A.P. Comparative Government & Politics
Summer Assignment
Aydogan Vatandas

This assignments has 2 parts:

1. Read the entire course overview

AP Comparative Government and Politics is an introductory college-level course in comparative government and politics. The course uses a comparative approach to examine the political structures; policies; and political, economic, and social challenges of six selected countries: China, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, and the United Kingdom. Students cultivate their understanding of comparative government and politics through analysis of data and text-based sources as they explore topics like power and authority, legitimacy and stability, democratization, internal and external forces, and methods of political analysis.

AP Comparative Government and Politics
Course Content

The course content is organized into five commonly taught units, which have been arranged in the following suggested, logical sequence:

■ Unit 1: Political Systems, Regimes, and Governments
■ Unit 2: Political Institutions
■ Unit 3: Political Culture and Participation
■ Unit 4: Party and Electoral Systems and Citizen Organizations
■ Unit 5: Political and Economic Changes and Development
Each unit is broken down into teachable segments called topics.
In addition, the following big ideas serve as the foundation of the course, enabling students to create meaningful connections among concepts and develop deeper conceptual understanding:
■ Big Idea 1: Power and Authority
■ Big Idea 2: Legitimacy and Stability
■ Big Idea 3: Democratization
■ Big Idea 4: Internal/External Forces
■ Big Idea 5: Methods of Political Analysis
Disciplinary Practices
The following disciplinary practices describe what skills students should develop during the course:
■ Concept Application
♦ Apply political concepts and processes in authentic contexts.
■ Country Comparison
♦ Compare political concepts and processes among the

course countries (China, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, and the United Kingdom).

■ Data Analysis

♦ Analyze and interpret quantitative data represented in tables, charts, graphs, maps, and infographics.

■ Source Analysis

♦ Read, analyze, and interpret text-based sources.

■ Argumentation

♦ Develop an argument in essay format.

AP Comparative Government and Politics Exam Structure

AP COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS EXAM: 2 HOURS, 30 MINUTES

Assessment Overview

The AP Comparative Government and Politics Exam assesses student understanding of the disciplinary practices and learning objectives outlined in the course framework. The exam is 2 hours and 30 minutes long and includes 55 multiple-choice questions and 4 free-response questions.

Format of Assessment

Section I: Multiple-choice | 55 Questions | 60 Minutes | 50% of Exam Score

■ Appear either as individual questions or in sets of 2–3 questions each.

■ Include three sets of quantitative analysis questions, two sets of text-based analysis questions, and 40–44 individual questions

Section II: Free-response | 4 Questions | 90 minutes
50% of Exam Score

■ Question 1 (Conceptual Analysis) assesses the ability to define or describe a political concept and explain and/or compare political systems, principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors (11% of Exam Score; 10 minutes).

■ Question 2 (Quantitative Analysis) assesses the comprehension of quantitative data in the form of a table, graph, map, or infographic (12.5% of Exam Score; 20 minutes).

■ Question 3 (Comparative Analysis) assesses the ability to compare political concepts, systems, institutions, or policies in different countries (12.5% of Exam Score; 20 minutes).

■ Question 4 (Argument Essay) assesses the ability to articulate a

thesis, provide supporting evidence, and respond to opposing
perspectives (14% of Exam Score; 40 minutes).

Exam Components

Sample Multiple-Choice Question
Which of the following best captures why Nigeria has experienced more coups than Mexico has since 1960?

(A) Mexico's economy is more dependent upon the export of natural resources than Nigeria's economy is, so outside corporations and
governments take a greater interest in Mexico's stability.
(B) Nigeria features sharper ethnic and religious divides than Mexico does, provoking conflict between groups for control of the central
government, which has permitted the military to intervene.
(C) Nigeria's population is much larger than Mexico's population, providing more opportunities for conflict and a greater need for a powerful
military.
(D) Mexico's military has historically been a more powerful actor in domestic politics than Nigeria's military has, and it has used its influence to
ensure stability.

Correct Answer: B

Sample Free-Response Question
Develop an argument as to whether democratic or authoritarian regimes are better at maintaining sovereignty in a country.
Use one or more of the following course concepts in your response:
♦ Power
♦ Authority
♦ Legitimacy
In your response, you should do the following:
♦ Respond to the prompt with a defensible claim or thesis that establishes a line of reasoning using one or more of the provided course
concepts.
♦ Support your claim with at least TWO pieces of specific and relevant evidence from one or more course countries. The evidence should be
relevant to one or more of the provided course concepts.
♦ Use reasoning to explain why your evidence supports your claim or thesis, using one or more of the provided course concepts.
♦ Respond to an opposing or alternate perspective, using refutation, concession, or rebuttal.

2. Make your own research about the political systems/regimes of the course case countries: United Kingdom, Russia, China, Iran, Mexico and Nigeria.
A-Identify what a regime type or political system refers to.

B-Identify the regime type of all the course case countries.

C-By using the 'happiness index', list which countries in our course case countries are happier from top to down.