AP®

AP® Comparative Government and Politics
Scoring Guidelines
Set 2

Question 1: Conceptual Analysis   4 points

(A)   Describe the concept of the state.   **1 point**
          Acceptable descriptions include:

- Political organizations (or set of formal rules or institutions) that have at least two of the following:

  o sovereignty (internal and/or external)
  o control over people
  o a defined territory
  o international recognition
  o governing institutions
  o a permanent population

Note: an acceptable response must contain at least two of the elements of the description to earn credit. Responses that only refer to people are not enough to earn credit.

(B)   Describe one difference between a state and a nation.   **1 point**
          Acceptable descriptions include:

- A state has sovereignty, while a nation is not considered sovereign and lacks control over its people.
- A state refers to specific territory, while a nation is defined by a group of people, not a specific piece of territory.
- A state refers to institutions, while a nation refers to people with commonalities such as race, language, religion, ethnicity, and political identity.

(C)   Explain one reason why a state might fail.   **1 point**
          Acceptable explanations include:

- A state might fail because it loses legitimacy and the support of its people.
- A state might fail because it lacks capacity or is unable to meet the essential needs of its people, such as providing security.
- A state might fail due to significant cleavages if they lead to conflict and civil war.
- A state might fail if it is too weak to stop an invasion, war, or other takeover by an outside actor.

(D) Explain why multinational states might face challenges in establishing legitimacy.   **1 point**
Acceptable explanations include:

- Multinational states may have difficulty establishing legitimacy because people affected by existing cleavages might feel excluded from the political process and do not support the state.
- Multinational states might face challenges in establishing legitimacy because there are conflicting interests and competition among groups.
- Multinational states might face challenges in establishing legitimacy because there is pressure from neighboring countries that sense government weakness and vulnerability.

Total for question 1   4 points

Question 2: Quantitative Analysis   5 points

(A)	Using the data in the graph, identify the country with the lowest level of trust from 2016 to 2021.	**1 point**

An acceptable identification includes:

Russia

(B)	Using the data in the graph, describe a change in the level of trust in Mexico from 2017 to 2021.	**1 point**

Acceptable descriptions include:

- The level of trust in Mexico rose from 50 in 2017 to nearly 60 in 2021.
- The level of trust in Mexico increased.
- The level of trust in Mexico increased by almost 10 points from 2017 to 2021.

(C)	Describe political stability.	**1 point**

Acceptable descriptions include:

- The durability of a political regime over time.
- The ability of a government to provide for the needs of its people to maintain the public's confidence in the institution of the state over time.
- A state is politically stable when it can endure threats to its sovereignty.

(D)	Using the data in the graph, draw a conclusion about China's policies in maintaining political stability.	**1 point**

Acceptable conclusions include:

- Chinese citizens have high levels of trust in the Chinese government because the government has successfully focused on economic growth to maintain political stability.
- Chinese citizens have high levels of trust in the government because the government has effectively censored the media to maintain political stability.

(E)	Explain what the data in the graph imply about corruption in Russia.	**1 point**

Acceptable explanations include:

- The data in the graph imply that there are high levels of corruption because Russian citizens are unlikely to trust a corrupt government.

Total for question 2   5 points

Question 3: Comparative Analysis   5 points

(A) Describe the main function of the legislative branch of government in most countries.   **1 point**

Acceptable descriptions include:

- The legislative branch is typically responsible for creating and passing laws.
- The legislative branch represents the interests of the people.
- The legislative branch can check the power of the executive branch.
- The legislative branch usually oversees the budget.

(B) Describe the selection process of members of the lower or single house of the legislative branch in two AP Comparative Government and Politics course countries.   **2 points**

Acceptable descriptions include the following (max one point per country):

China

In China, the National People's Congress is indirectly elected by the local peoples' congresses or a series of local and regional elections.

Iran

In Iran, the Majles is directly elected in single-member or multimember districts after being vetted by the Guardian Council.

Mexico

- Mexico uses a mixed system to elect members of the lower house (Chamber of Deputies) in which some members are elected by single-member district plurality and others through proportional representation.
- Some members of Mexico's lower house (Chamber of Deputies) are directly elected, and some members of the Chamber of Deputies are elected through proportional representation.

Nigeria

In Nigeria, the lower house (House of Representatives) is elected through single-member district plurality.

Russia

In Russia, half the Duma is elected from single-member districts, and the rest through proportional representation.

