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**AP COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

**Course Description:**

Welcome to the Advanced Placement course on government and politics! As high school students, you know how important it is to work diligently in your courses. AP courses require additional diligence for high academic achievement, more than is required in non-AP courses. Commitment to reading and writing, as well as to assembling evidence of your knowledge of target material (notebook), is an obvious expectation.

In this course we will discuss the principles of government and politics. The College Board has designed examinations in support of both US Government and Politics and Comparative Government and Politics; this course explores topics in preparation for both examinations. The outline listed below provides the “grist for our mill.”

Note on AP Government and Politics courses

Students may register for a year (two semesters) of AP Government and Politics. Material for AP US Government and Politics and AP Comparative Government and Politics each comprise about 18 weeks (one semester) of instruction. Due to the nature of the material and the curricular focus of AP, the school does not offer one semester of exclusively US material and one semester of exclusively Comparative material; rather, the instructor attempts to delineate the commonalities and contrasts to illustrate the unique features of government and politics within each target country. When talking about the unit “Political Institutions,” for example, it is useful to address the institutions of the United States when presenting the institutions of the United Kingdom or Russia. At the year’s commencement, the instructor introduces the target topics of both AP US Government and Politics and AP Comparative Government and Politics, then attempts to navigate successfully the students through the material.

**Text:**

Brown, Bernard. *Comparative Politics: Notes and Readings.* 10th ed. Thomson Wadsworth, 2006.

Wood, Ethel. *AP Comparative Government and Politics: An Essential Coursebook and Study Guide.* Reading: WoodYard Publications, 2011. Print.

While this is our primary text, the course will also be supplemented with numerous articles, largely from *Time, The Atlantic*, and *The Economist*. Students will also be expected to keep up to date on the news and current events. At the start of some class periods we will listen to the NPR News Update as well as CNN Student News. We will also be using a great deal of primary sources as well as charts and graphs to analyze political information.

**The Exam:**

You will be required to take the AP US Government and Politics and AP Comparative Politics in May if you wish to be graded on a 5.0 AP scale. The exam will consist of 55multiple choice questions and 8 free response questions. While we will discuss the exam in greater detail throughout the course, you should know that all unit tests will be formatted like an AP exam with multiple choice and free response questions. The course outline is divided into the components and weights that will appear on the AP test.

**Units of Study:**

The following is a list of themes and units that we will cover in this course. This may be modified due to time allotments, time constraints, or any additional circumstances or material that will be beneficial to the class. The presence of a presidential election year grants us a tremendous opportunity that will add a critical and relevant experience to our classroom. At every opportunity we will integrate current events and issues into our classroom work and discussion.

**Unit 1: Introduction to Comparative Politics**

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| **Week.Day** | **Lesson** | **Primary Sources/Charts/Graphs/Articles** | **Homework** |
| 1.6  1.1 | Syllabus  What is Comparative Government and Politics?  The Comparative Method, Sovereignty, Authority, and Power, Political and Economic Change |  | Pg. 11-46 (text) |
| 1./1.8  1.2 | What is Comparative Politics?  Citizens, Society, and the State and Political Institutions | Chart: Geographic Distribution of Power | Pg. 46-60 |
| 1.9  1.3 | What is Comparative Politics?  Public Policy  State vs. Nation-What is the difference? | Chart: Electoral Systems | Pg. 60-75 |
| 1.13  2.1 | Introduction into countries  China, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, Britain | Table: Comparative Indexes | Chapter vocabulary and study for test next class! |
| 1.14/1.15  2.2 | **Test over Unit 1: 30 multiple choice questions and 1 free response question.** |  | Advanced Democracies: Pg. 89-95 |

