

**2005 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 responses, use substantive examples where appropriate. Make certain to number each of your answers as the question is numbered below.

**Economic, Political, and Social Indicators of Development for China and Russia**

Indicators	China	Russia
<b>1. GDP per capita</b> (in United States dollars)	4,600	8,800
<b>2. GDP by economic sector</b>		
Agriculture	18%	7%
Industry	49%	39%
Service	33%	53%
<b>3. Death rate</b>	6.77/1,000	13.91/1,000
<b>4. Life expectancy</b>	71.86	70.02
Male	67.29	62.29
<b>5. Literacy</b>	81.5%	98%
Female	72%	97%
<b>6. Infant mortality</b>	27.25/1,000	19.78/1,000
<b>7. Freedom house civil-liberties scale</b> (1 = most free, 7 = least free)*	6	5

Some percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

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1. In the last fifteen years, China and Russia have shifted significantly from centrally planned economies toward more market-driven economies, with divergent consequences for development.
  - (a) Using the data from two of the seven indicators in the table above, make and support an argument that either China or Russia is more developed than the other.
  - (b) Using two of the factors below, explain how, in the last fifteen years, each has contributed to the level of development of the more-developed country you identified in (a).
    - Institutional arrangements
    - International forces
    - Leadership change

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**GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.**

**2005 AP® COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS  
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

2. The office of executive consists of a head of government and a head of state.
- (a) Describe the main function of the head of government and the main function of the head of state.
  - (b) Identify the office that constitutes the head of government in Great Britain AND the office that constitutes the head of government in India or Mexico or Nigeria.
  - (c) Compare the head of government in Great Britain with the head of government in the country you chose in (b) in relation to each of the following.
    - The legislature/parliament
    - The electorate
3. The politics and public policies of France continue to be affected by its colonial experience in Algeria.
- (a) Explain how this colonial experience led to constitutional change in France.
  - (b) Use a specific example to demonstrate how this colonial experience influences a current political party or parties in France.
  - (c) Use a specific example to demonstrate how this colonial experience influences current public policy in France.

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**Political and Socioeconomic Indicators for India, Mexico, and Nigeria**

	India	Mexico	Nigeria
Percentage of government ministers that are female	10.1	10.1	22.6
Percentage of members of lower house of parliament that are female	9.0	16	3.4
Female labor force (as percentage of total labor force)	32	32	36
Fertility rate	3.1	2.8	5.2
Female literacy rate	45.4	89.5	55.7

4. The table above lists selected statistical indicators related to the status of females in India, Mexico, and Nigeria.
- (a) Using data from the table above, describe the level of female representation in national politics in India or Mexico or Nigeria.
  - (b) From the table above, select data from two socioeconomic indicators and use the data from each indicator to explain the level or type of female representation in national politics in the country you chose in (a).
  - (c) From your knowledge of the country you selected in (a), explain how one feature of its political system affects female representation in national politics in that country.

**END OF EXAM**

**2006 AP<sup>®</sup> COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**  
**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 definition and description 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.

Definition and Description: We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes total on questions 1 through 5.

1. Define illiberal democracy.
2. Identify two defining characteristics of corporatist systems that make them distinct from pluralist systems.
3. Define political legitimacy and list two sources of political legitimacy.
4. Identify two features of the Russian political system that make it a mixed presidential/parliamentary system of government.
5. There has been some debate as to whether economic growth causes democracy or merely correlates with democracy. Define the terms “correlation” and “causation.”

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

6. (a) Discuss two reasons why leaders of unitary systems might choose to decentralize power.  
(b) Describe one method used by leaders of unitary systems to decentralize power.  
(c) Describe how a decentralized unitary system differs from a federal system.