The United Kingdom

In the United Kingdom, members of the lower house (the House of Commons) are elected through a single-member district plurality or first-past-the-post rules.

(C)	Explain the extent to which legislative power is formally constrained in the two AP Comparative Government and Politics course countries described in (B).	**2 points**

Acceptable explanations include the following (max one point per country):

China
- In China, the Chinese Communist Party is the actual center of power in the Chinese state, which constrains the NPC from acting independently.
- In China, the NPC is constrained by its two-week session that serves to pass CCP policies without extensive debate.

Iran
- In Iran, the Guardian Council and/or the supreme leader has the power to veto laws that are not compatible with Sharia and can overrule the Majles.
- In Iran, the Expediency Council resolves disputes between the Majles and the Guardian Council, overruling the decisions of the Majles.

Mexico
- In Mexico, the president can veto laws passed by the legislature, overruling the decisions by the legislature.
- In Mexico, the Supreme Court can declare laws unconstitutional, overruling decisions by the legislature.
- In Mexico, bicameralism makes lawmaking more difficult because laws have to pass two chambers.

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- In Nigeria, the Supreme Court can declare laws unconstitutional, overruling decisions by the legislature.
- In Nigeria, bicameralism makes lawmaking more difficult because laws have to pass two chambers.

Russia
- In Russia, the president can veto laws passed by the legislature, overruling the decisions by the legislature.
- In Russia, the president can issue decrees contradicting the laws passed by the legislature.
- In Russia, the Constitutional Court can declare laws unconstitutional, overruling decisions by the legislature.
- In Russia, the president can dissolve the Duma which constrains the president's ability to act independently.

The United Kingdom
- In the United Kingdom, the House of Lords can delay legislation and can force the lower house to modify legislation.
- In the United Kingdom, there are few limits on the legislative power as the parliamentary system fuses power and thereby avoids gridlock.

Total for question 3   5 points

Question 4: Argument Essay   5 points

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria	
Row A Claim/Thesis **(0–1 points)**	**0 points** Does not meet the criteria for one point.	**1 point** Responds to the prompt with a defensible claim or thesis that establishes a line of reasoning.

	Decision Rules and Scoring Notes	
	Responses that do not earn this point: • Only restate the prompt. • Do not make a claim that responds to the prompt.	**Responses that earn this point:** • Respond to the prompt rather than restating or rephrasing the prompt and establish a line of reasoning. • Provide a defensible claim or thesis that establishes a line of reasoning as to whether environmental issues increase or decrease political legitimacy using one or more of the provided course concepts: demographic change, globalization, sovereignty.
	Examples that do not earn this point: **Restate the prompt** • *"Climate change related to events such as flooding is bad for a country's economy."* • *"Political legitimacy is affected by environmental issues in China."* **Do not respond to the prompt** • *"Every country is negatively affected by environmental issues."* • *"Environmental disasters are worse in developing countries than in developed countries."*	**Examples that earn this point:** • *"When governments tackle environmental issues that transcend sovereign borders such as global warming, they can increase political legitimacy by getting public buy-in and participation."* • *"Climate change related events will cause governments to forcibly relocate people which will cause resistance and loss of political legitimacy."* • *"Environmental crises like uncontrolled air pollution resulting in part from globalization have the potential to decrease political legitimacy if the government cannot effectively respond to them."* • *"Improvements in the environment and health of citizens encouraged by abiding by international agreements or rules set by supranational organizations often lead to increased domestic political legitimacy."*

Additional Notes:
- The claim or thesis must consist of one or more sentences that may be located anywhere in the response.
- A claim or thesis that meets the criteria can be awarded the point whether or not the rest of the response successfully supports that line of reasoning.

