

COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Section I

Time—45 minutes

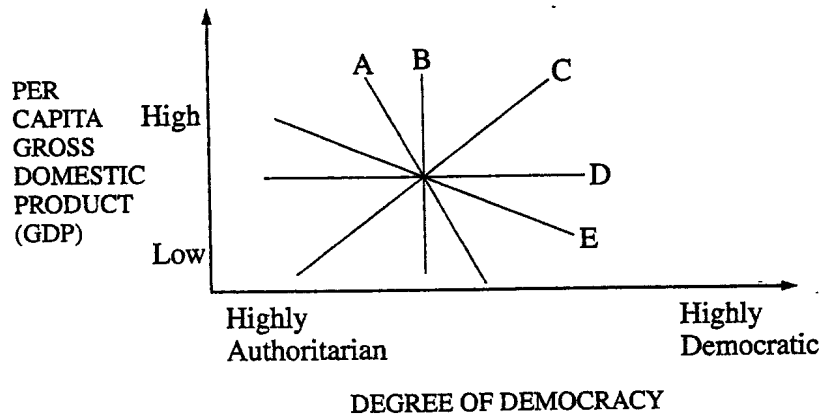
55 Questions

Directions: Each of the questions or incomplete statements below is followed by five suggested answers or completions. Select the one that is best in each case and then fill in the corresponding oval on the answer sheet.

- In most democratic political systems, interest groups differ from political parties in which of the following ways?
 - Political parties provide selective incentives for their members, while interest groups do not.
 - Political parties are hierarchically organized, while interest groups are not.
 - Political parties articulate clear and precise ideologies, while interest groups do not.
 - Political parties nominate and run candidates for elective office, while interest groups do not.
 - Interest groups require dues for membership, while political parties do not.
- One similarity between the Prime Minister of Russia and the Prime Minister of Great Britain is that both
 - must be directly elected by a majority of the country's citizens
 - must be the head of the majority party in the lower house of the legislature
 - have the ability to dissolve their legislatures
 - hold veto power over decisions made by the head of state
 - may be removed as a result of votes of no confidence in the lower house of the legislature
- Civil societies require which of the following?
 - The existence of a written constitution
 - Elections on a set cycle
 - Voluntary associations
 - Civilian control of the military
 - Agrarian reform
- Which of the following were consequences of ending the centrally planned economy in Russia after 1991?
 - Increased unemployment
 - Decentralized production decisions
 - An increase in the number of individually owned enterprises
 - A decrease in corruption
 - I and III only
 - II and IV only
 - I, II, and III only
 - II, III, and IV only
 - I, II, III, and IV
- The most common strategy adopted by developing countries to deal with the problem of population growth is
 - establishing policies that seek to reduce fertility rates
 - closing their borders
 - encouraging students studying abroad not to return home
 - reducing the size of their urban areas
 - redistributing economic resources to produce equality
- Which of the following is the best indicator that a political regime is legitimate?
 - Citizens follow laws because they believe in the government's right to rule.
 - Citizens agree with the specific policy choices of the government.
 - Citizens do not challenge government actions, out of fear of imprisonment.
 - Citizens are allowed to participate in violent protests and are never imprisoned.
 - Citizens engage in political participation.

Section I

7. Which description below most accurately describes Iran's Islamic republic?
- (A) A federal government with a single executive and a bicameral legislature
 - (B) A federal government with a dual executive served by a large bureaucracy
 - (C) A unitary government with a dual executive whose power and duties are formally derived from the military
 - (D) A unitary government with a dual executive whose powers are constitutionally divided along party lines
 - (E) A unitary government with a dual executive whose prerogatives and responsibilities are specified in the Constitution
8. Which of the following has been an important consequence of the one-child family policy for Chinese society?
- (A) Growing female support for the Chinese Communist Party
 - (B) Greater government protection of reproductive rights
 - (C) An increase in the median age
 - (D) A decline in women's suicide rate
 - (E) A decline in the income gap between urban and rural families
9. Gross national product (GNP) and gross domestic product (GDP) are measures used to compare countries on
- (A) the general health of their citizens
 - (B) the degree of professionalism of their militaries
 - (C) the size of their economies
 - (D) their level of economic inequality
 - (E) their average cost of living
10. Nigeria's head of state is the
- (A) King
 - (B) Prime Minister
 - (C) President
 - (D) President and the Prime Minister together
 - (E) Premier
11. Compared with first-past-the-post, a proportional representation electoral system
- (A) gives third parties a better chance at winning seats in a legislature
 - (B) generally leads to fewer coalition governments
 - (C) is less representative of heterogeneous populations
 - (D) typically punishes parties not receiving a majority of the vote in the district
 - (E) tends to discriminate against minority candidates
12. The term "failed state" best refers to which of the following?
- (A) An authoritarian state
 - (B) A state of war
 - (C) A former Communist state
 - (D) A state in which law and order persistently breaks down
 - (E) A state that has been denied United Nations membership



13. Which of the lines shown in the chart above best represents the general relationship between per capita GDP and degree of democracy?
- (A) Line A
 - (B) Line B
 - (C) Line C
 - (D) Line D
 - (E) Line E

14. Which of the following occurs in a command economy?
- (A) Central planners determine prices on the basis of supply and demand.
 - (B) Central planners respond to consumer demand.
 - (C) Quotas and plans direct production and distribution.
 - (D) Consumer demand determines production and distribution.
 - (E) Industries determine prices on the basis of supply.