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**GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.**

**2006 AP<sup>®</sup> 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. The increasing international integration of economies has led to political debate in Great Britain and China.
- (a) For Great Britain, describe one argument for and one argument against joining the European Union (EU) single currency.
  - (b) Describe the current British government's response to the issue of the EU single currency.
  - (c) For China, describe one argument for and one argument against the privatization of industry.
  - (d) Describe the Chinese government's response to global pressures to privatize industry.
8. The process of democratization elicits both support and resistance. Respond to the following in the context of the past two decades.
- (a) Describe two measures taken by Iranian political leaders to democratize Iran's political process.
  - (b) Describe two ways in which Iranian political leaders have resisted democratization.
  - (c) Describe two measures taken by Nigerian political leaders to democratize Nigeria's political process.
  - (d) Describe two ways in which Nigerian political leaders have resisted democratization.

**STOP**

**END OF EXAM**

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**2007 AP® COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS  
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. Identify three functions of political parties common to authoritarian and democratic systems.
2. Define devolution. Identify one institution created by devolution in the United Kingdom in the past ten years.
3. Identify two similarities in the goals of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in China and the Cultural Revolution in Iran.
4. Describe one defining characteristic of a command economy and describe one defining characteristic of a market economy. Contrast these two characteristics.
5. Identify three different forms of political participation in authoritarian systems.

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

6. (a) Define bicameralism.  
(b) Identify one of the six countries covered in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course that has a bicameral national legislature.  
(c) Explain why a federal democracy is likely to have a bicameral national legislature.  
(d) Provide one other reason for a bicameral national legislature.  
(e) Describe two implications of federalism for the policy-making process.

**2007 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. The referendum is a feature of democratic politics.
- (a) Define referendum and describe one advantage for a government of holding a referendum.
  - (b) Identify the official who has the power to call a referendum in Great Britain. Describe one example of the use or proposed use of one specific national referendum in Great Britain.
  - (c) Identify the official who has the power to call a referendum in Russia. Describe one example of the use or proposed use of one specific national referendum in Russia.
8. (a) Describe one similarity in the procedure for selecting the President in Iran and in Nigeria.
- (b) Describe two differences in the procedure for selecting the President in Iran and in Nigeria.
  - (c) Explain why the Nigerian President has more power than the Iranian President.

**STOP**

**END OF EXAM**

**2008 AP® COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**  
**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 socialization. Identify one agent of political socialization. Explain how the agent you have identified promotes political socialization.
2. Explain what it means to say that a government has transparency. Describe two examples that show how the Chinese government since 1997 limits transparency.
3. Define sovereignty. Describe two ways in which member states give up some sovereignty as members of the European Union.
4. Define theocracy. Identify two national-level institutions in Iran for which members are directly elected by citizens.
5. Define a welfare state. Describe two examples of social welfare policy important to Great Britain.

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

6. States vary in terms of their party systems and electoral systems.
  - (a) Identify and explain the type of electoral system that tends to create a multiparty system.
  - (b) Identify and explain the type of electoral system that tends to create a two-party system.
  - (c) Describe one reason that a one-party system might emerge.
  - (d) Explain one advantage each of multiparty, two-party and one-party systems in a multiethnic society.

**2008 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. Various economic changes have affected the legal system in China.
- (a) Describe two reforms to the legal system in China in the past two decades.
  - (b) Explain two reasons that reforms to the legal system have occurred.
  - (c) Describe two important features of the Chinese legal system that have not changed in the past two decades.
8. Mexico and Russia have each experienced economic liberalization and political liberalization.
- (a) Define economic liberalization and define political liberalization.
  - (b) Describe one economic liberalization policy pursued in Mexico since 1985 and one economic liberalization policy pursued in Russia since 1991.
  - (c) Describe one political liberalization policy undertaken in Mexico since 1985 and one political liberalization policy undertaken in Russia since 1991.
  - (d) Compare one consequence of economic liberalization on social class in Mexico with one consequence of economic liberalization on social class in Russia.

