

# ap comp gov practice mcq

## Introduction to AP Comparative Government Practice MCQ

**AP Comp Gov practice MCQ** (Multiple Choice Questions) are an essential resource for students preparing for the Advanced Placement Comparative Government and Politics exam. These practice questions help students familiarize themselves with the exam format, hone their analytical skills, and reinforce their understanding of key concepts, political systems, and theories. By engaging with well-constructed MCQs, students can identify areas of strength and weakness, enabling targeted study and ultimately improving their exam performance.

## Understanding the Role of Practice MCQs in AP Comparative Government

### Why Practice MCQs Are Crucial for Exam Success

Multiple Choice Questions are a significant component of the AP Comparative Government exam, typically comprising about half of the total score. Practicing MCQs offers several benefits:

- **Familiarity with Exam Format:** Regular practice helps students understand the structure, question style, and wording used in the actual test.
- **Time Management Skills:** Students learn to allocate appropriate time to each question, reducing anxiety and improving pacing.
- **Concept Reinforcement:** MCQs often test core concepts, facts, and analytical skills, reinforcing classroom learning.
- **Assessment of Knowledge Gaps:** Practice questions reveal areas needing further review, guiding study priorities.

### Types of MCQs in AP Comparative Government

The exam features various types of multiple-choice questions that assess different cognitive skills:

1. **Recall Questions:** Testing factual knowledge, such as definitions, dates, and key figures.
2. **Application Questions:** Applying concepts to hypothetical or real-world scenarios.

3. **Analysis Questions:** Analyzing political structures, processes, or data.
4. **Synthesis Questions:** Combining multiple concepts to draw conclusions or make predictions.

## Key Content Areas Covered by AP Comp Gov Practice MCQs

### Core Topics and Themes

To excel at the exam, students must master a broad range of topics. Practice MCQs are designed to test knowledge across these core areas:

- **Constitutionalism and Federalism:** Understanding different systems of government, constitutional arrangements, and the distribution of power.
- **Political Institutions:** Examining legislatures, executives, judiciaries, and electoral systems.
- **Political Culture and Participation:** Analyzing voter behavior, political socialization, and civic engagement.
- **Political Ideologies and Ideological Systems:** Understanding liberalism, conservatism, socialism, communism, and other ideologies.
- **States and Sovereignty:** Exploring the nature of state authority, sovereignty, and state capacity.
- **Development and Economic Systems:** Comparing capitalism, socialism, and mixed economies.
- **Nations and Nationalism:** Examining identity, nationalism, and ethnic conflicts.
- **International Relations and Globalization:** Understanding the role of international organizations, diplomacy, and global economic systems.

### Sample Topics for Practice MCQs

Some specific topics frequently tested include:

- Differences between unitary and federal systems
- The role of the judiciary in protecting rights

- Electoral system types and their effects on party systems
- The impact of political culture on policy-making
- Comparative analysis of authoritarian vs. democratic regimes
- The influence of political ideologies on government policies

## Strategies for Effectively Using Practice MCQs

### Preparing with Practice MCQs

Effective preparation involves integrating practice MCQs into a comprehensive study plan:

1. **Regular Practice:** Schedule daily or weekly sessions dedicated to MCQ practice to build familiarity and confidence.
2. **Simulate Exam Conditions:** Take practice tests under timed, exam-like conditions to improve time management and reduce test anxiety.
3. **Review and Analyze:** After completing practice questions, thoroughly review explanations for both correct and incorrect answers.
4. **Identify Patterns:** Notice recurring question types or themes to focus study efforts where they are most needed.

### Tips for Answering MCQs Effectively

To maximize scores, students should adopt strategic approaches when tackling MCQs:

- **Read Carefully:** Pay close attention to question wording, as nuances can change the meaning.
- **Eliminate Wrong Choices:** Narrow options by ruling out clearly incorrect answers.
- **Watch for Keywords:** Words like “most,” “least,” “always,” or “never” can provide clues.
- **Manage Time Wisely:** Avoid spending too long on difficult questions; mark and revisit if time permits.
- **Guess Strategically:** If unsure, make an educated guess rather than leaving questions blank, as there is no penalty for guessing.

