere guessing will improve a score. However, if a student has some knowledge of the question and is able to eliminate one or more answer choices as wrong, it may be to the student's advantage to answer such a question.

- The use of calculators, or any other electronic devices, is not permitted during the exam.
- It is suggested that the practice exam be completed using a pencil for Section I and a pen for Section II to simulate an actual administration.
- Teachers will need to provide paper for the students to write their free-response answers. Teachers should provide directions to the students indicating how they wish the responses to be labeled so the teacher will be able to associate the student response with the question the student intended to answer.
- Remember that students are not allowed to remove any materials, including scratch work from the testing site.

Section I

Multiple-Choice Questions

The inclusion of source material in this exam is not intended as an endorsement by the College Board or ETS of the content, ideas, or values expressed in the material. The material printed here reflects various aspects of the course of study on which this exam is based and is therefore appropriate to use to measure the skills and knowledge of this course.

COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Section I

Time—45 minutes

55 Questions

Directions: Each of the questions or incomplete statements below is followed by five suggested answers or completions. Select the one that is best in each case and place the letter of your choice in the corresponding box on the student answer sheet.

1. Which of the following can be considered a fundamental feature of parliamentary government?
 - (A) The head of government and the head of state are unified into one position.
 - (B) The head of government is directly elected in a national election.
 - (C) The head of government can be dismissed through a vote of no confidence in the assembly.
 - (D) The head of government can dismiss the head of state through a vote of no confidence.
 - (E) The head of state appoints cabinet members.
2. A unitary system is best defined as one that has
 - (A) checks and balances
 - (B) separation of powers
 - (C) a prime minister or parliament
 - (D) fusion of powers between the executive and legislative branches
 - (E) no constitutional division of powers between the central and regional governments
3. Which of the following best describes women's participation in politics in the developing world?
 - (A) Political participation is prohibited for everyone in these countries, not just women.
 - (B) There is little interest from women in becoming politically involved.
 - (C) Traditional cultural values often preclude women from participating in politics.
 - (D) Women in rural areas participate in politics more often than women in urban areas.
 - (E) Women in developing countries participate in politics more actively than women in the developed world.
4. The timing of elections in Great Britain's system is determined by which of the following?
 - (A) A nonpartisan electoral commission sets the dates of elections.
 - (B) Citizens decide in a referendum when parliamentary elections will be held.
 - (C) Elections are on a fixed cycle set by law.
 - (D) Members of the upper house call elections by majority vote.
 - (E) The prime minister calls elections within a five-year period.
5. Interest groups tend to have a minimal impact on individual legislators in parliamentary systems because
 - (A) interest groups are less common in parliamentary democracies
 - (B) corporatism brings together interest groups and government representatives
 - (C) legislators in parliamentary systems do not represent constituency interests
 - (D) election campaigns are funded by the state and do not require much fund-raising
 - (E) the strength of political parties gives individual legislators less power over policy
6. Which of the following social groups is most likely to engage in protest in China?
 - (A) Middle-class entrepreneurs
 - (B) Urban intellectuals
 - (C) Farmers in rural areas
 - (D) Workers in special economic zones
 - (E) Members of the People's Liberation Army (PLA)

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7. Which of the following is true of federalism in Mexico?
- (A) There has been a strong trend toward increased centralization of policy functions over the last two decades.
 - (B) Since the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) no longer dominates electoral politics, governors have become more willing to exercise their formal powers.
 - (C) Members of the Mexican Senate are appointed by the state legislatures and can be recalled by them at any time.
 - (D) The president has the constitutional authority to dissolve state legislatures for failing to implement national laws.
 - (E) The Chamber of Deputies has often exercised its constitutional authority to impeach state governors.
8. Which of the following statements is most accurate about the middle class in Iran?
- (A) The middle class in Iran consists mainly of clerics and other religious officials.
 - (B) The middle class in Iran is culturally westernized and often hostile to the clergy.
 - (C) The middle class in Iran is very small and found in predominantly rural areas.
 - (D) The middle class in Iran controls the media and is very influential in national decision making.
 - (E) The middle class in Iran is almost non-existent.
9. Which of the following is true of the transitions to democracy in Mexico and Russia?
- (A) International isolation spurred the process in both countries.
 - (B) The military played a pivotal role in the process in both countries.
 - (C) Religious institutions in both countries became discredited by their affiliation with the prior regime.
 - (D) In Mexico old institutions were reformed, while in Russia new institutions were created.
 - (E) In both Mexico and Russia, new legislatures had to be created.
10. Which of the following best describes civil society?
- (A) Bureaucrats implementing their policy objectives
 - (B) Individuals organizing and expressing their interests
 - (C) Individuals making their interests known through voting
 - (D) Legislators meeting in small groups and discussing specific policy objectives
 - (E) The head of state appointing a group of individuals to investigate policy outcomes
11. The common law system, especially as practiced in Great Britain, is based on
- (A) formal legal codes
 - (B) the use of precedents to guide legal decisions
 - (C) the idea that judges should interpret laws in ways that improve public policy
 - (D) a set of guidelines developed by a constitutional council
 - (E) an inquisitorial evaluation of a set of facts that is consistent with written statutes
12. Political parties in Nigeria are best described as being organized around which of the following?
- (A) Religion
 - (B) Ideology
 - (C) Environmental issues
 - (D) Occupation and wealth
 - (E) Personalities and powerful individuals
13. The use of judicial review in the United Kingdom is limited because
- (A) the United Kingdom lacks a written constitution
 - (B) judicial review is seen as violating the principle of parliamentary sovereignty
 - (C) the United Kingdom is a unitary state
 - (D) the United Kingdom lacks a system of checks and balances
 - (E) legal systems in the United Kingdom are structured on common law

