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| 39 | A | B | C | D | E |

## PRACTICE QUESTIONS

College Board AP - United Kingdom

# APCGP

AP Comparative Government and Politics

EDITION

Demo

QUESTIONS

9

FORMAT

Limited Edition PDF

# Before you begin

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## What this is

9 practice questions for College Board AP - United Kingdom **APCGP**, each with its answer key and an explanation. Answer a question before you read its key — the explanation is worth more once you have committed.

## If something looks wrong

Send us three things and we will check it:

- the exam code, **APCGP**
- the question number
- the email address on your order

Write to **support@mometrix.net**. We reply within one business day.

**QUESTION 1**

SINGLE CHOICE

Which of the following best describes Max Weber's definition of the state?

- ☒ **A** An institution that holds a monopoly on the legitimate use of force within a given territory.
- ☐ **B** An organization that represents the interests of a particular social class.
- ☐ **C** A body that derives its authority from the consent of the governed.
- ☐ **D** A federation of regional governments bound by a written constitution.

**ANSWER A**

**WHY** Max Weber famously defined the state as the entity that successfully claims a monopoly on the legitimate use of physical force within a given territory. The other options describe different concepts (class-based or consent-based theories, or federal arrangements) that do not match Weber's definition.

**QUESTION 2**

SINGLE CHOICE

In the United Kingdom, what is the primary function of the House of Lords?

- ☐ **A** To appoint the Prime Minister after a general election.
- ☒ **B** To scrutinize and amend legislation passed by the House of Commons.
- ☐ **C** To serve as the supreme court of appeal for civil and criminal cases.
- ☐ **D** To directly elect members of the Cabinet from the ruling party.

**ANSWER B**

**WHY** The House of Lords acts as the revising chamber of the UK Parliament, scrutinizing and amending legislation originating in the House of Commons. The Prime Minister is chosen by the elected party in the Commons, the supreme court function is held by the UK Supreme Court, and Cabinet members are appointed by the PM.

**QUESTION 3**

SINGLE CHOICE

Which of the following best characterizes the role of the Russian Federation Council?

- ☐ A It is the lower house of the Russian parliament and initiates most legislation.
- ☐ B It directly elects the Russian President through a national vote.
- ☐ C It represents the executive branch and is headed by the Prime Minister.
- ☒ D **It is the upper house of the Russian parliament, with members representing Russia's federal subjects.**

**ANSWER D**

**WHY** The Federation Council is the upper chamber of Russia's bicameral Federal Assembly, with representatives drawn from the country's federal subjects (regions and republics). The lower house is the State Duma, the President is elected directly by citizens, and the Prime Minister heads the government.

**QUESTION 4**

SINGLE CHOICE

In China's political system, what is the relationship between the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the state government?

- ☐ A The CCP and the state government are constitutionally separate institutions with equal power.
- ☒ B **The CCP leads the state government, and Party positions generally take precedence over state offices.**
- ☐ C The state government controls the CCP through the National People's Congress.
- ☐ D The CCP has no formal role in government and operates only as a cultural organization.

**ANSWER B**

**WHY** China is a one-party state led by the CCP, which holds decisive political authority. Party leaders typically hold concurrent state positions (for example, the CCP General Secretary is usually also President), and Party decisions guide state policy. The NPC is a state organ under Party leadership, not the reverse.

**QUESTION 5**

SINGLE CHOICE

Which of the following features most accurately describes Mexico's current electoral system?

- ☐ A Single-member districts elect the entire Chamber of Deputies through first-past-the-post voting.
- ☐ B The President is elected by members of the Congress in a joint session.
- ☒ C A national-level proportional representation component supplements single-member district seats in the legislature.
- ☐ D Voters must cast ballots for candidates from a single government-approved party.

**ANSWER C**

**WHY** Mexico's Chamber of Deputies combines 300 single-member district seats elected by first-past-the-post with 200 seats allocated by proportional representation from closed party lists. The President is directly elected by citizens, and since 2000 Mexican voters have regularly elected candidates from multiple parties.

**QUESTION 6**

SINGLE CHOICE

Which institution holds ultimate political authority in Iran's system of governance?

- ☐ A The popularly elected President and Cabinet.
- ☐ B The Guardian Council, which vets candidates and legislation.
- ☒ C The Supreme Leader, who oversees the military, judiciary, and key state institutions.
- ☐ D The Majles (parliament), which controls all legislation and the budget.

**ANSWER C**

**WHY** Iran's constitution designates the Supreme Leader as the head of state and highest political authority, with formal control over the military, the judiciary, state media, and key appointments. The President, Majles, and Guardian Council operate within limits set by the Supreme Leader's authority.

**QUESTION 7**

SINGLE CHOICE

Nigeria's federal system divides power between the central government and how many subnational units?

- ☒ **A** 36 states plus the Federal Capital Territory
- ☐ **B** 12 regional zones defined by ethnicity
- ☐ **C** 50 states following the U.S. model
- ☐ **D** 6 geopolitical zones plus Abuja

**ANSWER A**

**WHY** Nigeria is divided into 36 states plus the Federal Capital Territory (Abuja). This structure has been in place since 1996, following earlier reorganizations that reduced the number of states from the original three created at independence.

**QUESTION 8**

SINGLE CHOICE

Which of the following best defines the concept of political culture as used in comparative politics?

- ☐ **A** The formal rules and institutions contained in a country's constitution.
- ☒ **B** The attitudes, beliefs, and orientations that citizens hold toward political objects such as the state, regime, and authorities.
- ☐ **C** The set of policies a government adopts in response to economic pressures.
- ☐ **D** The historical sequence of regimes and leaders a country has experienced.

**ANSWER B**

**WHY** Political culture refers to the patterned orientations that citizens hold toward political objects—the political system, its institutions, leaders, and one's own role within it. This concept, developed by scholars like Gabriel Almond and Sidney Verba, distinguishes informal attitudes from formal institutions (rules) and policies.

**QUESTION 9**

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Which of the following are characteristic features of a liberal democracy? (Choose two.)

- ☒ **A** Free and competitive elections in which citizens can choose among multiple parties.
- ☒ **B** Guaranteed civil liberties, including freedom of speech, press, and association.
- ☐ **C** Concentration of political power in a single dominant party with no opposition.
- ☐ **D** Government control of all major media outlets to ensure official messaging.

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**ANSWER** A - B

**WHY** Liberal democracies are defined by free, fair, and competitive multiparty elections and by constitutionally protected civil liberties. Single-party dominance and state control of media are features of authoritarian regimes, not liberal democracies.