# Resources for AP Comp Gov Practice MCQs

## Official College Board Resources

The College Board provides official practice questions and released exams that closely mimic the actual test:

- **AP Comparative Government Practice Exams**
- **Sample Multiple Choice Questions**
- **Scoring Guidelines and Explanations**

## Additional Practice Materials

Supplemental resources include:

- Review books from publishers like Barron's, Princeton Review, and Fiveable
- Online quiz platforms such as Quizlet or Khan Academy
- Teacher-created practice tests and question banks

## Conclusion: Mastering AP Comp Gov through Practice MCQs

Practice MCQs are an indispensable component of effective AP Comparative Government preparation. They serve not only to familiarize students with exam format but also to deepen understanding of core concepts, improve critical thinking, and develop test-taking skills. By consistently engaging with practice questions, analyzing performance, and refining strategies, students can approach the exam with confidence and maximize their potential for scoring well. Remember, the key to success lies in deliberate practice, thorough review, and strategic time management. With dedication and the right resources, mastering AP Comp Gov MCQs is an achievable goal that can significantly enhance overall exam performance.

## Frequently Asked Questions

## **What is the primary purpose of the AP Comparative Government practice MCQs?**

To help students prepare effectively for the AP Comparative Government exam by testing their understanding of key concepts and topics.

## **Which topics are most commonly covered in AP Comparative Government MCQs?**

Topics such as political systems, regimes, political institutions, political culture, and policy-making processes across different countries.

## **How can practicing MCQs improve performance on the AP Comparative Government exam?**

Practicing MCQs enhances understanding of exam format, improves time management, and reinforces knowledge of key concepts and details.

## **What are some effective strategies for answering AP comp gov MCQs?**

Read questions carefully, eliminate obviously incorrect options, look for keywords, and use process of elimination to select the best answer.

## **Are there specific countries that are frequently featured in AP comp gov MCQs?**

Yes, countries like the United Kingdom, Russia, China, Nigeria, Iran, and Mexico are often featured due to their diverse political systems.

## **What types of questions are typically included in AP comp gov practice MCQs?**

Questions may focus on concepts, comparisons between countries, identification of political institutions, or analysis of political culture and policies.

## **How important is understanding key political terminology for AP comp gov MCQs?**

Very important, as precise understanding of terms like sovereignty, legitimacy, regime types, and political participation is essential for selecting correct answers.

## **Can online practice MCQs help identify areas of weakness in**

## **AP comp gov knowledge?**

Yes, taking practice MCQs allows students to pinpoint topics where they need further review and focus their study efforts accordingly.

## **What resources are recommended for practicing AP Comparative Government MCQs?**

Official AP prep books, practice tests from reputable educational websites, and AP classroom resources provided by teachers are highly recommended.

## **Additional Resources**

AP Comp Gov Practice MCQ: A Comprehensive Guide for Success

In the realm of Advanced Placement Comparative Government and Politics (AP Comp Gov), mastering multiple-choice questions (MCQs) is an essential component of excelling on the exam. These questions serve as a vital tool to assess students' understanding of complex political concepts, institutions, and ideologies across different countries. For students aiming to secure a high score, practicing with well-constructed MCQs not only enhances content knowledge but also sharpens critical thinking and test-taking strategies. This article provides an in-depth exploration of AP Comp Gov practice MCQs, offering insights into their structure, common themes, effective strategies, and resources to optimize your preparation.

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## **Understanding the Role of MCQs in AP Comparative Government and Politics**

Multiple-choice questions are a core element of the AP Comp Gov exam, typically comprising a significant portion of the assessment. Their primary purpose is to evaluate a student's comprehension of key concepts, ability to analyze political phenomena, and application of knowledge across different countries and systems.

## **The Significance of MCQs in the Exam**

- Assessing Foundational Knowledge: MCQs test recall of important facts, definitions, and basic concepts such as sovereignty, legitimacy, political ideologies, and electoral systems.
- Analyzing Comparative Data: They often present data, charts, or scenarios requiring interpretation and comparison.
- Applying Theoretical Frameworks: Questions challenge students to apply political theories to real-world contexts, such as understanding the impact of a military coup or the role of the judiciary.
- Developing Critical Thinking: Well-designed MCQs push students to analyze options critically, eliminating distractors and identifying the best answer based on evidence.

# **The Structure of AP Comp Gov MCQs**

Most multiple-choice questions in the AP Comp Gov exam follow a standard format:

- Scenario or Data Presentation: Some questions include a brief scenario, data set, or political event description.
- Question Stem: A direct question or incomplete statement that guides what to analyze.
- Answer Choices: Typically four options, with one correct answer and three distractors designed to test misconceptions or common errors.

