

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS 2016 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 1

3 points

One point is earned for an accurate definition of referendum.

An acceptable definition is:

A referendum is when citizens vote directly on a specific policy or issue.

One point is earned for a correct description of one referendum that has taken place in Great Britain in the past twenty years. One point is also earned for a political consequence of that referendum.

An acceptable description and political consequence may include:

Description	Consequence
Scottish independence referendum (2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retention of Scotland as part of Great Britain • More devolution of power to Scotland • Increased importance of Scottish National Party (SNP) • More seats for SNP in parliament • Independence supporters remain unsatisfied • Short-term decline in image of SNP
Alternative Vote referendum (2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retention of first-past-the-post or winner-take-all electoral system • Continued dominance of two parties • Underrepresentation of minority parties and Liberal Democrats • Coalition tension
Devolution referendum (1997)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly • Devolution of power • More decentralization
Greater London Authority referendum (1998)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly elected mayor of London
North Ireland Belfast Agreement referendum (1998)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for Good Friday Agreement • Creation of devolved legislature for North Ireland
Welsh devolution referendum (2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased law-making powers for Welsh Assembly

A score of zero (0) is earned for an attempted answer that earns no points or for an off-task answer.

A score of dash (—) is earned for a blank.

COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

1A

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. Define referendum. Describe one referendum that took place in Great Britain in the last twenty years. Describe one political consequence of the referendum result.

Referendum is a vote on a specific issue held in a state. The vote is open to all eligible voters, and the outcome of the referendum directly impacts the issue. One referendum that took place in Great Britain in the last twenty years is the referendum on Scottish independence in 2015. The people of Scotland voted on whether to stay a part of the United Kingdom or become an independent state, and ultimately voted to stay. A consequence of this result is that greater devolution was granted to the Scottish Parliament, so although Scotland is not independent, they have more devolved powers.

COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

1 B

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. Define referendum. Describe one referendum that took place in Great Britain in the last twenty years. Describe one political consequence of the referendum result.

A referendum is a vote on an issue or policy (rather than a vote for a position in office). One ~~was~~ referendum that took place in Great Britain in the last twenty years was a result of the hung parliament of 2010 where the Libdems and conservatives had to make a coalition and an agreement of that coalition was a referendum regarding the alternate vote (AV). If AV had passed, it would have given significant more power to smaller parties in Britain's two-plus party system. However, it didn't pass, keeping the system where two big parties usually hold most of the power and the smaller parties hold very few seats in parliament.

1C

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. Define referendum. Describe one referendum that took place in Great Britain in the last twenty years. Describe one political consequence of the referendum result.

Referendum is when people vote on a ballot for a important or key issue. In the late 20 year England has the referendum on leaving the Europe Union or not. If the British leave the EU then the government can have a larger sovereignty on making the decision for the country.

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AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2016 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 1

Overview

The intent of this question was to assess students' understanding of the referendum process and their understanding of an example of a referendum and a political consequence of that referendum in Great Britain. The skills tested were descriptive. Students had three specific tasks: to define referendum, to describe a referendum that took place in Great Britain in the last twenty years, and to describe a political consequence of the referendum result.

Sample: 1A

Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for correctly defining a referendum as “a vote on a specific issue held in a state. The vote is open to all eligible voters, and the outcome of the referendum directly impacts the issue.” The response earned 1 point for correctly describing a referendum that took place in Great Britain in the last twenty years: “the referendum on Scottish independence in 2015.” The response earned 1 point for correctly describing a political consequence of the result of the referendum as “greater devolution was granted to the Scottish Parliament.”

Sample: 1B

Score: 2

The response did not earn a point for a definition of a referendum. The response earned 1 point for correctly describing a referendum that that took place in Great Britain in the last twenty years: “a referendum regarding the alternate [*sic*] vote (AV).” The response earned 1 point for correctly describing a political consequence of the referendum as “keeping the system where two big parties usually hold most of the power and the smaller parties hold very few seats in parliament.”

Sample: 1C

Score: 1

The response earned 1 point for correctly defining a referendum as “when people vote on a ballot for a [*sic*] important or key issue.” The response did not earn a point for describing a referendum. The response did not earn a point for describing a political consequence.