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14. In addition to its basic lawmaking function, the Federation Council of the Russian Federation also has the power to
- (A) approve the president's choice of prime minister
 - (B) undertake votes of confidence in the government
 - (C) ratify treaties and approve troop deployments
 - (D) appoint the chair of the Central Bank
 - (E) declare amnesties and grant pardons
15. Which of the following is true of coalition government?
- (A) It tends to result from a fragmented legislature and can be unstable.
 - (B) It tends to result from a first-past-the-post voting system.
 - (C) It is an ideal of majoritarian democracy.
 - (D) It systematically excludes minority voices from government.
 - (E) It has been a long-standing characteristic of British politics.
16. Which of the following best describes energy policy in a country studied in AP Comparative Government and Politics?
- (A) Despite some environmental problems associated with extraction, China produces enough oil to remain self-sufficient.
 - (B) Constant new oil discoveries in the oceans surrounding the United Kingdom help it remain a major exporter of oil well into the 21st century.
 - (C) Nigerian oil revenues are distributed evenly to all citizens in an effort to reduce inequalities.
 - (D) As a member of OPEC, Russia has a large influence on determining global prices for oil.
 - (E) While Mexico produces 4.8 percent of the world's oil, it exports over 80 percent of it to the United States.
17. Which of the following statements best characterizes the varying geographic distribution of the electoral support received by the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) and the National Action Party (PAN) in Mexico since 2000?
- (A) The PRD and the PAN do equally well in the northern, central, and southern regions of Mexico.
 - (B) The PAN receives significantly more support in rural areas than the PRD does.
 - (C) The PRD receives significantly more support along the border with the United States than the PAN does.
 - (D) The PAN and the PRD do equally well in Mexico City.
 - (E) The PAN receives significantly more support in northern Mexico than the PRD does.
18. Democratic consolidation requires which of the following?
- (A) Direct election of the executive
 - (B) A system of judicial review by the courts
 - (C) Separation of powers among the different branches of government
 - (D) That a former colonizer help with political change
 - (E) That both elites and nonelites be committed to democratization in spite of difficulties
19. The electoral system in the United Kingdom tends to
- (A) reflect parliamentary seat allocation as a percentage of votes received by each party
 - (B) result in minority or coalition governments
 - (C) result in a House of Commons that mirrors demographic characteristics of the population
 - (D) hold the combined popular vote for center and national parties at about 15 percent
 - (E) exaggerate the scale of victory of the largest party

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20. Which of the following pairs of countries are considered rentier states?
- (A) China and Russia
 - (B) China and Mexico
 - (C) Iran and Mexico
 - (D) Iran and Nigeria
 - (E) Nigeria and Russia
21. Nigeria's democratization process is best described as a
- (A) rejection of patrimonial rule
 - (B) smooth transition from colonial rule to self-rule
 - (C) successful effort to dismantle the prebendal system
 - (D) process imposed by the country's former colonial rulers
 - (E) process interrupted by frequent military intervention
22. One of the reasons that the effects of ethnic conflict in China have been limited is
- (A) Tibet has been the only problematic area under Chinese military and political control
 - (B) the relatively small population and geographic isolation of China's ethnic minorities
 - (C) most Chinese are Buddhist and therefore pacifists not given to revolt and rebellion
 - (D) the militant elements were driven out of China in the 1940s with the Nationalist Kuomintang
 - (E) most Chinese are happy to have a strong and centralized state that projects power
23. In Iran, the head of the judiciary is
- (A) appointed by the Supreme Leader
 - (B) appointed by the Guardian Council
 - (C) appointed by the president and confirmed by the Guardian Council
 - (D) chosen by a two-thirds majority of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majles)
 - (E) chosen by majority vote in the Assembly of Religious Experts
24. The concentration of Nigeria's small number of industries in a few major cities can be best explained by
- (A) industrial policies pursued to achieve a limited impact on the environment
 - (B) easy access to the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Guinea from these cities
 - (C) ethnic politics, whereby political decisions override entrepreneurial preferences
 - (D) stipulations by international financiers who want easy access to these sites
 - (E) conscious decisions by the government to promote equitable growth across the country
25. Based on your knowledge of politics in Great Britain and Russia, which of the following conclusions is most accurate?
- (A) Elections in Russia are less volatile than are elections in Great Britain.
 - (B) The percentage of people who identify with a party in Great Britain exceeds the percentage of party identifiers in Russia.
 - (C) Trust in governmental institutions is lower in Great Britain than in Russia.
 - (D) The system of proportional representation has produced more coalition governments in Great Britain than in Russia.
 - (E) Whereas political parties are important in Great Britain, they are irrelevant in the Russian political system.