Understanding this structure helps students anticipate question types and develop effective strategies for tackling them.

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## **Common Themes and Topics in AP Comp Gov Practice MCQs**

AP Comp Gov covers a diverse range of themes, each frequently tested through MCQs. Familiarity with these themes enhances students' ability to recognize patterns and anticipate questions.

### **1. Political Systems and Regimes**

- Democracy vs. authoritarianism
- Types of government (parliamentary vs. presidential)
- Hybrid regimes
- Examples: UK, Russia, China, Iran

### **2. Political Institutions**

- Executive, legislative, and judicial branches
- Electoral systems (proportional, majoritarian)
- Party systems and electoral laws
- Constitutions and rule of law

### **3. Political Culture and Participation**

- Voting behavior and electoral participation
- Social movements and protests
- Political socialization
- Civic culture

## **4. Sovereignty, Authority, and Legitimacy**

- Sources of authority
- State capacity and legitimacy
- National identity and nationalism
- Decolonization and state-building

## **5. Ideologies and Political Ideologies**

- Liberalism, conservatism, socialism, communism
- Populism and nationalism
- Impact on policy and governance

## **6. Development and Economic Systems**

- Capitalism, socialism, mixed economies
- Economic policies and reforms
- Globalization effects

## **7. International Relations**

- Sovereignty and international organizations
- Foreign policy decisions
- Conflicts and diplomacy

Being well-versed in these themes allows students to approach MCQs with confidence, recognizing relevant concepts quickly.

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## **Effective Strategies for Tackling AP Comp Gov Practice MCQs**

Success in answering MCQs hinges on a combination of content mastery and strategic test-taking skills. Here are proven methods to optimize your performance:

### **1. Read Questions Carefully**

- Pay close attention to the question stem to understand what is being asked.
- Identify keywords and qualifiers such as “most,” “least,” “according to,” or “which of the

following.”

## **2. Use Process of Elimination**

- Discard clearly incorrect options first.
- Beware of distractors that are plausible but incorrect.
- Narrow down choices to increase the probability of selecting the correct answer.

## **3. Look for Absolute Language**

- Words like “always,” “never,” or “all” often indicate an incorrect choice in political contexts—be cautious.
- Options with moderate language may be more accurate.

## **4. Analyze Data and Scenarios Thoroughly**

- When presented with charts or data, interpret what the information reveals before choosing an answer.
- Cross-reference data with your knowledge of political systems.

## **5. Practice with Timed Conditions**

- Simulate exam conditions to improve your speed.
- Allocate roughly 1-2 minutes per question to ensure timely completion.

## **6. Review Mistakes Carefully**

- After practice sessions, analyze errors to identify knowledge gaps.
- Understand why certain options are incorrect to avoid similar mistakes.

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## **Resources for AP Comp Gov Practice MCQs**

Access to high-quality practice questions is vital for effective preparation. Here are some recommended resources:

## **1. College Board Official Practice Tests**

- The College Board provides past exam questions and practice tests.
- Offers authentic question styles and difficulty levels.

## **2. Review Books and Study Guides**

- Popular titles include AP Comparative Government & Politics Premium and Cracking the AP Comparative Government & Politics Exam.
- Contain practice questions with detailed explanations.

## **3. Online Platforms and Quizzes**

- Websites such as Albert.io, Khan Academy, and AP Classroom offer interactive practice.
- Many platforms categorize questions by country and topic.

## **4. Flashcards and Question Banks**

- Create or use pre-made flashcards focusing on key concepts and terms.
- Use question banks to test knowledge regularly.

## **5. Study Groups and Peer Quizzing**

- Engaging with peers to quiz each other fosters active recall.
- Discussing reasoning behind correct and incorrect options deepens understanding.

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## **Integrating Practice MCQs into Your Study Routine**

For optimal results, integrate MCQ practice into a comprehensive study plan:

- Daily Practice: Dedicate 15-30 minutes to answering a set of MCQs.
- Weekly Simulations: Take full-length practice exams to build endurance.
- Targeted Review: Focus on topics where accuracy is lowest.
- Use of Feedback: Review explanations thoroughly to clarify misunderstandings.
- Continuous Progress Tracking: Keep records of scores to monitor improvement.