**STOP**

**END OF EXAM**



**2009 AP® COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS  
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. Describe the status of private property in China under Mao. Identify and explain one policy undertaken by the Chinese government within the past 30 years that contradicts that policy.
2. Define political ideology. Identify one political party that participated in the 2006 presidential elections in Mexico and describe one central element of its political ideology.
3. Colonialism had an impact on both the colonizer and the colonized. Describe one example of how colonialism has shaped contemporary politics in Nigeria. Describe two examples of how colonialism has shaped contemporary politics in Great Britain.
4. Describe one feature of a bureaucracy in the context of an authoritarian system. Explain how that feature you have described can both help and hinder the effective implementation of public policy in an authoritarian system.
5. Identify two countries in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course—other than Iran—where religion serves as a source of political legitimacy. Describe how religion confers political legitimacy in each of the two countries that you have identified.

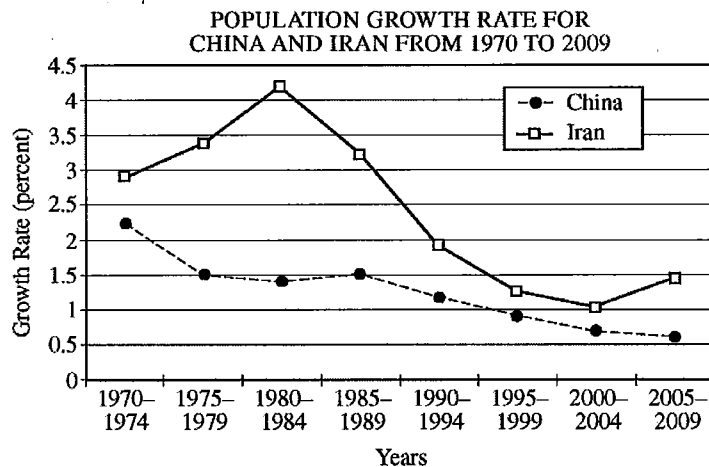
**Conceptual Analysis:** We suggest that you spend approximately 30 minutes on question 6.

6. (a) Describe one similarity and one difference between illiberal democracy and liberal democracy.  
(b) Identify an institution that would need to be changed to make an illiberal democracy more liberal.  
(c) Describe a change to the institution you identified in (b) that would facilitate a shift from illiberal to liberal democracy.  
(d) Explain why the change you described in part (c) would lead to a more liberal democracy.

2009 AP<sup>®</sup> 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

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**2010 AP<sup>®</sup> COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS  
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. Describe a major difference between federal and unitary systems. Identify one country among the six AP Comparative Government and Politics countries that has a federal system. Identify one country among the six that has a unitary system.
2. Use the following information to complete the tasks below.

SELECTED NATIONAL INDICATORS FOR TWO COUNTRIES		
	Country X	Country Y
Population	75 million	150 million
HDI ranking	43	88
GDP per capita	\$27,000	\$2,500
Percent of workforce in agriculture	4%	37%

- (a) Identify which country is more economically developed, Country X or Country Y.
  - (b) Select one of the indicators listed in the table and explain how that indicator can be used to support your answer in (a).
  - (c) Select another indicator listed in the table and explain how that indicator can be used to support your answer in (a).
3. Many outside observers express concern that Russia's political system became more authoritarian during the 2000-2008 presidency of Vladimir Putin. Explain three changes made during Putin's presidency that are evidence that the Russian political system became more authoritarian.
  4. Define a rentier (rent-seeking) state. Identify one rentier state among the six AP Comparative Politics and Government countries. Describe a problem that a rentier state typically faces that has an impact on economic development.
  5. Define a parliamentary system. Explain two challenges to the sovereignty of the parliament in Great Britain.

**2010 AP® COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS  
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

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

6. Many scholars think that civil society is important for the development of democracy.
- (a) Define civil society.
  - (b) Identify and explain one specific condition within a political system that would enable civil society to thrive.
  - (c) Identify and explain another specific condition within a political system that would enable civil society to thrive.