26. Which of the following statements is NOT an argument for European Union (EU) enlargement?
- (A) A larger EU will have more weight in trade negotiations with the rest of the world.
 - (B) Cheaper labor in new EU states will attract businesses from the developed West.
 - (C) The EU will help promote political stability in new member states.
 - (D) A larger EU provides new and diverse markets for all EU members.
 - (E) New member states will help contribute to a larger EU military to fight common problems.
27. Iran and China share which of the following institutional arrangements?
- (A) Federal division of power, which give the localities formal and entrenched powers over the central government
 - (B) A single-party rule
 - (C) Competitive elections involving multiple parties
 - (D) A president who serves for life unless removed by a popularly elected assembly
 - (E) A national assembly with only limited powers to oversee the executive and enact laws
28. Although Russia is no longer a communist state, one feature it shares with communist China is
- (A) continued opposition to the growth of capitalism
 - (B) an unwillingness to become involved with international organizations like the World Trade Organization
 - (C) government restrictions on the development of civil society
 - (D) a lack of political parties
 - (E) a majority of the economy is devoted to heavy industry
29. One of the primary functions of Russia's Constitutional Court is to
- (A) oversee the impeachment process
 - (B) validate the results of elections
 - (C) amend the Constitution
 - (D) exercise judicial review
 - (E) approve appointments to the Duma Judiciary Committee

VOTING AND LEGISLATIVE SEAT ALLOCATION

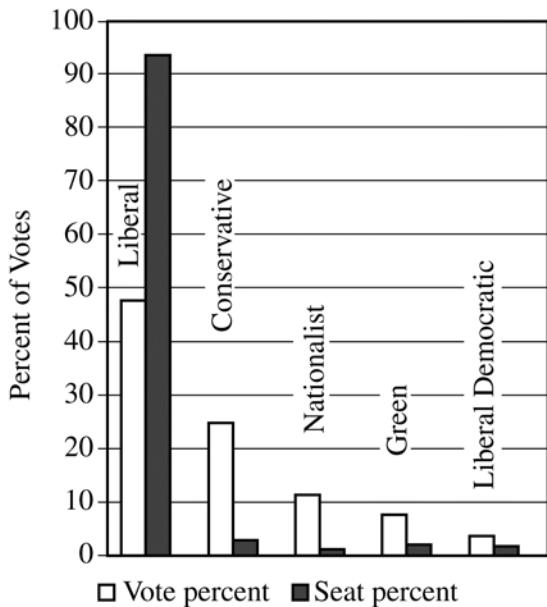


Figure A

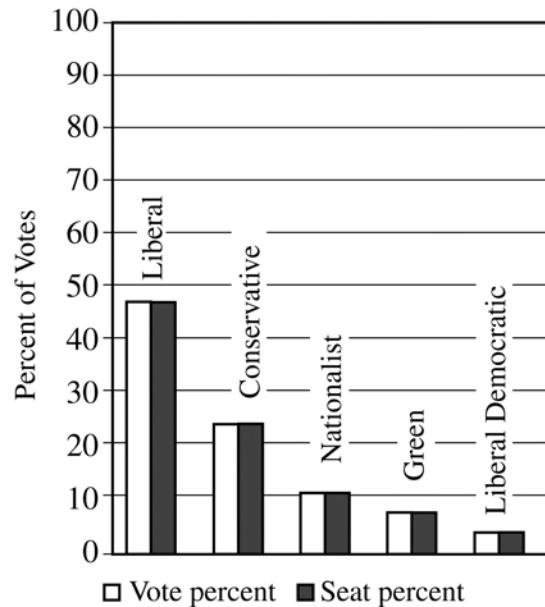


Figure B

30. Which of the following statements best represents the outcomes of the two elections illustrated above?
- Figure A represents a proportional representation system, while Figure B shows a first-past-the-post outcome.
 - Figure A and Figure B show Liberals surreptitiously getting more seats even when they had fewer votes.
 - Figure A shows the outcome in a first-past-the-post electoral system, while Figure B shows the outcome in a proportional representation system.
 - In a liberal democracy, liberals are unlikely to win as many votes as shown in the figures.
 - Figures A and B show that right-wing conservatives and left-wing radicals have been left out of the elections.