By systematically incorporating practice MCQs into your study routine, you'll build confidence, improve accuracy, and develop the critical thinking skills necessary to excel on the AP Comp Gov

exam.

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## Conclusion

Mastering AP Comp Gov practice MCQs is a cornerstone of effective exam preparation. These questions encapsulate the breadth and depth of political science concepts, requiring both factual recall and analytical skills. Through understanding their structure, familiarizing yourself with core themes, employing strategic approaches, and utilizing high-quality resources, you can enhance your readiness for the exam. Remember, consistent practice, coupled with reflective review, will position you to navigate even the most challenging questions with confidence and clarity. As you progress, keep in mind that mastering MCQs not only boosts your test scores but also deepens your understanding of the complex political landscapes that shape our world.

## [Ap Comp Gov Practice Mcq](#)

**ap comp gov practice mcq: 5 Steps to a 5: AP Comparative Government** Suzanne Bailey, Glenn Hastedt, 2018-04-03 The newest addition to the popular test prep series that has prepared millions of students for AP exams in every subject AP Comparative Government and Politics is a fast-growing Advanced Placement test. This new addition to the popular test prep series covers the current course syllabus and will help you build the skills, knowledge, and test-taking confidence you need to reach your full potential. 5 Steps to a 5: AP Comparative Government & Politics includes three practice tests reflecting the actual exam, detailed answers to each question, study tips, information on how the exam is scored, and more. Score-Raising Features Include: •3 full-length practice exams •Hundreds of practice exercises with thorough answer explanations •Comprehensive overview of the AP Comparative Government exam format •Authentic practice questions that reflect both multiple-choice and free-response question types, just like the ones you will see on test day, along with detailed answer explanations and sample responses •Addresses all topics at the depth and in the style required for the AP Comparative Government exam •Proven strategies specific to each section of the test

**ap comp gov practice mcq: 5 Steps to a 5: AP Comparative Government, 2nd Edition** Suzanne Bailey, 2020-10-02 MATCHES THE LATEST EXAM! In this hybrid year, let us supplement your AP classroom experience with this easy-to-follow study guide! The immensely popular 5 Steps to a 5 AP Comparative Government guide has been updated for the 2020-21 school year and now contains: 3 full-length practice exams that reflect the latest exam Up-to-Date Resources for COVID 19 Exam Disruption Comprehensive overview of the AP Comparative Government exam format Hundreds of practice exercises with thorough answer explanations Practice questions that reflect both multiple-choice and free-response questions types, just like the ones you will see on test day Proven strategies specific to each section of the test

**ap comp gov practice mcq: AP Comparative Government and Politics** Jeff Davis, 2020-07-07 Be prepared for exam day with Barron's. Trusted content from AP experts! Barron's AP Comparative Government and Politics: 2020-2021 includes in-depth content review and online practice. It's the only book you'll need to be prepared for exam day. Written by Experienced Educators Learn from Barron's--all content is written and reviewed by AP experts Build your understanding with comprehensive review tailored to the most recent exam Get a leg up with tips, strategies, and study advice for exam day--it's like having a trusted tutor by your side Be Confident on Exam Day Sharpen your test-taking skills with 3 full-length practice tests, including one

full-length diagnostic test to target your studying Strengthen your knowledge with in-depth review covering all Units on the AP Comparative Government and Politics Exam Reinforce your learning with practice by tackling the review questions at the end of each chapter

**ap comp gov practice mcq: 5 Steps to a 5: AP Comparative Government** Suzanne Bailey, Glenn Hastedt, 2018-04-03 The newest addition to the popular test prep series that has prepared millions of students for AP exams in every subject AP Comparative Government and Politics is a fast-growing Advanced Placement test. This new addition to the popular test prep series covers the current course syllabus and will help you build the skills, knowledge, and test-taking confidence you need to reach your full potential. 5 Steps to a 5: AP Comparative Government & Politics includes three practice tests reflecting the actual exam, detailed answers to each question, study tips, information on how the exam is scored, and more. Score-Raising Features Include: •3 full-length practice exams •Hundreds of practice exercises with thorough answer explanations •Comprehensive overview of the AP Comparative Government exam format •Authentic practice questions that reflect both multiple-choice and free-response question types, just like the ones you will see on test day, along with detailed answer explanations and sample responses •Addresses all topics at the depth and in the style required for the AP Comparative Government exam •Proven strategies specific to each section of the test