15. One of the key socioeconomic changes as countries develop economically is
- (A) an increasingly rigid social structure
 - (B) increasing rural-to-urban migrations
 - (C) declining literacy rates
 - (D) decreasing gender equality
 - (E) decreasing life expectancy

PUBLIC OPINION ABOUT CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES IN GREAT BRITAIN, 1997

% Favoring	Strongly Support	Tend to Support	Neither	Tend to Oppose	Strongly Oppose
Creating a Scottish parliament	13	32	22	15	10
Removing voting rights of hereditary peers	21	26	22	12	8
Holding referendum on voting system	18	32	18	18	6
Locally elected mayors	29	44	14	7	1
Removing constitutional powers of monarchy	8	11	14	22	40
Bill of rights	28	42	12	9	2
Proportional representation	27	38	11	11	6
Freedom of information act	35	42	7	7	3

(Some percentages may not add up to 100 because of "Don't knows.")

Source: *The Economist*, May 3rd - 9th, 1997; page 48.

16. Which of the following statements is supported by the data in the table above?
- (A) Respondents were more likely to support devolution than to oppose it.
 - (B) Respondents preferred to keep the first-past-the-post electoral system.
 - (C) Respondents supported the idea of a written constitution but not a bill of rights.
 - (D) Two-thirds of the respondents opposed the proposal for locally elected mayors.
 - (E) A majority of respondents supported the proposal to remove the constitutional powers of the monarchy.

17. Which of the following is generally true about countries with unitary governments?
- (A) They have a highly centralized policy process.
 - (B) They have multiracial populations.
 - (C) They assign significant power to local governments.
 - (D) They have a history of racial, ethnic or religious conflict.
 - (E) They have powerful court systems with the power of constitutional review.
18. Which of the following is an empirically based statement about politics in Nigeria?
- (A) The head of government believes in democratic values, as he should.
 - (B) Nigeria must remain a positive force in restoring peace in West Africa.
 - (C) There are many major ethnic groups in Nigeria.
 - (D) Shari'ah law ought to be imposed nationwide.
 - (E) The Nigerian government ought to spend oil revenue to successfully address income disparities between ethnic groups in the Niger Delta region of the country.
19. Unlike Mexico and Nigeria, Iran has not experienced
- (A) underdevelopment
 - (B) overpopulation
 - (C) political change by revolution
 - (D) student uprisings
 - (E) formal colonial rule
20. In recent years, all of the following reforms have been instituted in China EXCEPT
- (A) competitive village elections
 - (B) mandatory retirement ages for national leaders
 - (C) a loosening of restrictions on internal movement within China
 - (D) creation of special economic zones
 - (E) creation of an independent judiciary
21. Which of the following sets of contrasts is true for all parliamentary and presidential systems?
- (A) Parliamentary systems have many parties in the legislature, while presidential systems have only two.
 - (B) Parliamentary systems use proportional representation, while presidential systems do not.
 - (C) Parliamentary systems have an indirectly elected head of state, while presidential systems have a directly elected head of state.
 - (D) In parliamentary systems, the legislative and executive branches are fused, while in presidential systems they are separate.
 - (E) In parliamentary systems, the head of government has no constitutional powers, while in presidential systems the head of government has most of the power.
22. For which of the following reasons is the year 2000 considered a turning point in Mexican political history?
- (A) Mexicans residing in the United States of America were allowed to vote in the presidential and legislative elections.
 - (B) A woman was elected President for the first time.
 - (C) A President was elected who was not a candidate of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI).
 - (D) The country switched to a parliamentary form of government.
 - (E) The Mexican armed forces staged an unsuccessful military coup against the civilian government.

Section I

1997 GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS IN GREAT BRITAIN

Party	Voter Support (percentage)	Percentage of Seats in House of Commons
Conservative	30.7	25.0
Labour	43.2	63.4
Liberal Democrat	16.8	7.0
Plaid Cymru	0.51	1.0
Ulster Unionist	0.83	2.0

23. Based on the table above, which political party in Great Britain would gain the most seats from a change to proportional representation?