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31. Which of the following is true of the current Mexican Constitution?
- (A) It outlines a unitary system in which the executive branch predominates.
 - (B) It provides for broad involvement of the Roman Catholic Church in the policy-making process.
 - (C) It eliminates quotas for the number of female officials in the national legislature and judiciary.
 - (D) It establishes several autonomous areas in which indigenous groups govern themselves and are immune from national laws.
 - (E) It declares that all subsoil rights are the property of the nation and limits foreigners' rights to exploit natural resources.
32. Which of the following do Nigeria and China have in common?
- (A) Both countries have vibrant and free media.
 - (B) Despite ethnic and religious diversity, neither country has experienced violence.
 - (C) A majority in both countries are Muslim.
 - (D) A majority in both countries are Christian.
 - (E) The dominance of a single political party.
33. Which of the following is a potential problem associated with using gross national product (GNP) when doing research in comparative politics?
- (A) It only counts the market value of all final goods and services produced within a country.
 - (B) As an aggregating measure, it tells us nothing about the economic or human condition of the people living in an economy.
 - (C) There is no uniform measurement of GNP across different countries.
 - (D) Fewer countries report GNP than gross domestic product (GDP) on a regular and timely basis.
 - (E) It includes the value of goods produced outside the country.
34. Which of the following have veto power over legislation passed by the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majles) ?
- (A) The Assembly of Religious Experts and the Expediency Council
 - (B) The Assembly of Religious Experts and the Guardian Council
 - (C) The Guardian Council and the Supreme Leader
 - (D) The Guardian Council and the president
 - (E) The president and the Supreme Leader
35. The apparently smooth succession in China of General Party Secretary from Jiang Zemin to Hu Jintao in 2002 was unusual in which of the following ways?
- (A) It represented the success of a so-called silent coup by the People's Liberation Army.
 - (B) It represented the continuing significance of charismatic authority to boost legitimacy.
 - (C) It represented an unexpected shift back to greater ideological correctness and away from technocratic expertise.
 - (D) It represented increased predictability and an orderly transition process, following rules on term limits and retirement age.
 - (E) It represented the first direct election of the national party leader.
36. Which of the following groups would most likely support Mexico's Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) ?
- (A) Business owners
 - (B) Urban workers
 - (C) Large landowners
 - (D) Individuals who support a bigger role in politics for the Catholic Church
 - (E) Individuals who support greater privatization of state-owned enterprises
37. Iran and Nigeria differ in which of the following ways?
- (A) Iran's legal system is based on common law, but Nigeria's is based on Shari'ah law.
 - (B) Iran is a unitary state, but Nigeria is a federal state.
 - (C) Nigeria relies on the exportation of oil to bolster its economy, but Iran does not.
 - (D) Nigeria has regular elections, but Iran does not.
 - (E) Nigeria allows women access to formal education, but Iran does not.

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38. Mexican political culture differs from Nigerian political culture in which of the following ways?
- (A) Mexicans have historically supported military intervention in politics, while Nigerians have violently protested military rule.
 - (B) Mexicans have a strong sense of national identity, while Nigerians identify more strongly with their individual ethnic group.
 - (C) Mexicans strongly approve of authoritarian leadership, while Nigerians approve of democratic leadership.
 - (D) In Mexico gender equality is an important political norm, while in Nigeria women are seen as politically inferior.
 - (E) In Nigeria individual liberty is valued over the community's welfare, while in Mexico limits on individual liberty are widely supported.
39. Which of the following is an accurate statement about the Chinese Communist Party and public policy issues?
- (A) The Chinese Communist Party responded quickly to the SARS epidemic by passing out free medicine to citizens.
 - (B) The Chinese Communist Party encourages couples to have several children, to counter the effects of an aging population.
 - (C) The Chinese Communist Party has largely ignored environmental problems and instead has focused on economic growth.
 - (D) China requires all 18-year-olds to complete two years of service in the military.
 - (E) All leadership positions within the Chinese Communist Party are decided by open and transparent elections.
40. Which of the following is the best indicator of a successful transition to democracy?
- (A) One political party dominates all institutions of government.
 - (B) Several political parties merge to form one centrist party.
 - (C) Chief executives dominate the political process.
 - (D) Judges defer to elected officials when interpreting the constitution.
 - (E) Political actors accept electoral competition, citizen participation, and rule of law.
41. In Iran, the concept of jurist guardianship states that
- (A) the Supreme Court has the power to overturn legislative decisions
 - (B) the Supreme Court has the power to overturn clerical teachings
 - (C) the legislature has the power to overturn presidential decisions
 - (D) senior clerics have authority over the entire community
 - (E) citizens have the right to remove judges through recall elections
42. Which of the following best describes Mexico's National Action Party (PAN) prior to its presidential election victory in 2000 ?
- (A) It shunned electoral politics, viewing political campaigning as a bourgeois enterprise.
 - (B) It was victorious in several mayoral elections in Mexico City.
 - (C) It won several gubernatorial elections in the northern part of the country.
 - (D) It sought a national electoral alliance with the Party of Democratic Revolution (PRD).
 - (E) It focused its efforts on causing gridlock in the Chamber of Deputies.
43. Which of the following identifies two basic elements of all modern representative democracies?
- (A) Free and fair elections and widespread suffrage
 - (B) A written constitution and separation of powers
 - (C) Free speech and private ownership of all industry
 - (D) Proportional representation and a judiciary with the power of constitutional review
 - (E) Representative government and separation of executive and legislative powers
44. Russia's president may serve
- (A) indefinitely
 - (B) one four-year term only
 - (C) one six-year term only
 - (D) two successive four-year terms
 - (E) two successive six-year terms