Unit 1 Important Terms and Concepts: Due Unit 1 Quiz Day

1. What is the comparative method?
2. Explain what is meant by “sovereignty, authority, and power”.
3. Explain what is meant by “political and economic change”.
4. Explain what is meant broadly by “citizens, society, and the state”.
5. Explain what the idea of “political institutions” means.
6. What is public policy?
7. What is an advanced democracy?
8. What is an authoritarian regime?
9. Compare and contrast bicameral vs. unicameral legislatures.
10. What is bureaucracy and why is it important?
11. What is checks and balances and why is it important?
12. Compare and contrast market vs. command economies.
13. What are crosscutting cleavages?
14. Explain the difference between a state and a nation and why the distinction is important.
15. Analyze the “first-past-the-post” election system including its advantages and disadvantages.
16. Define and analyze the significance of-
17. Common law/code law
18. Communism
19. Confederal system
20. Conservatism
21. Corporatism
22. Coup d’etat
23. Direct democracy
24. Economic liberalization.
25. Fascism
26. Federal system
27. “first-past-the post”-
28. Fragmentation
29. GDP,GNP, GNP per capita
30. Head of government
31. Head of state
32. Illiberal democracies
33. Indirect democracy
34. Initiative
35. Interest group pluralism
36. Judicial review
37. Military rule
38. Mixed economics
39. Nationalism
40. Patronage
41. Patron-client system
42. Privatization
43. Proportional representation
44. Purchase power parity (ppp)
45. Referendum
46. Rule of law
47. Social cleavages
48. “third wave” of democratization
49. Three-world approach
50. Unitary systems

You should also expect surprise reading quizzes over the homework approximately once per week.

**Unit 2: Advanced Democracies: Government and Politics in Britain**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week.Day** | **Lesson** | **Primary Sources/Charts/Graphs/Articles** | **Homework** |
| 1.16  2.3 | Sovereignty, Authority, and Power | Chart: Key Features in Britain Constitutionalism | Pg. 95-108 |
| 1.20  3.1 | Political and Economic Change, Thatcherism |  | Pg. 108-117 |
| 1.21/1.22  3.2 | Citizens, Society, and the State | Primary Source: Bobby Sands poetry and IRA | Pg. 117-131 |
| 1.23  3.3 | Political Institutions-What are Linkage Institutions? | Graph: Comparison of Labour and Conservative Party | Finish graph and Pg. 131-139 |
| 1.27  4.1 | The Institutions of National Government |  | 140-147 |
| 1.28/1.29  4.2 | Public Policy and Current Issues |  | **Study for Test next class and complete Parliament sheet** |
| 1.30  4.3 | **Test over Unit 2: 30 multiple choice questions and 1 free response question** |  |  |

Important Terms and Concepts: Due Unit 2 Test Day

1. Analyze the difference between modernism and post modernism.
2. Give three examples of sectors of the economy and explain why each is important.
3. What is post-industrialism?
4. Compare and contrast the Labour vs. Conservative party and explain an important time in history for each party.
5. Compare and contrast the United States vs. British elections.
6. Compare and contrast the difference between a presidential and parliamentary system.
7. Analyze why the Magna Carta is an important not just in Britain but in America as well.
8. Define and analyze the significance of-
9. Alternative voting
10. Backbenchers
11. Beveridge Report
12. Tony Blair
13. British Broadcasting Corporation
14. British National Party
15. Gordon Brown
16. David Cameron
17. Caucuses
18. Clause 4
19. “civic culture”
20. Nick Clegg
21. Coalition government
22. Collective responsibility
23. “Constitution of the Crown”
24. Cultural heterogeneity
25. Democratic Unionist Party
26. Devolution
27. The English Bill of Rights
28. Euroskeptics
29. The Glorious Revolution
30. Gradualism
31. Home rule
32. Hung parliament
33. Insularity
34. Irish Republican Arty
35. “Iron Lady”
36. Keynesianism
37. Labour party
38. Liberalism
39. “loyal opposition”
40. Magna Carty
41. Noblesse oblige
42. OPEC
43. Plurality voting system
44. Rational-legal legitimacy
45. Scottish National Party
46. Sinn Fein
47. Thatcherism
48. Tories
49. UK Independence Party
50. Whigs
51. Welfare state

You should also expect surprise reading quizzes over the homework approximately once per week.

**Unit 3: Supranationalism and the European Union**

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| **Week.Day** | **Lesson** | **Primary Sources/Charts/Graphs/Articles** | **Homework** |
| 2.3  5.1 | Supranationalism | Article: Will the EU Last? | Finish article and article questions. Pg. 160-177 |
| 2.4/2.5  5.2 | The European Union- Economic Issues and Monetary Policy | Chart: Organization of the European Union | **Study for EU quiz next class** |
| 2.6  5.3 | **Quiz over Unit 3: 20 multiple choice and 1 free response** |  | Pg. 181-186 |