**ap comp gov practice mcq: AP Government and Politics** Research and Education Associa, Research & Education Association, Jack Hamilton, Robert F Gorman, Robert F. Gorman, Scott J Hammond, Scott J. Hammond, P Babbitt, Elliot Kalner, Wesley Phelan, J Hamilton, Gerald G. Watson, Keith Mitchell, 1992-12-09 A NEWER EDITION OF THIS TITLE IS AVAILABLE. SEE ISBN: 978-0-7386-0267-7 Get the AP college credits you've worked so hard for... Our savvy test experts show you the way to master the test and score higher. This new and fully expanded edition examines all AP US & Comparative Government & Politics areas including in-depth coverage of branches of the US government and US voting behaviors. The comprehensive review covers every possible exam topic: the entire US Federal government; a comparative review of the governments of England, France, the former Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China; US political institutions, public opinion, voting behavior and more. Features 3 full-length practice exams with all answers thoroughly explained. Follow up your study with REA's test-taking strategies, powerhouse drills and study schedule that get you ready for test day. DETAILS - Comprehensive, up-to-date subject review of every US & Comparative Government & Politics area used in the AP exam - 3 Full-Length Practice Exams: All exam answers are fully detailed with easy-to-follow, easy-to-grasp explanations - Study schedule tailored to your needs - Packed with proven exam tips, insights and advice TABLE OF CONTENTS About Research & Education Association Study Schedules Study Schedule for the AP Exam in U.S. Government & Politics Study Schedule for the AP Exam in Comparative Government & Politics Chapter 1 - Succeeding on the AP Government & Politics Exams About the Advanced Placement Program The AP United States Government & Politics Exam The AP Comparative Government & Politics Exam About the Review Sections Scoring the Exam Scoring the Multiple-Choice Section Scoring the Free-Response Section The Composite Score Scores that Earn College Credit and/or Advanced Placement Studying for Your AP Examination Test-Taking Tips Chapter 2 - United States Government & Politics Review Constitutional Framework The Federal Government Public Policy Political Institutions and Special Interests Public Opinion and Voter Behavior Civil Rights and the Supreme Court Answer Key Chapter 3 - Comparative Government & Politics Review Britain France The Former Soviet Union (Commonwealth of Independent States) The People's Republic of China Answer Key Practice Test 1 - AP Examination in U.S. Government & Politics Answer Key Detailed Explanations of Answers Practice Test 2 - AP Examination in U.S. Government & Politics Answer Key Detailed Explanations of Answers Practice Test 3 - AP Examination in Comparative Government & Politics Answer Key Detailed Explanations of Answers Glossary ANSWER SHEETS APPENDICES including Annotated Articles of Confederation and United States Constitution Chapter 1 - Succeeding on the AP Government & Politics Exams This book will prepare you for the Advanced Placement Examinations in Government and Politics by giving you,

first and foremost, an accurate and complete representation of the actual exams for both United States Government and Politics and Comparative Government and Politics. But REA doesn't stop there: we give you thorough yet concise topical reviews, a series of targeted drills, and an up-to-date glossary that comprises the full range of terminology with which you should be familiar. If you are taking the United States Government and Politics exam, you'll want to concentrate on the first part of this book. The second part of the book is devoted to the Comparative Government and Politics exam. In both cases, you'll find a lively course review keyed to exactly the material you'll need to know to score well on the test, complemented by our handy glossary to help you get the most out of your study time. Two complete practice exams are provided for U.S. Government and Politics, while one full-length practice exam is provided for Comparative Government and Politics. Each REA practice exam features an answer key and detailed explanations for every question. The explanations not only provide the correct response but also tell you why the remaining answers shouldn't be chosen. By going over the appropriate review section(s), taking the corresponding exam(s), and studying our detailed explanations, you will discover your strengths and weaknesses and prepare yourself to score well on the AP Government and Politics exams.

About the Advanced Placement Program The Advanced Placement Program is designed to provide high school students with the opportunity to pursue college-level studies while still attending high school. The program consists of two components: an AP course and an AP exam. In addition, the AP in Government and Politics curriculum is divided into two courses: United States Government & Politics and Comparative Government & Politics. If you wish to pursue an Advanced Placement in Government and Politics course you may enroll in the United States course, the Comparative course, or both. You will be expected to leave the course(s) with college-level writing skills and knowledge of government and politics. Upon completion of the course(s), you may then take the corresponding AP exam(s). Test results are then used to grant course credit and/or determine placement level in the subject when you enter college. AP exams are administered every May. The exam schedule has been designed to allow you the opportunity to take both exams, if you are enrolled in both courses. If the United States exam is given during the morning administration, the Comparative exam will be given during the afternoon administration.