45. When the Labour Party came to power in the 1997 general election in the United Kingdom, it promised to reform the House of Lords. Which of the following best represents their publicly stated position?
- (A) The Labour Party wanted to curb power, because members of the House of Lords did not agree with the House of Commons on legislative issues.
- (B) The Labour Party wanted to remove the right of hereditary peers to make the chamber more representative and democratic.
- (C) The Labour Party's reform goal was the result of a public consultation showing that British citizens wanted fewer hereditary peers.
- (D) The Labour Party wanted to put an end to scandals by the British royal family and other aristocrats.
- (E) The Labour Party was concerned about the wasteful expenditures incurred by the members of the upper House.
46. One difference between the parliamentary and presidential forms of government is that the presidential form
- (A) ensures there will be no periods of divided government
- (B) sets no fixed term of office for the executive
- (C) makes the executive subject to a possible vote of no confidence by the legislature
- (D) creates a stronger sense of party discipline
- (E) makes the executive electorally independent of other branches of government
47. Which of the following best characterizes the Iranian Revolution?
- (A) A prolonged uprising based on guerrilla warfare in the countryside
- (B) A bloodless coup d'état that installed a repressive military regime
- (C) A strategy of terrorist attacks in Tehran and other urban centers
- (D) A short, relatively nonviolent upheaval supported by the middle class
- (E) A war of national independence against a colonial power
48. Which of the following trends does modernization theory predict?
- (A) Increasing differentiation between male and female gender roles
- (B) Increasing polarization among class-based political parties
- (C) Decreasing levels of political participation
- (D) Declining intensity and political relevance of religious beliefs
- (E) Decreasing levels of political efficacy
49. A policy used by the governments of China and Nigeria to lessen ethnic tensions is to
- (A) devolve considerable power to local units of government
- (B) require that the cabinet contain members from every ethnic group in the country
- (C) allow representation of local interests in the upper house of the national legislature
- (D) allow national government exemptions and quotas for ethnic minorities
- (E) promote special treatment of ethnic minorities in schools
50. Which of the following has been the most contentious issue between Mexico and the United States in recent years?
- (A) Arms control
- (B) Global warming
- (C) Immigration policies
- (D) Unfair trade practices
- (E) International terrorism
51. Both Mexico and Russia have recently experienced similar types of domestic institutional problems with
- (A) weak judicial systems lacking independence
- (B) accusations of rigged local elections
- (C) hard-liners competing for control of the parliament
- (D) calls for unitary government
- (E) the arrest of prominent oil company executives

52. Which of the following best describes global trends in domestic politics?
- (A) There are more democracies than a decade ago.
 - (B) More countries are choosing to return to monarchy.
 - (C) There are more communist regimes since the late 1990s.
 - (D) More and more states are turning to autarky.
 - (E) Authoritarian regimes have been eliminated.
53. Which of the following pairs of countries have federal systems?
- (A) China and Russia
 - (B) Great Britain and Nigeria
 - (C) Great Britain and Russia
 - (D) Iran and Mexico
 - (E) Mexico and Nigeria
54. Which of the following factors is correlated most closely with an individual's willingness to participate in politics in a democracy?
- (A) Age
 - (B) Gender
 - (C) Personal economic situation
 - (D) Whether the individual's parents participated in politics
 - (E) Education level
55. Which of the following is NOT a political party operating in the United Kingdom?
- (A) Labour Party
 - (B) Conservative Party
 - (C) Progressive Royalists Party
 - (D) Scottish National Party
 - (E) Plaid Cymru

END OF SECTION I.

**IF YOU FINISH BEFORE TIME IS CALLED, YOU MAY
CHECK YOUR WORK ON THIS SECTION.**

DO NOT GO ON TO SECTION II UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.

Section II

Free-Response Questions

COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Section II

Time—1 hour and 40 minutes

Directions: You have 100 minutes to answer five short-answer concept questions, one conceptual analysis question, and two country context questions. Unless the directions indicate otherwise, respond to all parts of all eight questions. It is suggested that you take a few minutes to plan and outline each answer. We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes total on questions 1 through 5, 30 minutes on question 6, and 40 minutes total on questions 7 and 8. These suggested times do not reflect the weight of the questions as part of your AP exam score. In your responses, use substantive examples where appropriate. Make certain to number each of your answers as the questions are numbered below.

Short-Answer Concepts: We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes total on questions 1 through 5.

1. Define political efficacy. Describe TWO characteristics of a political system that strengthen political efficacy.
2. Define the term “regime” as used in comparative politics. Using Nigeria as an example, describe the difference between regime change and a change in government.
3. Identify a country from the AP Comparative Government and Politics course that exhibits procedural democracy but not substantive democracy. Explain your answer by contrasting the concepts “procedural democracy” and “substantive democracy.”
4. Explain a difference between a single-member-district electoral system and a proportional-representation electoral system. Describe two distinct changes made to Russia’s electoral system effective in 2007.
5. Describe one similarity and describe one difference between the World Trade Organization and the European Union in their relationships to sovereign states.

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

6. Political legitimacy is a fundamental concept in comparative politics and is important for governments as well as citizens.
 - (a) Define political legitimacy.
 - (b) Describe two ways in which political legitimacy can be achieved in a democratic state.
 - (c) Describe two ways of establishing political legitimacy in a communist state.
 - (d) Explain how legitimacy impacts governmental effectiveness.

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

7. Presidential and parliamentary systems share both similarities and differences in the relationships between their executive branch and their legislature branch.
 - (a) Identify and explain one way the relationship between the Mexican president and the Mexican legislature is similar to the relationship between the British prime minister and the British parliament.
 - (b) Identify and explain two ways the relationship between the Mexican president and the Mexican legislature and that of the British prime minister and the British parliament are different from each other.
 - (c) Explain one advantage of the relationships between branches in a parliamentary system and one advantage of the relationships between branches in a presidential system.
8. Public policies differ immensely among the AP Comparative Government and Politics countries. Using Iran and China as case studies, complete the following tasks.
 - (a) Describe the challenges facing the Iranian and Chinese governments concerning the environment.
 - (b) Identify and describe the role of two political policy makers that influence environmental policy in Iran.
 - (c) Identify and describe the role of two political policy makers that influence environmental policy in China.
 - (d) Compare the effectiveness of the Iranian and Chinese governments in addressing environmental policies.

