



AP[®] Comparative Government and Politics 2014 Free-Response Questions

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**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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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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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.

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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