The AP United States Government & Politics Exam The United States exam is 145 minutes in length and is divided into two sections: I. Multiple-Choice (50% of your grade): This 45-minute section is composed of 60 questions designed to measure your understanding of facts, concepts, and theories pertinent to United States government and politics. Your ability to analyze and understand data, and the patterns and consequences involved with political processes and behaviors will also be tested. In addition you must have knowledge of the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas relevant to United States government and politics. II. Free-Response (50% of your grade): This 100-minute section consists of four mandatory questions, each of which accounts for one-fourth of your total free-response score. You should allot roughly 25 minutes - or one-quarter of the total time in the free-response segment - for each essay. Each question normally asks you to interrelate ideas from different content areas from among the topics listed below. In addition, you may also be asked to evaluate and define fundamental concepts in the study of United States politics, and possibly to analyze case studies that bear on political relationships and events in the United States. You will be required to demonstrate mastery of political interpretation, and analytic and organizational skills through writing. In addition, you may be presented with graphs, charts and tables from whose data you would be asked to draw logical conclusions. Here's a breakdown of coverage on the United States exam: Topics / % of Exam I. Constitutional Underpinnings of United States Government / 5-15% II. Political Beliefs and Behaviors / 10-20% III. Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Mass Media / 10-20% IV. Institutions of National Government: The Congress, the Presidency, the Bureaucracy, and the Federal Courts / 35-45% V. Public Policy / 5-15% VI. Civil Rights and Civil Liberties / 5-15%

The AP Comparative Government & Politics Exam The Comparative exam is 145 minutes long and is divided into two sections: I. Multiple-Choice (50% of your grade): This 45-minute section is composed of 60 questions designed to measure your understanding of facts, concepts, and theories pertinent to Comparative government and politics.

Your ability to analyze and understand data, and the patterns and consequences involved with political processes and behaviors will also be tested. The countries normally tested in the multiple-choice questions include Great Britain, France, the former Soviet Union (Commonwealth of Independent States), and China; these are referred to as the core countries tested on the exam. For certain questions, basic knowledge of the United States will be assumed.

**II. Free-Response (50% of your grade):** This 100-minute section consists of four mandatory questions, each of which accounts for one-fourth of your total free-response score. You should allot roughly 25 minutes - or one-quarter of the total time in the free-response segment - for each essay. Comparative Free-Response questions may require you to compare one or two of the core countries (Great Britain, France, China, and the former Soviet Union) with the developing nations of either India, Mexico, or Nigeria. To do this, you must be able to demonstrate knowledge of the politics of one of these developing nations. Here's a breakdown of coverage on the Comparative exam: Topics / % of Exam

- I. The Sources of Public Authority and Political Power / 5-15%
- II. Society and Politics / 5-15%
- III. The Relationship Between Citizen and State / 5-15%
- IV. Political and Institutional Frameworks / 35-45%
- V. Political Change / 15-25%
- VI. The Comparative Method / 5-10%

About the Review Sections As mentioned earlier, this book includes two reviews: one for United States Government and Politics, the other for Comparative Government and Politics. The United States Government and Politics Review covers all of the key information you'll need to score well on the United States exam. These topics include:

- Constitutional Framework
- The Federal Government
- Political Institutions and Special Interests
- Public Opinion and Voter Behavior
- Civil Rights and the Supreme Court

We also provide a glossary for the United States Government and Politics exam. Included are the key historical figures, court cases, programs, laws, etc., that often appear on this AP exam. The Comparative Review provides a thorough discussion of the material most often tested on the Comparative exam. Special emphasis is placed on the governments and politics of:

- Britain
- France
- The former Soviet Union
- The People's Republic of China

A glossary for the Comparative Government and Politics exam enables you to brush up on terms that you are likely to encounter on this test.