STOP

END OF EXAM

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AP® Comparative Government and Politics
Student Answer Sheet for Multiple-Choice Section

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AP® Comparative Government and Politics
Multiple-Choice Answer Key

No.	Correct Answer
1	C
2	E
3	C
4	E
5	E
6	C
7	B
8	B
9	D
10	B
11	B
12	E
13	B
14	C
15	A
16	E
17	E
18	E
19	E
20	D
21	E
22	B
23	A
24	C
25	B
26	E
27	E
28	C
29	D
30	C

No.	Correct Answer
31	E
32	E
33	B
34	C
35	D
36	B
37	B
38	B
39	C
40	E
41	D
42	C
43	A
44	D
45	B
46	E
47	D
48	D
49	D
50	C
51	A
52	A
53	E
54	E
55	C

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Question 1

3 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct definition of political efficacy.

Acceptable definitions include:

- Political efficacy is a citizen's belief that he or she can understand and influence government or political affairs.
- Political efficacy may also be understood as a self-organized group's beliefs that its members can understand and influence governmental affairs or political issues.

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for each characteristic of a political system that strengthens political efficacy.

Acceptable descriptions of characteristics that strengthen political efficacy include:

- Transparency in governance and policy making.
- Regular, free, fair, and competitive elections and outcomes that reflect popular electoral choices.
- A citizen's and group's right to protest.
- A citizen's right to petition, call for a referendum, recall officeholders.
- Access of citizens or groups to a free and independent media.
- Citizens' right to organize and form interest groups.
- Party systems that enable participation and/or representation.

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

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

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Question 2

2 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct definition of regime.

Acceptable definitions should address a regime as:

- A political system with a specific pattern of relationship between the state, society, markets, and the world at large.

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for describing the difference between a change in regime and a change in government, using examples from Nigeria.

Acceptable descriptions of the differences between a change in regime and a change in government include:

- A regime change is a change in the pattern of government; an example of a regime change is the declaration of Nigerian independence and the end of British rule.
- A change in government is a change in leadership/administration. A new administration, led by a new executive officer following a free and fair election, constitutes a change in government.
- An example of regime change occurred when Nigeria went from military-based authoritarian rule to a democratically elected president (Abudakar to Obasanjo)
- An example of a change in Nigerian government occurred when there was a change in presidents, from Obasanjo to Yar'Adua.

Note: Other examples from Nigeria may be used and receive credit.

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

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

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Question 3

2 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct identification of a country exhibiting procedural but not substantive democracy.

- Countries meeting the criteria for procedural but not substantive democracy include Russia, Iran, China, and Nigeria.

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct contrast of procedural and substantive democracy.

Acceptable contrasts of procedural and substantive democracy include:

- A procedural democracy is a democracy in which citizens have all the symbols or trappings of democratic process, but these symbols or trappings carry far less influence than in traditional, substantive democracies.
- Although citizens in a procedural democracy may be able to elect officials to public office, such citizens have little real influence on policy legislation and execution, unlike citizens in substantive democracies.
- Unlike substantive democracies, procedural democracies are often managed by members of a bureaucratic elite that considers the electoral process important enough to ensure that election procedures are followed and that basic electoral structures and institutions are maintained, without letting citizens have many other freedoms or liberties.
- In substantive democracies, the electoral process gives all eligible citizens the opportunity to equal participation in truly fair, frequent, and competitive elections. In procedural democracies, elections may take place, but they are not necessarily fair, frequent, or competitive.

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

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

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Question 4

3 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for explaining the difference between a single-member-district electoral system and a proportional representation electoral system.

Acceptable explanations include:

- In a single-member-district electoral system, one person is elected from a district to represent that district's constituents. This is different from a proportional representation electoral system that focuses on parties rather than on individual candidates; the percentage of the vote received by a party roughly corresponds to the percentage of that party's seats in parliament.
- In a single-member-district electoral system, the winner is determined by who receives the most votes (a plurality), and the loser gets no seats or representation (winner-take-all). In a proportional representation electoral system, all parties that pass predetermined thresholds receive legislative seats proportional to the vote.
- A single-member-district electoral system tends to produce a two-party system, while a proportional representation electoral system tends to produce multi-party systems.

Note: There are some examples of proportional representation where voters vote for an individual chosen by the party rather than for a party or a party list.

Part (b): 2 points

One point each is earned for describing two distinct changes to Russia's electoral system that took effect in 2007.

Acceptable answers include:

- In the Duma, there was a change in seat allotment, from half single-member seats and half proportional-representation seats to all proportional-representation seats. Legislation authorizing this change was adopted in 2005 and implemented in the 2007 parliamentary elections.
- The electoral threshold for a seat in the Duma was raised to 7 percent of the vote from 5 percent, effectively excluding minor parties.
- As a result of the two changes described above, parties above the new threshold level, particularly United Russia, will get a much bigger share of seats than their real poll support implies.
- The number of requirements needed to be considered a national party increased.