Important Terms and Concepts: Due Unit 3 Test Day

1. What is a supranational organization and why is it important?
2. Explain the origins of the European Union.
3. Assess the strength of the European Union and predict a way for the EU to heal in these difficult economic times.
4. Analyze the requirements for membership into the EU? Is this a fair system?
5. Define and analyze the significance of-
6. The Commission
7. The Common Market
8. The Council of Ministers
9. Crisis management
10. Democratic deficit
11. EC
12. Economic liberalism
13. Enlargement fatigue
14. European Central Bank
15. European Constitution
16. European Parliament
17. European Monetary Union
18. EU
19. Farm subsidies
20. Free movement
21. Lisbon Treaty
22. Maastricht Treaty
23. “three pillars”
24. Treaty of Amsterdam

You should also expect surprise reading quizzes over the homework approximately once per week.

**Unit 4: Communist and Post-Communists Countries: Government and Politics in Russia**

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| **Week.Day** | **Lesson** | **Primary Sources/Charts/Graphs/Articles** | **Homework** |
| 2.10  6.1 | Communist and Post- Communist Countries | Primary Source: Excerpts from Communist Manifesto | Pg. 189-205 |
| 2.11/2.12  6.2 | Sovereignty, Authority, and Power  Political and Economic Change | Chart: Russia’s Conflictual Political Culture | Pg. 205-214 |
| 2.13  6.3 | Citizens, Society, and the State |  | Pg. 214-233 |
| 2.17  7.1 | Political Institutions, Institutions of Government | Article: Putin’s Power | Pg. 233-241 |
| 2.18/2.19  7.2 | Public Policy and Current Issues |  | **Study for Unit 4 Test Next Class** |
| 2.20  7.3 | **Unit 4 Test: 30 Multiple Choice and 1 Free Response Question** |  | Pg. 254-270 |

Important Terms and Concepts: Due Unit 4 Test Day

1. Analyze the difference between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie and explain why that difference is important in Marxism.
2. What is *The Communist Manifesto* and why is it important?
3. Compare and contrast Maoism vs. Marxism
4. What is social mobility and why is it an important term in communist countries?
5. Explain the “vanguard of the revolution”.
6. Define and analyze the significance of-
7. Asymmetric federalism
8. Bolsheviks
9. Catherine the Great
10. Central Committee
11. Civil society in Russia
12. Collective farms, collectivization
13. Confederation of Independent States.
14. Conflict in Chechnya
15. Constitution of 1993
16. CPRF
17. Cultural heterogeneity in Russia
18. Decembrist Revolt
19. Democratic centralism
20. De-Stalinization
21. Duma
22. Equality of result in Russia
23. Federal government structure
24. Federation Council
25. Five Year Plans
26. Glasnost
27. Mikhail Gorbachev
28. Gorbachev’s three-pronged reform plan
29. Nikita Khruschchev
30. Kulaks
31. Alexander Lebed
32. Levin V.I.
33. Liberal Democrats
34. Marxism-Leninism
35. Nomenklatura
36. Oligarchy
37. Peter the Great
38. Politburo
39. Presidential-parliamentary system
40. Proportional representation in Russia
41. Vladimir Putin
42. Red Army/White Army
43. Secret speech
44. “shock therapy”
45. Slavophile vs. Westernizer
46. Saltinism
47. State corporatism
48. Totalitarinaims
49. Tsars
50. “Bois Yeltsin

You should also expect surprise reading quizzes over the homework approximately once per week.

**Unit 5: Communist and Post-Communist Countries: Government and Politics in China**

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| **Week.Day** | **Lesson** | **Primary Sources/Charts/Graphs/Articles** | **Homework** |
| 2.24  8.1 | Sovereignty, Authority, and Power  Political and Economic Change | Map: Population Concentrations in China | Pg. 271-279 |
| 2.25/2.26  8.2 | Citizens, Society, and the State | Map: Western Riots in 2008 and 2009 | Pg. 279-291 |
| 2.27  8.3 | **NO SCHOOL** |  |  |
| 3.3  9.1 | Political Institutions, Institutions of Government | Chart: Parallel Hierarchies in China | Pg. 291-306 |
| 3.4/3.5  9.2 | Public Policy and Current Issues |  | **Study for Unit 5**  **Test Next Class** |
| 3.6  9.3 | **Unit 5 Test: 30 Multiple Choice and 1 Free Response Question** |  | Pg. 320-329 |