- (A) Conservative
- (B) Labour
- (C) Liberal Democrat
- (D) Plaid Cymru
- (E) Ulster Unionist

24. Which of the following statements about the Maastricht Treaty are correct?
- It established European citizenship.
 - It established a uniform criminal code for all member states.
 - It paved the way for a single European currency.
 - It devised a common foreign policy for all member states.
- (A) I and III only
(B) II and III only
(C) II and IV only
(D) III and IV only
(E) II, III, and IV only
25. Which of the following is a correct statement about elections in Great Britain and Russia?
- (A) Both have two directly elected upper houses of the legislature.
(B) Both hold national elections every five years.
(C) Both directly elect heads of state and heads of government.
(D) In Russia all elections are first-past-the-post elections, while in Great Britain parliamentary elections are based on proportional representation.
(E) In Russia presidential elections are held every four years, while in Great Britain national elections may be called at any time within a five-year period.
26. In Nigeria, Shari'ah law is part of the legal system in the
- (A) city of Lagos
(B) southwestern region
(C) capital region of Abuja
(D) eastern region
(E) northern region
27. In which of the following ways did the Iranian revolution of 1979 resemble the Chinese revolution of 30 years earlier?
- (A) Both upheavals resulted in rule by the Communist Party.
(B) The leaders of both revolutions personified charismatic authority.
(C) The dominant form of protest against the old regime was peaceful and nonviolent.
(D) The leaders of both revolutions were technocrats who believed in the need for expertise to serve in government.
(E) The leaders of both revolutions stressed the importance of Islam's role in politics.
28. Which of the following political parties dominated its country's politics for the greatest number of years during the twentieth century?
- (A) The Labour Party in Great Britain
(B) The United Party in Nigeria
(C) The Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) in Mexico
(D) The Islamic Labor Party in Iran
(E) The Communist Party in China
29. Which of the following statements best characterizes Nigerian society?
- (A) Religious homogeneity, ethnic diversity, linguistic diversity
(B) Religious homogeneity, ethnic homogeneity, linguistic homogeneity
(C) Religious diversity, ethnic diversity, linguistic diversity
(D) Religious diversity, ethnic diversity, linguistic homogeneity
(E) Religious diversity, ethnic homogeneity, linguistic homogeneity

30. The process by which basic political attitudes and beliefs are developed is known as
- (A) social engineering
 - (B) political socialization
 - (C) party identification
 - (D) constitutional formation
 - (E) ideological identification
31. The concept of nation is best defined as a
- (A) country that is a member of the United Nations
 - (B) country with a colonial history
 - (C) country with heterogeneous racial communities
 - (D) community with an organized system of governance
 - (E) population with common historical, ethnic, linguistic, and/or religious bonds
32. Which of the following best describes the European Union's (EU) democratic deficit?
- (A) The lack of its accountability to the average citizen in member states
 - (B) The lack of power of developing countries that have recently joined
 - (C) Great Britain's wielding of extensive economic power since its decision to join the European Monetary Union
 - (D) The plurality election procedure for the European Commission
 - (E) The small number of former communist countries now members of the EU
33. In which of the following types of systems is economic policy necessarily negotiated among government, labor, and industry?
- (A) Oligarchic
 - (B) Majoritarian
 - (C) Corporatist
 - (D) Communist
 - (E) Democratic socialist
34. In which of the following pairs of countries do both governments have a federal structure?
- (A) Nigeria and China
 - (B) Nigeria and Mexico
 - (C) Russia and Iran
 - (D) Mexico and China
 - (E) Great Britain and Mexico
35. Which of the following are the two most powerful policy-making institutions in Iran?
- (A) The President and the Assembly of Religious Experts
 - (B) The President and the Guardian Council
 - (C) The Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majles) and the Prime Minister
 - (D) The Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majles) and the Guardian Council
 - (E) The Expediency Council and the Assembly of Religious Experts
36. Which of the following is a key component of economic liberalization in former command economies?
- (A) Prohibiting foreign direct investment
 - (B) Severing ties with the World Bank
 - (C) Nationalizing privately owned firms
 - (D) Eliminating price controls
 - (E) Instituting tariffs
37. Which of the following types of regimes has had the greatest increase in number worldwide since 1970 ?
- (A) Military junta
 - (B) Authoritarian
 - (C) Communist
 - (D) Democratic
 - (E) Theocratic
38. All of the following are accurate comparisons of Mexico and China in the latter half of the twentieth century EXCEPT:
- (A) Both suppressed student protests.
 - (B) Both were oil producers.
 - (C) Both had weak legislative assemblies relative to the executive.
 - (D) Both had a President.
 - (E) Both outlawed all opposition parties from competing in elections.