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

CONVENTIONAL FORMS OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NIGERIA		
Type of Participation	Great Britain	Nigeria
Voting (turnout)	61%	49%
Discussing politics with others	46%	74%
Signing a petition	81%	7%

Source: 2000-2002 World Values Survey and 1999 European Values Survey.

7. Political participation ranges from the most conventional forms of political activity, such as the ones listed in the table above, to the most extreme, such as violence being used as the primary means of political expression.
- (a) Identify a difference between Nigeria and Great Britain in the level of conventional forms of participation from the table above. Explain why the difference in levels of participation exists.
  - (b) Identify a second difference between Nigeria and Great Britain in the level of conventional forms of participation from the table above. Explain why the difference in levels of participation exists.
  - (c) Describe one specific incident of violent political activity in Great Britain in the last fifteen years. Describe one specific incident of violent political activity in Nigeria in the last fifteen years.
  - (d) Explain why citizens in both countries might choose violent acts over more conventional forms of political participation.

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**FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

8. Political competition and transparency are key concepts that political scientists use when evaluating political systems.
- (a) Describe political competition, and describe transparency in the context of politics.
  - (b) Explain the function of Iran's Guardian Council in the electoral process. Explain the function of Mexico's Institute of Federal Elections (IFE) in the electoral process.
  - (c) Compare transparency in the electoral process in post-1979 Iran with transparency in the electoral process in post-1985 Mexico.
  - (d) Compare political competition in the electoral process in post-1979 Iran with political competition in the electoral process in post-1985 Mexico.

**STOP**

**END OF EXAM**



**2011 AP® COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS  
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. Describe two distinct sources of political legitimacy established by the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Discuss one example of how having both those sources of political legitimacy simultaneously has led to tensions in Iran in the last fifteen years.
2. Describe a major function of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom. Explain one reason for the establishment of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom. Explain how membership in the European Union affects the judicial system in Great Britain.
3. Describe the single-member, winner-take-all electoral system. Describe the proportional representation electoral system. Explain why a proportional representation system is likely to lead to the election of a greater number of women in parliament.
4. Describe a major social cleavage in China. Discuss two policies the Chinese state has adopted since 1990 in response to that cleavage.
5. Globalization has both political and economic consequences. Define economic globalization. Describe one policy response of the Mexican government to economic globalization. Describe one organized response of Mexican citizens to economic globalization.

**2011 AP<sup>®</sup> COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**  
**FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

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

6. There are a variety of arrangements of power in executive-legislative relationships. Using your knowledge of the countries included in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course, complete the following tasks.
- (a) Describe the process used in a parliamentary system for the selection of the chief executive.
  - (b) Contrast the process you described in part (a) with the process used in a presidential system for the selection of the chief executive.
  - (c) Describe the process used in a parliamentary system for removing the chief executive.
  - (d) Contrast the removal process you described in part (c) with the process used in a presidential system for removing the chief executive.
  - (e) Other than the removal process, describe a check on executive power within a parliamentary system.

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

7. As in many multiethnic countries, religious and ethnic tensions are prominent in the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- (a) Describe federalism in Nigeria.
  - (b) Explain one way Nigeria's federal structure accommodates different religious groups AND one way the federal structure accommodates different ethnic groups.
  - (c) Identify the type of electoral system used in Nigeria.
  - (d) Explain two ways the Nigerian electoral system accommodates different ethnic groups.
  - (e) Explain why Nigeria's federal structure has been unable to resolve tensions in the Niger River delta.
8. Political scientists often examine political rights and civil liberties to assess regime type.
- (a) Define civil liberties. Explain the difference between political rights and civil liberties.
  - (b) Describe one example of how political rights have declined in Russia between 1995 and 2010. Describe one example of how civil liberties have declined in Russia between 1995 and 2010.
  - (c) Describe one example of how political rights have increased in Mexico between 1995 and 2010. Describe one example of how civil liberties have increased in Mexico between 1995 and 2010.
  - (d) Using the descriptions you provided in parts (b) and (c), assess the regime type in Mexico in 2010 and the regime type in Russia in 2010.