**Scoring the Exam** After the AP administrations, more than 1,700 college professors and secondary school teachers are brought together to grade the exams during the first two weeks of June. These readers are chosen from around the United States for their familiarity with the AP program. The Multiple-Choice sections of the Comparative Government & Politics and U.S. Government & Politics exams are scored by granting one point for each correct answer and deducting one-fourth of a point for each incorrect answer. Unanswered questions receive neither credit nor deduction. The Free-Response answers are read and scored using a specific set of objective criteria, but the actual points available for each question may vary from administration to administration. For purposes of this discussion - and REA's practice tests - the Comparative exam questions will yield a score between 0 and 9 (with 0 being the lowest and 9 the highest) on Free-Response Part I, and a score of between 0 and 5 (with 0 being the lowest and 5 the highest) on Free-Response Part II. All four Free-Response items on our U.S. Government practice exam are scored on the 0-to-9 scale. Once the responses are graded, the scores can be converted. The AP Government and Politics exam is based on a 120-point scale. The breakdown of the percentages and points is as follows (note that the available free-response points will vary):

Once raw scores have been obtained for each section, they are weighted to produce a composite score. Then the composite scores for each section are added together to form a total composite score for the exam. The range for the composite score is from 0 to 120. Finally, the composite score is translated into a range of from 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest.

**Scoring the Multiple-Choice Section** Use this formula to calculate your raw score for the multiple-choice section:  $(\# \text{ right answers}) - (\# \text{ wrong} \times 1/4) = \text{raw score}$  round off to nearest whole number; if the number is less than zero, enter zero

**Scoring the Free-Response Section** The following guide explains typical free-response scoring criteria:

**Score Explanation of Score 8-9** The thesis is extremely well developed and is supported with concrete evidence; all aspects of the question have been addressed thoroughly; discussions presented are balanced.

**6-7** The thesis is defined and supported; the evidence provided is very

organized; the essay may be slightly imbalanced with one strong argument and one weak argument and/or discuss one topic more thoroughly than the next; sporadic factual errors may appear. 5 A basic argument or thesis is provided; evidence given supports the argument or thesis, but does not clearly connect with the argument or thesis; only the formal facets of the question are dealt with, and informal facets are not adequately covered; not all aspects of the question are discussed. 4 The thesis is not organized and is not referred to in the essay; the essay is little more than a recounting of facts and events; the essay may be overloaded with data; only one facet of the questions may be discussed; numerous factual errors may appear. 3 The thesis is weak; evidence provided in support does not apply to the thesis; factual errors are apparent. 2 The thesis is very weak; little or no factual evidence is provided to support the thesis; irrelevant and inaccurate information appears. 1 An attempt is made to answer the question, but the support given is insignificant and the coverage of topics is incomplete. 0 The question is not answered with any significance.

**Free-Response Part II (Comparative only)**

**Score Explanation of Score 5** The thesis is extremely well developed and is supported with concrete evidence; all aspects of the question have been addressed thoroughly; discussions are presented in a balanced way. 4 The thesis is defined and supported; the evidence provided is very organized; the essay may be slightly imbalanced, with one strong argument and one weak argument; likewise, one topic may be more thoroughly explored than another; may be marred by sporadic factual errors. 3 A basic argument or thesis is presented; evidence given supports the argument or thesis, but does not clearly connect with the argument or thesis; only the formal facets of the question are dealt with, and informal facets are not adequately covered; not all aspects of the question are discussed. 2 The thesis is weak; evidence provided in support does not apply to the thesis; factual errors are apparent. 1 An attempt is made to answer the question, but the support given is insignificant and the coverage of topics is incomplete. 0 The question is not answered with any significance.

It would be extremely helpful to find someone who is willing to score your essay - your teachers or anyone who is familiar with the test material. If you do, ask the person to assign each of your U.S. and Comparative (Part I) essays a score of 0 to 9. For your Comparative (Part II) essays, use the 0-to-5 scale. If you must grade your own essays, try to be objective! In addition, you may want to give your essays three different grades. For instance, if you feel you did well, try giving the essay a score of 5, 6, or 7 to represent the various scores you may receive. By underestimating what your score may be, you are more likely to receive a better score on the actual exam. Use the following formulae to determine your raw score for the Free-Response section:

United States Exam (Free-Response) Response (1) score  $\times 1.66$  = raw score  
 Response (2) score  $\times 1.66$  = raw score  
 Response (3) score  $\times 1.66$  = raw score  
 Response (4) score  $\times 1.66$  = raw score