Important Terms and Concepts: Due Unit 5 Test Day

1. Compare and contrast Maoism and Marxism
2. Assess how the “one child” policy has affected China.
3. Analyze the differences between Chiang Kai-shek and Mao Zedong and their political impacts.
4. Define and analyze significance of-
5. “3rd generation leader” and “4th generation leader”
6. Autonomous regions
7. Cadres
8. Central Committee
9. Central Military Commission
10. Collectivism
11. Chinese Communist Party (CCP)
12. Confuciansim
13. Cultural Revolution
14. Danwei
15. Decentralization
16. Democratic centralism
17. Ethic of struggle
18. Factions
19. Fang-shou
20. “foreign devils”
21. Four Modernization
22. Free market socialism
23. “Gang of Four”
24. Guanxi
25. Great Leap Forward
26. Han Chinese
27. Hegemony
28. Household responsibility system
29. Hu Jintao
30. Iron rice bolw
31. Li Peng
32. The Long March
33. Mandate of Heaven
34. Mass mobilization
35. Mass line
36. Maoism
37. “Middle Kingdom”
38. Nomenklatura
39. “one country, two systems”
40. Patron client system in China
41. People’s Liberation Army
42. Politburo/Standing Committee
43. Rule of law and China
44. Socialist market economy
45. Technocrats
46. Township and village enterprises (TVEs)
47. Youth League

You should also expect surprise reading quizzes over the homework approximately once per week.

**Unit 6: Newly Industrializing and Less Developed Countries: Mexico**

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| **Week.Day** | **Lesson** | **Primary Sources/Charts/Graphs/Articles** | **Homework** |
| 3.10  10.1 | Newly Industrializing and Less Developed Countries | Chart: Comparative PPP  Chart: Comparative Economic Sectors | Pg. 330-344 |
| 3.11/3.12  10.2 | Sovereignty, Authority, and Power  Political and Economic Change | Map: Population Density of Mexico  Chart: Comparative Revolutions in Early 20th Century | Pg. 345-369 |
| 3.13  10.3 | **No School!** |  |  |
| 3.17  11.1 | Political Institutions, Institutions of Government | Chart: Linkage Institutions in Mexico | Finish filling in chart and 369-380 |
| 3.18/3.19  11.2 | Public Policy and Current Issues | Article: The Dangerous Border | **Study for Unit 6**  **Test Next Class** |
| 3.20  11.3 | **Unit 6 Test: 30 Multiple Choice and 1 Free Response Question** |  |  |

Important Terms and Concepts: Due Unit 6 Test Day

1. Identify and analyze three ways in which many countries are being held back from developing.
2. Identify three economic sectors and explain their significance.
3. Explain the importance of the westernization model.
4. Define and analyze the significance of-
5. “Asian Tigers”
6. Compressed modernity
7. Democratization
8. Dependency theory
9. Economic liberalization
10. GNP
11. GNP per capita
12. Import substitution
13. Political liberalization
14. PPP
15. Amerindians
16. Felipe Calderon
17. Camarillas
18. Chamber of Deputies, Senate
19. Lazaro Cardenas
20. Ejidos
21. Father Hidalgo
22. Vicente Fox
23. Benito Juarez
24. “Mexican Miracle”
25. NAFTA
26. Neoliberalism
27. Para-statals
28. Patron-client system
29. Pendulum theory
30. Plurarlity/proportional representation
31. Porfiriato
32. Santa Anna
33. Sexenio
34. Pancho Villa
35. Emiliano Zapata
36. Zapatistas
37. Ernesto Zedilla

You should also expect surprise reading quizzes over the homework approximately once per week.

**Unit 7: Newly Industrializing and Less Developed Countries: Government and Politics in Iran**

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| **Week.Day** | **Lesson** | **Primary Sources/Charts/Graphs/Articles** | **Homework** |
| 3.24  12.1 | Sovereignty, Authority, and Power  Political and Economic Change | Chart: Comparative Ruling Families  Graph: Degree of Satisfaction vs. Time | Pg. 392-409 |
| 3.25/26  12.2 | Citizens, Society, and the State | Chart: Theocratic Government Institutions in Iran | Pg. 409-435 |
| 3.27  13.3 | Political Institutions, Institutions of Government | Article: The Iranian Revolution Vs. Arab Spring | Pg. 435-441 |
| 3.31  14.1 | Public Policy and Current Issues |  | **Study for Unit Test next class with buzzwords and questions** |
| 4.1/4.2  14.2 | **Unit 7 Test: 30 Multiple Choice and 1 Free Response Question** |  | No Homework. Enjoy break. ☺ |
| 4.3  14.3 | **No School! Spring Break!** |  |  |