**STOP**  
**END OF EXAM**



**2012 AP<sup>®</sup> COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS  
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. Identify the country studied in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course that limits the chief executive to one term. Describe how a one-term limit can be an advantage for a political system. Describe how a one-term limit can be a disadvantage for a political system.
  
2. Define political socialization. Describe two methods Russian authorities currently use to socialize citizens.
  
3. Explain how two current environmental problems in China resulted from its economic liberalization. Describe one policy the Chinese government has developed in response to one of these environmental problems.
  
4. Describe the relationship between interest groups and the state in a pluralist system. Describe the relationship between interest groups and the state in a corporatist system. Identify one country studied in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course that historically was corporatist but is now pluralist.
  
5. Identify the institution in Iran that controls which candidates can run for the Majles. Describe how this institution controls the selection process. Explain how the candidate selection process influences electoral competition.

**2012 AP<sup>®</sup> COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**  
**FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

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

6. Many of the countries covered in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course are multinational states.
- (a) Define the concept of a state.
  - (b) Explain how a nation is different from a state.
  - (c) Describe one challenge governments face in securing stability in multinational states.
  - (d) Discuss two policies that governments have taken to address the challenge you described in part (c).

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

7. In China and Mexico, there have been significant geographic patterns of internal migrations of people over the past twenty years.
- (a) Describe the general pattern of internal migration within Mexico. Describe the general pattern of internal migration within China.
  - (b) Describe one economic policy that prompted the migration in Mexico. Describe one economic policy that prompted the migration in China.
  - (c) Describe a political consequence of the migration in Mexico. Describe a political consequence of the migration in China.
  - (d) Compare how the governments of both China and Mexico have responded to these migration pressures.
8. Great Britain and Russia have bicameral legislatures with a much stronger lower house, but with different relationships to the executive.
- (a) Describe two functions exercised by both the House of Commons in Great Britain and the Duma in Russia.
  - (b) Identify the electoral system in Great Britain and explain its effect on party representation in the House of Commons.
  - (c) Identify the electoral system in Russia and explain its effect on party representation in the Duma.
  - (d) Explain why the House of Commons is more effective in limiting the power of the executive in Great Britain than the Duma is in limiting the power of the executive in Russia.

**STOP**

**END OF EXAM**

**2013 AP<sup>®</sup> COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS  
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. Identify the two parties that formed the coalition government in Great Britain following the 2010 parliamentary elections. Explain one reason why they formed a coalition. Describe a domestic policy issue that has threatened the coalition.

2. Statement X: The rate of population growth has decreased in Iran since the 1990s.  
Statement Y: Developing countries should adopt population growth policies similar to Iran's.

Identify the empirical statement above. Identify the normative statement above. Explain the difference between a normative and an empirical statement.

3. Describe one major difference between a revolution and a coup d'état. Identify a country in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course where there have been several successful coups d'état in the past 50 years. Describe a political consequence of the coups d'état in the country you identified.

4. Define political legitimacy. Describe one source of political legitimacy for the office of the president in Russia. Describe a different source of political legitimacy for the office of the supreme leader in Iran.

5. Define the concept of supranational organization. Identify a supranational organization and name a country studied in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course that is a member of the organization. Identify another supranational organization and name a country studied in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course that is a member of the organization.