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria		
Row B Evidence **(0–2 points)**	**0 points** Does not meet the criteria for one point.	**1 point** Provides <u>one</u> piece of specific and relevant evidence from a course country relevant to one of the course concepts in the prompt.	**2 points** Provides <u>two</u> pieces of specific and relevant evidence from one or more course countries relevant to one or more of the course concepts in the prompt.
	Decision Rules and Scoring Notes		
	Responses that do not earn points: • Do not provide any accurate evidence. • Provide evidence that is not relevant to the course concepts in the prompt.	**Responses that earn 1 or 2 points:** • Provide specific and relevant evidence from required course countries, relevant to the course concepts in the prompt.	
	Examples that do not earn points: **Provide evidence that is not specific** • *"Environmental disasters are bad for China's economy."* **Provide evidence that is not relevant to course concepts in the prompt** • *"Iran has adapted well to an increase in global temperatures."*	**Examples of acceptable specific and relevant evidence (one example is one piece of evidence):** • *"In China, people have been relocated away from vulnerable areas—such as when people were relocated for the construction of the Three Gorges Dam."* • *"In Russia, the permafrost thaw is endangering key infrastructure such as oil pipelines used to connect Russia to the global economy, causing methane and anthrax pockets to emerge and release into water supplies and air."* • *"In Russia, drought in the breadbasket areas of the Black Earth region is expected to reduce agricultural production which could increase Russia's dependence on foreign grain imports."* • *"In the UK, heat waves have increased and intensified and pose a threat to public health."* • *"The UK government has reduced emissions by 51% since 1990 in response to requirements imposed by international agreements. Their emissions are now half-way to net zero, their goal for 2050."* • *"Demographic change in Nigeria forced by environmental consequences of climate change may increase conflict."* • *"Economic consequences of environmental changes in Nigeria due in part to globalization include loss of agricultural production and land degradation."* • *In Mexico, landfalling storms with heavy rains damage property, leading to secondary events such as mudslides, endangering life and property, which may cause large-scale migration from vulnerable areas."* • *"Because of industrialization demands of globalization in Mexico, air pollution is a major problem in large cities."* • *"Deforestation is a problem in Mexico to meet global demands for lumber."*	
	Additional Notes • A response does not need to earn the point in Row A to earn points in Row B. • A response does not need to explain the relationship between the evidence and the claim or thesis to earn points in Row B. (That explanation is evaluated in Row C.)		

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria	
Row C Reasoning **(0–1 points)**	**0 points** Does not meet the criteria for one point.	**1 point** Explains how or why the evidence supports the claim or thesis.
	Decision Rules and Scoring Notes	
	Responses that do not earn this point: • Include evidence but offer no reasoning to connect the evidence to the claim or thesis. • Restate the prompt without explaining how the evidence supports the claim or thesis.	**Responses that earn this point:** • Explain the relationship between the evidence provided and the claim or thesis.
	Examples that do not earn points: • *"Climate events put a strain on a country's economy and are difficult to plan for."* • *"Environmental issues affect political legitimacy and have a global impact."*	**Examples of reasoning that explain how evidence supports the claim or thesis:** • *"Climate change related events, combined with urbanization put citizens at risk of suffering property loss, injury, and death. Without effective governmental responses, political legitimacy will decline as citizens feel alienated and endangered."* • *"Working to solve environmental issues that transcend international borders can increase political legitimacy because people see the government establishing regulations and rules that are for the greater good for all citizens of the world."*
	Additional Notes: • To earn this point, the response must have a defensible claim or thesis (earned the point in Row A). • The explanation of the relationship between one piece of evidence and the claim or thesis is sufficient to earn this point.	

Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria	
Row D Responds to Alternate Perspectives **(0–1 points)**	**0 points** Does not meet the criteria for one point.	**1 point** Responds to an opposing or alternate perspective using refutation, concession, or rebuttal.
	Decision Rules and Scoring Notes	
	Responses that do not earn this point: • Restate the opposite of the claim or thesis. • May identify or describe an alternate perspective but do not refute, concede, or rebut that perspective.	**Responses that earn this point:** • Must describe an alternate perspective AND refute, concede, or rebut that perspective.
	Examples of responses that do not earn the point: **Restate the opposite of the claim or thesis** • *"Many scholars disagree about the impact that environmental issues have on globalization and political legitimacy."* **Describe an alternate perspective but do not refute, concede, or rebut that perspective** • *"Not all environmental crises negatively impact a political legitimacy."*	**Examples of acceptable responses to an alternate perspective may include:** • *"Some people argue that environmental crises like uncontrolled air pollution resulting from globalization have the potential to decrease political legitimacy. However technological advances provide the necessary solutions to many environmental crises so that governments will be able to respond without losing legitimacy in the eyes of their citizens."* • *"Some people argue that recognizing and responding to climate change with constructive policies will increase legitimacy. However, governmental policies addressing climate change will damage the economy and will actually reduce domestic legitimacy."*
	Additional Notes • To earn this point, the response must have a defensible claim or thesis (earned the point in Row A). • Responses that demonstrate an incorrect understanding of the alternate perspective do not earn this point.	