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

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

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Question 5

2 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for giving a correct similarity between the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the European Union (EU).

Acceptable similarities include:

- Both organizations are voluntary associations of sovereign states organized to solve collective action problems.
- Both organizations are committed to resolving and settling disputes among member states through negotiation and mediation.
- Both organizations have binding trade policies with consequences for breaking a policy.
- Both organizations have the overall goal of greater flow of free trade.
- Both organizations require that states apply and meet certain criteria in order to join.
- Both organizations have evolved and expanded over time.

Part (b): 1 point

One point is earned for giving a correct difference between the WTO and the EU.

Acceptable differences include:

- The EU is limited geographically to countries in Europe, but the WTO is open to any country in the world meeting certain criteria.
- The WTO is designed to supervise and liberalize international trade, while the EU is a single market governed by a system of laws that apply in all member states, guaranteeing the freedom of movement of people, goods, services, and capital.
- The WTO is governed by a Ministerial Conference that meets about every two years; the EU is governed by several institutions, including the European Commission, the Council of the European Union (Council of Ministers), and the European Parliament.
- The WTO is an international organization, while the EU is a supranational and intergovernmental organization.
- The EU has a common currency, while the WTO does not.
- The citizens of EU countries vote for members of the EU parliament, while there is no direct citizen involvement in the WTO.

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

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

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Question 6

6 points

Part (a): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct definition of political legitimacy.

An acceptable definition is:

- Political legitimacy is the belief of citizens that the government has the right to rule/exercise authority.
- Political legitimacy is also a citizen's belief that she or he should accept the authority of the state because the state has the right to rule.

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for each correct description of how political legitimacy can be achieved in a democratic state.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Political legitimacy may be achieved in a democratic state by holding free and fair elections at regular intervals; voters feel they have real choices in elections.
- Political legitimacy may be achieved in a democratic state through explicit rules written and agreed upon in a national document such as a constitution.
- Political legitimacy may be achieved in a democratic state through elected officials (who are held accountable). It is understood that representatives may be removed from office if they do not accurately and adequately represent their constituents.
- A free and independent media helps with political legitimacy in a democratic state by providing citizens with multiple and unbiased sources of information.
- There is rule of law with predictable regulations and consequences for citizens who do not follow those regulations.

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for each correct description of how establishing political legitimacy can be achieved in a communist state.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Political legitimacy may be achieved in a communist state through effective resource allocation and economic and social equality.
- Political legitimacy may be achieved in a communist state by holding elections at regular intervals. There is a difference between elections in democracies and elections in communist states. While an election may be held in a communist state, it may not be competitive or free and fair. Nevertheless, leaders in communist states often feel compelled to hold elections to maintain a mandate from the people as well as to claim political legitimacy.
- Political legitimacy may be achieved in a democratic state through explicit rules written and agreed upon in a national document such as a constitution. Written rules may only be adhered to or "true" on paper, but they are still a source of political legitimacy.

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Question 6 (continued)

- Stability promotes political legitimacy in communist states by reducing chaos, violence, and crime.
- Democratic centralism may promote political legitimacy; the party vanguard speaks for the people (mass line).
- A charismatic leader, like Mao Zedong, promotes political legitimacy in communist states by inspiring followers.

Note: A student may use similar ideas to answer both parts (b) and (c) but must accurately describe how the idea works in either a democracy or a communist state. It is not enough to say “elections” for part (c), for example.

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for a correct explanation of how political legitimacy impacts governmental effectiveness.

Acceptable explanations include:

- Political legitimacy may help the government successfully implement its programs.
- Political legitimacy may mean that the government will be flexible in adapting programs to meet needs.
- Political legitimacy may impact the need of a government to use coercion.
- Political legitimacy may inspire citizen reaction to government policies (for example, calls for reform, revolution).

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

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

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Question 7

8 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for a correct identification of one similarity between the Mexican president and the British prime minister (the explanation must explicitly link the feature to the relationship):

Acceptable similarities include (identification in italics; explanation follows):

- In both systems it is the *role of the legislature to enact legislation*, so the executive needs the legislature to get laws passed.
- In both systems the *executive influences the legislative agenda* by drafting bills.
- In both systems the *executive is the head of government* so it is his or her job to carry out the laws the legislature has passed.
- In both systems the *legislature can remove the executive*, though in the Mexican system it is much more difficult.
- In both systems the *executive can introduce legislation* that gives her or him more direct authority vis-à-vis the legislature/parliament.

Part (b): 4 points

One point is earned for a correct identification of one way in which the relationships between the Mexican president and the Mexican legislature and the British prime minister and the British parliament are different from each other. One point is earned for a correct explanation of how this difference impacts the relationship between the executive and the legislative branch. The second 2 points are awarded for a second correct identification of differences (1 point) and a second explanation of how this difference impacts the relationship (1 point).