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**FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

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

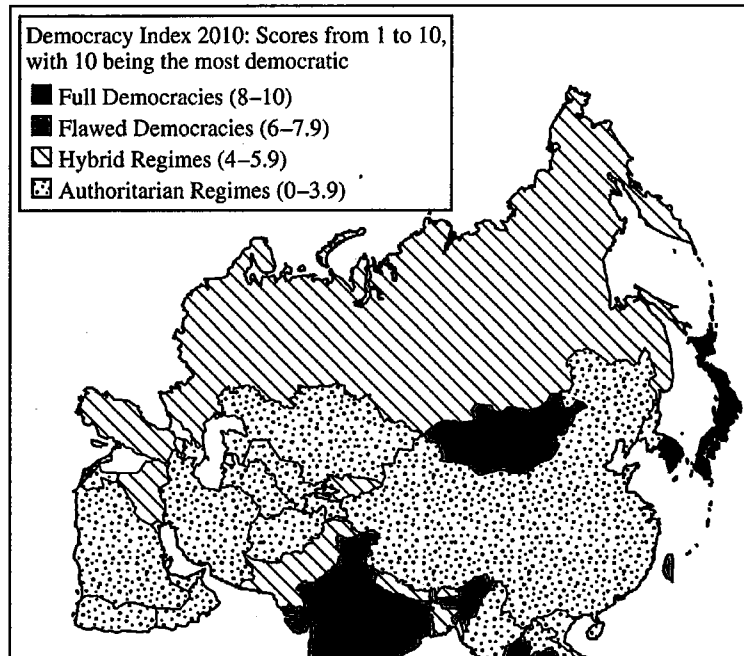
6. Political economy involves the study of the relationship between states and markets.
- (a) Define economic liberalization.
  - (b) Describe the actions governments take in pursuing a policy of economic liberalization regarding TWO of the following:
    - Subsidies
    - Tariffs
    - Ownership of companies and firms
    - Foreign direct investment
  - (c) Identify one international organization that promotes economic liberalization.
  - (d) Explain one reason for pursuing economic liberalization.
  - (e) Explain one reason for resisting economic liberalization.

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FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

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

7. Refer to the following map and indicators of democracy from the Economist Intelligence Unit.

**REGIME CLASSIFICATION OF ASIA, 2010**



Source: [http://graphics.eiu.com/PDF/Democracy\\_Index\\_2010\\_web.pdf](http://graphics.eiu.com/PDF/Democracy_Index_2010_web.pdf)

- (a) Define the concept of a hybrid regime.
- (b) Using the map above, identify the type of regime in Russia AND identify the type of regime in China.
- (c) Describe the characteristics of TWO of the following elements of Russia's political system. Explain how these characteristics contribute to the regime designation of Russia.
- Electoral competition
  - Civil society
  - Media
- (d) Describe the characteristics of TWO of the following elements of China's political system. Explain how these characteristics contribute to the regime designation of China.
- Electoral competition
  - Civil society
  - Media

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**2013 AP<sup>®</sup> COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**  
**FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

8. Ethnicity plays a role in politics in Mexico and Nigeria.
- (a) Describe a significant ethnic division in Mexico.
  - (b) Identify an ethnic movement that emerged in Mexico after 1990 and explain one reason why the movement arose.
  - (c) Describe a significant ethnic division in Nigeria.
  - (d) Identify an ethnic movement that emerged in Nigeria after 1990 and explain one reason why the movement arose.
  - (e) Explain one reason why ethnicity has played a more significant role in Nigerian than in Mexican politics.

**STOP**

**END OF EXAM**

**2014 AP® COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS  
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. Identify one natural resource on which Russia's economy depends. Describe how the Russian government's control over natural resources has changed since 2000. Describe one political consequence of the change in the Russian government's control over natural resources since 2000.
2. Chinese leaders today differ from those under Mao Zedong in terms of their professional and educational backgrounds as well as their ideology. Describe two differences between today's Chinese Communist Party leaders and those under Mao. Explain how one of the differences you described has influenced economic policy in China.
3. Describe the role of the state in Great Britain's health-care system. Describe how the age structure is changing in Great Britain. Explain how the changing age structure is affecting Great Britain's health-care system.
4. Identify one country studied in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course that provides for a runoff for the election of its chief executive. Describe how the runoff election system works in the country you identified. Explain why a country might establish a runoff election system.
5. Describe how the Nigerian armed forces undermined the stability of the Nigerian state between 1960 and 1999. Identify the commander in chief of the armed forces in Nigeria as stipulated by the Nigerian Constitution of 1999. Describe how the Nigerian armed forces have been used to strengthen the stability of the Nigerian state since 1999.