39. The organizing principle of the Chinese Communist Party is
- (A) mass line
 - (B) dictatorship of the proletariat
 - (C) pluralism
 - (D) Confucianism
 - (E) democratic centralism
40. The welfare service commitments of advanced industrial democracies are most seriously threatened by
- (A) an increase in outmigration
 - (B) the increasing power of trade unions
 - (C) the rise of separatist movements
 - (D) the aging of their populations
 - (E) the public demand for free education
41. Following the death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in 1989, Iran's constitution was amended to
- (A) establish separation of powers
 - (B) allow female suffrage
 - (C) change the selection criteria for Supreme Leader
 - (D) create the Guardian Council
 - (E) give the President the power to end the Iran-Iraq war
42. China's management of public policy crises is best characterized by
- (A) dominance of the military in civilian affairs
 - (B) dominance of nongovernmental organizations in the policy-making process
 - (C) dependence on foreign governments to solve domestic problems
 - (D) the importance of secrecy in the Chinese Communist Party
 - (E) transparency in government
43. The European Union (EU) is an example of a
- (A) unitary state
 - (B) supranational organization
 - (C) nongovernmental organization
 - (D) symmetrical state
 - (E) cartel
44. Which of the following best defines a successful vote of no confidence?
- (A) A majority votes for an opposition party in a general election.
 - (B) The Prime Minister dissolves the legislature and calls for a new election.
 - (C) A majority vote in the legislature forces the resignation of the government.
 - (D) A majority vote in the cabinet forces the resignation of the Prime Minister.
 - (E) A majority vote in a popular referendum forces the resignation of the government.
45. Developing countries with multiple political parties most often divide along which of the following lines of cleavage?
- (A) Gender
 - (B) Education
 - (C) Foreign policy issues
 - (D) Materialism and postmaterialism
 - (E) Religion and ethnicity
46. Which statement below best explains why, despite tremendous oil reserves, the Nigerian government still has difficulty providing social services throughout the country?
- (A) Nigeria lacks a bureaucracy.
 - (B) There are not enough trained teachers and medical professionals in the country.
 - (C) Domestic instability has diverted oil revenue from the social sector to the defense sector.
 - (D) Revenues earned from oil reserves have remained in the oil-producing Niger Delta region.
 - (E) Massive corruption limits the amount of resources redistributed by the government to the people.

Section I

47. One similarity between the political systems of Russia and Great Britain is that in both countries the
- (A) lower house of the legislature is the more powerful chamber in the policy-making process
 - (B) Prime Minister must be the leader of the largest party in the lower house of the legislature
 - (C) Prime Minister must be approved by both chambers of the legislature
 - (D) head of state is also the head of government
 - (E) constitution is unwritten
48. Which of the following countries has a history of coups d'état and military rule during the past 50 years?
- (A) China
 - (B) Iran
 - (C) Mexico
 - (D) Nigeria
 - (E) Russia
49. The nature of patron-client relationships is accurately reflected by which of the following statements?
- (A) Clients are expected to provide services for their patrons for the receipt of cash benefits.
 - (B) Responsibilities and obligations are based on a hierarchy between elites and citizens.
 - (C) Responsibilities and obligations between patrons and clients are regulated by the state.
 - (D) Patrons are obligated to provide free labor for political access.
 - (E) Patrons and clients represent distinct ethnic groups.
50. Both Mexico and Russia have
- (A) a dual executive consisting of a President and a Prime Minister
 - (B) proportional representation in the lower house of the legislature
 - (C) a one-term limit for the office of President
 - (D) no judicial review
 - (E) a unicameral legislature with both individual and state representation
51. Which of the following best describes Iranian political culture?
- (A) It is dominated by sectarian and ethnic divisions.
 - (B) It is trusting of government and other institutions.
 - (C) It is prone to political change through referenda.
 - (D) It values the community's welfare above individual rights.
 - (E) It prefers international law to Islamic law.
52. Which of the following is a true statement about the Chinese government's approach to ethnic minorities?
- (A) It has given some latitude to ethnic minorities in such matters as population control and language.
 - (B) It has regularly appointed ethnic minorities to the Standing Committee of the Politburo.
 - (C) It has permitted independence movements in some of the smaller ethnic regions.
 - (D) It has carried out genocide against the Han minority.
 - (E) It has required ethnic minorities to migrate to refugee camps on the border of China and Russia.

53. Which of the following refers to the array of political parties operating in a particular country and the nature of the relationship between them?

- (A) Pluralism
- (B) Electoral system
- (C) Party system
- (D) Corporatism
- (E) Democratic system

54. Before the Mexican elections of 2000, the presidential nominee of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) had been chosen by which of the following processes?

- (A) Majority vote of PRI governors
- (B) Selection by the sitting president
- (C) Party elite election
- (D) Party primaries across states
- (E) Party primary election by federal constituencies

55. Which of the following countries is best described as a theocratic state?

- (A) China
- (B) Mexico
- (C) Nigeria
- (D) Iran
- (E) Russia

END OF SECTION I.