Comparative Exam Response (1) score  $\times 1.66$  = raw score  
 Response (2) score  $\times 1.66$  = raw score  
 Response (3) score  $\times 3$  = raw score  
 Response (4) score  $\times 3$  = raw score

**The Composite Score** Once you have obtained your raw scores for both the Multiple-Choice and the Free-Response sections, add the scores together to get your composite score: United States Exam Multiple-Choice raw score + Free-Response raw score = composite score (round to nearest whole number)

Score Essay 1 + Score Essay 2 + Score Essay 3 + Score Essay 4 = raw score

Comparative Exam Multiple-Choice raw score + Free-Response raw score = composite score (round to nearest whole number)

Now compare your composite score with the scale below:

| Composite Score | AP Grade |
|-----------------|----------|
| 88 - 120        | 5        |
| 74 - 87         | 4        |
| 54 - 73         | 3        |
| 35 - 53         | 2        |
| 0 - 34          | 1        |

AP grades are interpreted as follows: 5-extremely well qualified, 4-well qualified, 3-qualified, 2-possibly qualified, and 1-no recommendation. Scores that Earn College Credit and/or Advanced Placement Most colleges grant students who earn a 3 or above college credit and/or advanced placement. You should check with your school guidance office about specific college requirements.

**Studying for Your AP Examination** It is never too early to start studying. The earlier you begin, the more time you will have to sharpen your skills. Do not procrastinate! Cramming is not an effective way to study, since it does not allow you the time needed to learn the test material. It is very important for you to choose the time and place for studying that works best for you. Some students may set aside a certain number of hours every morning to study, while others may choose to study at night before going to sleep. Other students may study during the day, while waiting on a

line, or even while eating lunch. Only you can determine when and where your study time will be most effective. But, be consistent and use your time wisely. Work out a study routine and stick to it! When you take the practice exam(s), try to make your testing conditions as much like the actual test as possible. Turn your television and radio off, and sit down at a quiet table free from distraction. Make sure to time yourself. As you complete the practice test(s), score your test(s) and thoroughly review the explanations to the questions you answered incorrectly, but do not review too much during any one sitting. Concentrate on one problem area at a time by reviewing the question and explanation, and by studying our review(s) until you are confident that you completely understand the material. Since you will be allowed to write in your test booklet during the actual exam, you may want to write in the margins and spaces of this book when practicing. However, do not make miscellaneous notes on your answer sheet. Mark your answers clearly and make sure the answer you have chosen corresponds to the question you are answering. Keep track of your scores! By doing so, you will be able to gauge your progress and discover general weaknesses in particular sections. You should carefully study the reviews that cover the topics causing you difficulty, as this will build your skills in those areas. To get the most out of your studying time, we recommend that you follow the Study Schedule which corresponds to the exam you are taking. It details how you can best budget your time. If you are taking both exams, do not try to study for each at the same time. Try alternating days by studying for the United States exam one day and the Comparative exam the next.

**Test-Taking Tips** Although you may be unfamiliar with tests such as the Advanced Placement exams, there are many ways to acquaint yourself with this type of examination and help alleviate your test-taking anxieties. Listed below are ways to help yourself become accustomed to the AP exam, some of which may also be applied to other standardized tests. Become comfortable with the format of the AP Examination in Government and Politics that you are taking. When you are practicing to take the exam(s), simulate the conditions under which you will be taking the actual test(s). You should practice under the same time constraints as well. Stay calm and pace yourself. After simulating the test only a couple of times, you will boost your chances of doing well, and you will be able to sit down for the actual test much more confidently. Know the directions and format for each section of the exam. Familiarizing yourself with the directions and format of the different test sections will not only save you time, but will also ensure that you are familiar enough with the AP exam to avoid nervousness (and the mistakes caused by being nervous). Work on the easier questions first. If you find yourself working too long on one question, make a mark next to it in your test booklet and continue. After you have answered all of the questions that you can, go back to the ones you have skipped. Use the process of elimination when you are unsure of an answer. If you can eliminate three of the answer choices, you have given yourself a fifty-fifty chance of getting the item correct since there will only be two choices left from which to make a guess. If you cannot eliminate at least three of the answer choices, you may choose not to guess, as you will be penalized one-quarter of a point for every incorrect answer. Questions not answered will not be counted. Be sure that you are marking your answer in the circle that corresponds to the number of the question in the test booklet. Since the multiple-choice section is graded by machine, marking the wrong answer will throw off your score.

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