Acceptable differences include (identification in italics; explanation follows):

- *The possibility of divided government in the Mexican system* means less cohesion between the executive and legislative branches.
- *Cabinet responsibility in the British system* means that the parliament can remove the prime minister much more easily than the Mexican legislature can be rid of the president through the lengthy process of impeachment and trial.
- *The Mexican president is both head of state and head of government*, which means he or she can use symbolic authority to move public opinion to support him or her in a dispute with the legislature.
- *The Mexican president has to contend with two houses*, both of which are critical in passing legislation.
- *The British parliament selects the prime minister*, and this ties the two together much more closely than the *Mexican president who is elected independently* and so does not rely on the legislature for her or his position.
- The British prime minister and his or her cabinet hold concurrent seats as members of parliament.
- *The British prime minister and officials in her or his government must appear before the parliament in Question Hour*, which makes the prime minister much more accountable to parliament.

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Question 7 (continued)

- *The British system operates on the principle of parliamentary sovereignty*, so ultimately, parliament trumps.
- *The Mexican president has veto power*, which means that he or she can stop legislation.
- *The Mexican president has the power of decree*, so she or he can bypass the legislature.
- *The British prime minister has the power to call referenda*, so he or she can bypass parliament.

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for a correct explanation of an advantage of the relationships between the branches in a parliamentary system.

Acceptable explanations of advantages of a parliamentary system include:

- There is greater efficiency in lawmaking because of the fusion of executive and legislative branches.
- There is greater accountability of political parties.
- It is easier to remove the executive quickly by a vote of no confidence.

Acceptable explanations of advantages of a presidential system include:

- There is greater deliberation in presidential systems because of the system of checks and balances.
- Fixed terms in presidential systems allow for greater system stability, because elections are held in regular, predetermined intervals.
- Unity in the executive branch (one president as decision maker) could lead to decisive action, rather than having several people deciding on certain actions.

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

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

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Question 8

8 points

Part (a): 2 points

One point is earned for each correct challenge facing the Iranian and Chinese governments concerning the environment.

Acceptable descriptions of challenges for the Iranian government:

- Problems associated with being a rentier state; too much reliance on oil.
- Problems with developing nuclear energy (and not weapons).
- The country suffers from deforestation, water contamination, desertification, and air pollution in Tehran.

Acceptable descriptions of challenges for the Chinese government:

- Problems of extreme pollution (water, air).
- Need for more industrial resources (oil, wood, coal).
- Use of cheap gas and diesel adds to pollution.
- Rampant use of noxious chemicals and toxic elements in industry.
- Dislocation of citizens due to large projects (Three Gorges Dam).
- For a long time, the Chinese government downplayed environmental problems and focused on economic growth.

Part (b): 2 points

One point is earned for correctly identifying two political policy makers that influence environmental policy in Iran.

Acceptable identifications include:

- The Supreme Leader, the Iranian president, the Majlis, the Guardian Council.

One point is earned for correctly describing the role of two political policy makers in Iran.

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Executive: The Supreme Leader and president develop environmental policy at the executive level.
- Legislative: The Majlis and the Guardian Council adopt and approve environmental legislation.
- Interest Groups/Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs): There is limited work done by interest groups or citizen action for stricter environmental laws.
- International Groups: United Nations (UN)—particularly for nuclear energy.

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Question 8 (continued)

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for correctly identifying two political policy makers that influence environmental policy in China.

Acceptable identifications include:

- Communist Party, the Politburo, the Standing Committee, interest groups and NGOs, international organizations (UN, World Trade Organization [WTO]).

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Communist Party: The Communist Party, the Politburo, and the Standing Committee make all decisions regarding environmental policy, often without transparency.
- Interest Groups/NGOs: There is limited work done by interest groups for stricter environmental policies, including limited protests (especially about relocations due to projects like the Three Gorges Dam).
- International Groups: The UN and WTO try to enforce international norms on China.

Part (d): 2 points

One point is earned for a response that includes a general statement comparing the effectiveness of China and Iran in addressing environmental policies.

Examples:

- Both China and Iran have not been very effective in dealing with urban air pollution.
- Both China and Iran experience heavy air pollution from too many cars.

Two points are earned for a response that includes more specific statements comparing the effectiveness of China and Iran in addressing environmental policies.

Examples:

- Both the Chinese and Iranian governments do not regulate emissions from cars very well. There is an unusually high amount of air pollution in Tehran and Beijing, and it is continually getting worse.
- In both China and Iran, the quality of fossil fuels used by citizens is fairly low and damaging to the environment. In China, there is an abundance of leaded gasoline and cheap diesel. Because Iran is one of the largest producers of natural gas and oil in the world, there is very little effort to control or limit consumption.
- In both China and Iran, there is an emphasis on the economy over the environment. China has experienced sustained, record economic growth, and although the water and air are extremely polluted, government officials are wary of implementing serious environmental reform. While the major export of Iran is fossil fuel, including oil and natural gas, it remains a net importer of refined petroleum products because of its processing limitations.

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Question 8 (continued)

- Unlike in Iran, there has been recent talk of environmental issues in China due to the upcoming 2008 Olympic Games. International groups have put pressure on China to tackle environmental issues—particularly air quality—prior to the games.
- Production and use of nuclear weapons have the potential to release horrific environmental damage. China has nuclear weapons, and Iran is reportedly in the process of developing weapons-grade material. The Iranian government's official stance is that Iran needs nuclear power for domestic energy consumption, a claim that some states say is dubious given Iran's status as one of the world's largest producers of fossil fuels. As Iran develops nuclear energy, there is a risk of long-term environmental contamination.

(Note: These lists are not exhaustive.)

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

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