AP® GO/PO Comparative
2004 Sample Student Responses

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China has slowly tried to develop economic liberalization in a couple different ways. One way was China's several ten year plans. These ten year plans required the Chinese to meet quotas in selling their products (mainly agricultural). The liberalization came through the fact that Chinese farmers were allowed to sell their excess crop for a profit. The other way that China liberalized economically was the rise of Deng Xiaoping. Deng Xiaoping was very influential in China after Mao's death. Deng believed in a socialist free market. In a Socialist free market, prices are determined by the government, but there is still private ownership of businesses. One reason this hurts authoritarian rule is that it gives the Chinese people the right to buy and sell goods and make a profit. Another problem is that the Chinese people might demand more rights. After Gorbachev's glasnost and perestroika reforms, the Chinese people might believe that they deserve individual freedoms. While the Chinese people enjoy their new freedoms, there is no doubt that the Communists are still in charge. The Communist Party has a big strength in numbers. 80% of the National People's Congress is communist. This represents a large number of Chinese citizens. Even though the National People's Congress
controls the passage of legislation, the politburo has the final say in every thing. It authoritarian rule, especially in a party-state, the dictator makes up all the rules and can override any previous rules. Chinese communist leaders will remain intact for a long time.
China is an authoritative country being controlled by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Even so, in the last twenty to thirty years an economic liberalization has occurred. One of these liberalizations is the advent of small self-run businesses. Because of this people can earn money and start their own businesses. This is a boon to the economy because it stimulates growth. Another liberalization was the slight introduction to Westernism. With Western influences in the economy people are wanting to earn money so they can buy some of the West's luxuries.

Even though the CCP opened the door on economic liberalization, there is still fear of that freedom breeding new ones. These new, thought help to undermine the authoritativeness of the CCP. This is because people can have their own stuff. Instead of the party's thought, it's their own thoughts. They are also led away from the government and communism because of Western thought and small business do not equal communism.

The CCP has two main strategies to wield the political dagger. One is the military. The CCP employed this during the Tiananmen Square incident when political control was challenged. Another technique employed is the use of trade. China keeps trade down. Allowing little or no imports. This helps hold back the flood of
The liberalization of economics in China has helped China to become strong. But with this fresh breath of life, the authorities have been challenged. It is through the military and trade control that the CCP holds China clenched in an iron fist.
One economic liberalization policy in China has been privatization of industry. Another policy is the increase of international trade of goods. Economic liberalization policies challenge authoritarian rule in China by decentralizing the power from the government. In the private sector, the government doesn't have as much control over the industry. It also challenges authoritarian rule because in order to achieve a more liberalized economy, rights and freedoms had to be given to the Chinese people that aren't traditional authoritarian freedoms. Chinese citizens were exposed to new Western ideas which caused a surge of political activism against the authoritarian rule. The Chinese Communist regime has used military control to maintain political control. The protest at Tienanmin Square was brought down by the Communist regime because students were protesting about the politics in China. Another use of political control is the used by the Chinese Communist regime is the by controlling the media. The Communist regime controls what
political criticisms are released, and how extensive they are. The government communist regime used the media in political elections to campaign for the prechosen leader.