Important Terms and Concepts: Due Unit 7 Test Day

1. Explain and analyze sharia law and its impact on Iran.
2. Explain the significance of the 1979 Iranian Revolution and the way in which it changed the direction of Iran.
3. Predict the next path for Iran over the course of 10 years.
4. Define and analyze the significance of-
5. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
6. Assembly of Religious Experts
7. “axis of evil”
8. Basij
9. Baha’i
10. Constitution of 1979
11. Constitutional Revolution of 1905-09
12. Cultural Revolution
13. “economics is for donkeys”
14. Equality with difference
15. Fundamentalism
16. Guardian Council
17. Head of state, head of government
18. Hidden Imam
19. Imams
20. Iranian Militant Clerics Society
21. Jurist’s guardianship
22. Majiles
23. Majiles Election of 2004-2008
24. Muhammad Mosaddeq
25. National Front
26. Qajar Empire
27. Qom
28. Pahlavis
29. People of the Book
30. Persian Empire
31. Reformers vs. conservatives
32. Rentier state
33. Resurgence Party
34. Revolution of rising expectations
35. Shiism
36. Secularization
37. Theocracy
38. White coup
39. White Revolution
40. Statists vs. free-marketers
41. Zoroastrianism

You should also expect surprise reading quizzes over the homework approximately once per week.

**Week 15-Spring Break!**

**Unit 8: Newly Industrializing and Less Developed Countries: Government and Politics in Nigeria**

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| **Week.Day** | **Lesson** | **Primary Sources/Charts/Graphs/Articles** | **Homework** |
| 4.14  16.1 | Sovereignty, Authority, and Power  Political and Economic Change | Article: A Land Divided | Pg. 453-478 |
| 4.15/4.16  16.2 | Citizens, Society, and the State | Chart: Leadership Transitions Since 1960  Chart: Comparative Literacy Rates | Pg. 478-484 |
| 4.17  16.3 | Political Institutions, Institutions of Government | Chart: Changes in Nigeria’s Executive Branch | Pg. 484-501 |
| 4.21  17.1 | Public Policy and Current Issues |  | **Study for Unit 8 Test Next Class** |
| 4.22/4.23  17.2 | **Unit 8 Test: 30 Multiple Choice and 1 Free Response Question** |  |  |
| 4.24  17.3 | Review Day of Semester! |  | Study All Semester Notes |

Important Terms and Concepts: Due Unit 8 Test Day

1. Analyze the religious and cultural divides in Nigeria and how this affects the political world.
2. Predict the stability of Nigeria in the next 25 years.
3. Define and analyze the significance of-
4. Sani Abacha
5. Atiku Abuakar
6. Ibrahim Babangida
7. Biafra
8. Muhammud Bhari
9. Civil society
10. Constitutionalism
11. Corporatism
12. Cultural diffusion
13. “federal character”
14. Ife
15. Igbo
16. Hausa-Fulani
17. Indirect rule
18. Informal economy
19. Goodluck Jonathan
20. Kanuri
21. “loyalty pyramid”
22. National assembly
23. “National question”
24. Oyo
25. Para-statals
26. Patrimonialism
27. Patron-client system (prebendalism)
28. Plurality vote
29. Revenue sharing
30. Rule of law
31. Sharia
32. State corporatism
33. Structural adjustment program
34. Transperany International
35. Sokoto Caliphate
36. “true federalism” movement
37. Yoruba

You should also expect surprise reading quizzes over the homework approximately once per week.

**Unit 9: Exam and Review**

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| **Week.Day** | **Lesson** | **Primary Sources/Charts/Graphs/Articles** | **Homework** |
| 4.28  18.1 | **Practice AP Exam 1** |  |  |
| 4.29/4.30  18.2 | **Practice AP Exam 2** |  |  |
| 5.1  18.3 | Review AP US Materials |  |  |
| 5.5  19.1 | Review AP US Materials |  |  |
| 5.6/5.7  19.2 | Exam Day  Review AP US Materials |  |  |

**AP EXAM DATES**

**TUESDAY MAY 12- US GOV AND POLITICS 8AM**

**THURSDAY MAY 14- COMPARATIVE GOV AND POLITICS 8AM**