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FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

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

6. Legislatures are important institutions in both authoritarian and democratic regimes.
- (a) Identify a function of a legislature that is common to both democratic and authoritarian regimes.
  - (b) Explain how a function of a legislature can strengthen democracy.
  - (c) Describe two ways a legislature can be controlled in an authoritarian regime.
  - (d) Explain why authoritarian regimes maintain legislatures.



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**FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

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

7. Both unitary and federal systems may decentralize power.
- (a) Define a unitary system.
  - (b) Describe how Great Britain has decentralized power since 1997.
  - (c) Define federalism.
  - (d) Explain how Mexico's political system limited the decentralization of power prior to 2000.
  - (e) Explain one advantage of decentralization for public policy. Explain one disadvantage of decentralization for public policy.

**2014 AP<sup>®</sup> COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS  
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

8. There are similarities and differences in the sources of authority for leaders in China and Iran.
- (a) Describe two formal powers of Iran's supreme leader.
  - (b) Identify two official positions that China's head of state typically holds today.
  - (c) Describe one similarity in the sources of authority of Iran's supreme leader and of China's head of state.
  - (d) Describe one difference in the sources of authority of Iran's supreme leader and of China's head of state.

**STOP**

**END OF EXAM**

2015 AP<sup>®</sup> COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS  
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Section II

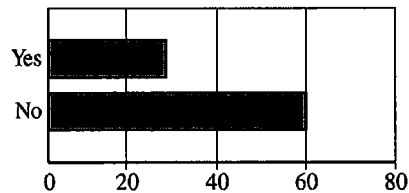
Time—1 hour and 40 minutes

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.

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

1. Identify one ethnic minority group officially recognized by the Chinese government. Describe one special protection that the Chinese government extends to the group you identified. Explain why the Chinese government extends special protections to some of China's ethnic minority groups.
2. Describe why governments adopt austerity measures. Identify one austerity measure adopted by the British government since 2007. Explain one political consequence of that measure.
3. Identify one way members of the Guardian Council are selected. Describe two specific functions of the Guardian Council.
4. Explain how independent judiciaries strengthen democracy. Describe two actions that an authoritarian regime can take to undermine the independence of the judiciary.

PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO  
WERE ASKED IF THEY WERE SATISFIED WITH  
THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN RUSSIA



Source: Pew Research Global Attitudes Project, 2011

5. Write an empirical statement using the data from the graph above. Write a normative statement using the data from the graph above. Identify which type of statement a political scientist would use to make a factual argument: empirical or normative.



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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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FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

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

7. Party systems in Mexico and Russia affect the political legitimacy of each state.
- (a) Identify Mexico's historically dominant party, and identify the type of party system Mexico currently has.
  - (b) Describe two reforms since 1980 that facilitated Mexico's transition away from a dominant party system.
  - (c) Identify Russia's current dominant party.
  - (d) Describe two reforms since 2000 that allowed Russia to establish a dominant party system.
  - (e) Explain how a dominant party system can promote political legitimacy. Explain how a dominant party system can hinder political legitimacy.





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FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

8. The governments of both Great Britain and Nigeria have responded to domestic terrorism in the last twenty years.
- (a) Identify one group that has engaged in terrorism in Great Britain and describe its major demand.
  - (b) Describe one policy response the government of Great Britain adopted to address domestic terrorism.
  - (c) Identify one group that has engaged in terrorism in Nigeria and describe its major demand.
  - (d) Describe one policy response the government of Nigeria adopted to address domestic terrorism.

STOP  
END OF EXAM

