

4

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

4A

Russia is considered a hybrid between a presidential and a parliamentary system because it embodies both systems. It is a parliamentary system because one wins the position of prime minister if he or she is the head of the majority party in the lower legislative branch, or the State Duma. On the other hand, it is a presidential system in that voters popularly elect a presidential candidate. The president wins his or her position if he or she receives a majority of the vote whether in the first ballot or in the double ballot. It is also presidential because the president is the head of state and the head of government. The two systems are fused. For example, in a parliamentary system, the prime minister would be the head of the legislative and executive branch. In Russia, the PM is just the head of legislature, while the head of the executive branch is the president. Overall, Russia fuses together a presidential and a parliamentary system.

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#2-5

4B

#2- In a corporatist system, interest groups and unions are integrated into the political structure. An example of this is Mexico, in which these organizations deal directly with the head of state.

Also, the groups have a say in the implementation of policy. This is different from a pluralist system because the groups have direct political power.

#3- Political legitimacy occurs when a significant segment of the population believes that the ruling body has a justifiable claim to its authority. One source is accountability, or whether the government is responsive to the people. Another source is feedback, the people's reaction to governmental policy.

#4- Russia has an executive branch and a legislative branch that are exclusive of each other. This is characteristic of a presidential system. The president nominates a Prime Minister, who is in charge of economic issues. The Prime Minister is approved by the Duma and can be removed by a vote of no confidence. This is characteristic of a parliamentary system.

#5- Correlation refers to a similarity between occurrences in development or change. For example, as the country becomes more democratic, its economy grows. The two occurrences aren't necessarily related, but they both experience change.

Causation refers to a process whereby one phenomenon brings about another. For example, the country's economy grows because it is more democratic.

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4C

Russia has both qualities of a parliamentary and presidential system. Russia has both a prime minister and a president, each of whom serve different jurisdiction and functions. Secondly, Russia has two legislative bodies, the Duma and the upper house like in a presidential system. However, the proportional representation element is similar to that of a parliamentary system.

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2006 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 4

Overview

The intent of this question was to examine students' knowledge and understanding of mixed presidential/parliamentary systems. Students were asked to demonstrate their knowledge by providing examples from the Russian political system.

Sample: 4A **Score: 2**

The response correctly identifies the prime minister as an executive official in the Russian government, a single feature of a parliamentary system (1 point). The response then states that the prime minister holds the position "if he or she is the head of the majority party in the lower legislative branch, or the state Duma." This is contrasted with the direct election of the president. The identification of the two separate election systems as a feature of a mixed presidential/parliamentary system is sufficient to earn the second point.

Sample: 4B **Score: 2**

The response correctly identifies the presidential nomination of the prime minister as a feature of a mixed presidential/parliamentary system (1 point). The identification of the prime minister's selection and possible removal by the Duma through a vote of no confidence is accurate and earned the second point.

Sample: 4C **Score: 1**

The existence of both a president and prime minister is correctly identified as a feature of Russia's mixed presidential/parliamentary system (1 point). The identification of Russia's two legislative bodies as a feature of a presidential system is not correct. The identification of proportional representation as a feature of a parliamentary system is also inaccurate. Thus the response did not earn the second point.