

AP Comparative Government and Politics 2016-17

Summer Assignment

Welcome to AP Comparative Government and Politics. This course will cover various types of government systems and political philosophies, through case studies in six different nations: China, Great Britain, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, and Russia (plus an overview of the United States). We will also discuss the benefits and consequences of different types of political systems, by comparing them to past systems, and to each other. In addition, you will develop your writing skills, relative to the field of Social Studies. You will learn to make arguments, and support them with concrete evidence.

Your summer assignment consists of three parts: vocabulary, country profiles, and current events. All parts of the assignment will be submitted via the course website/ LMS (Brightspace). Further instructions for submission will be sent via email, and you can contact me via email (welzc@springfieldpublicschools.com) any time throughout the summer for help with accessing the LMS, or for clarification on any part of the assignment.

All parts of the assignment **must be typed**, and are due on **September 9**. Extra credit will be awarded to students that submit the assignment by the first day of class. If you don't have a computer with internet access, there are computers for public use at all of the branches of the Springfield Public Library, or you can contact me for further arrangements. I will do my best to be accommodating.

This is an **individual** assignment. All parts must be your own original work. Copied or improperly cited work will receive no credit, and may result in disciplinary action. This policy stands throughout the course.

Assignment Rubric

Complete the self-assessment column below by choosing a score to indicate what you think you deserve for each category:

Criteria	Self-Assessment	Score			
		Yes		No	
Vocabulary (80 points)		20		0	
Completeness (all terms are defined)	Yes No	20		0	
Accuracy	4 3 2 1 0	60	45	30	15
Country Profiles (160 points)		20		0	
Completeness (all profiles contain information for each category)	Yes No	20		0	
Accuracy (profiles contain accurate and current information)		4	3	2	1
China	4 3 2 1 0	20	15	10	5
Great Britain	4 3 2 1 0	20	15	10	5
Iran	4 3 2 1 0	20	15	10	5
Mexico	4 3 2 1 0	20	15	10	5
Nigeria	4 3 2 1 0	20	15	10	5
Russia	4 3 2 1 0	20	15	10	5
United States	4 3 2 1 0	20	15	10	5
Current Articles (60 points – 6 articles @10 points each)		2		0	
Completeness (Required information is provided for all 12 articles, article is from approved source)	Yes No	2		0	
Summary (Article is accurately summarized)	4 3 2 1 0	8	6	4	2
(Extra Credit for additional articles)	Current Articles Section Total:				
Total Points: 200 points					

4 = Excellent

3= Above average

2= Average

1= Below Average

0= Not evident/Not completed

Final Grade: _____

*Also refer to the [Central Social Studies Department Writing Rubric](#) for information on grading.

Part 1 – Vocabulary

Directions: Define the following terms as they relate to government or politics (please number your list). Some of the terms may have different meanings in other contexts (for example, cleavage in geology is different than cleavage in politics). The following websites can help provide contextual definitions, but you are not limited to these definitions. I recommend examining more than one definition for each word, as some definitions are more confusing than helpful. It is okay to utilize Google’s definition tool (type “define [word] into a google search field), but please steer clear of websites like yahoo.answers and wiki.answers, etc.). Your textbook is also available in digital form on Brightspace. You are more than welcome to use the glossary to help you with this assignment. If you use exact definitions, you must cite your sources. KEEP A COPY OF YOUR VOCABULARY LIST! You will want to use it during the year. This portion of the assignment will be graded on a 4-point scale for completeness and accuracy. There will also be a test on the vocabulary on or around the deadline for the assignment. Please be aware that your definitions may not exactly match those on the test, so it is important to understand the meaning of each word, not just memorize the definition.

<http://www.uiowa.edu/policult/politick2000/polisci.nelson.com/glossary.html>

http://www.auburn.edu/~johnspm/gloss/political_science

<http://www.socialsciencedictionary.com/>

Authoritarianism	Interest groups	Reform
Bicameral	Judicial review	Republic
Bureaucracy	Judiciary	Revolution
Checks and balances	Legislative branch (legislature)	Rule of law
Civil liberties	Legitimacy	Socialism
Civil rights	Liberal democracy	Separation of powers
Civil society	Liberalism	Single member district
Cleavage	Liberals	Sovereignty
Coalition government	Manifesto	State
Command Economy	Market Economy	Subnational government
Communism	Mixed electoral system	Supranational organization
Confederation	Nation	Technocrat
Conservatives	Nation-state	Theocracy
Corporatism	Nationalization	Totalitarianism
Coup d’état	Non-governmental organization	Transparency
Cult of personality	Oligarch	Unicameral
Direct democracy	Parliamentary system	Unitary system
Democratic consolidation	Patron-client system	
Democratization	Plurality	
Devolution	Political culture	
Dual executive	Political efficacy	
Economic liberalization	Political elites	
Executive branch	Political ideology	
Fascism	Political liberalization	
Federalism	Political socialization	
Government	Politics	
Gross Domestic Product	Presidential system	
Gross National Product	Privatization	
Head of government	Proportional representation	
Head of state	Radicals	
Illiberal democracy	Reactionaries	
Indirect democracy	Regime	

Part 2 – Country Profiles

For this portion of the assignment, you will become familiar with some of the basics about each of the core countries that we will be studying, focusing on key characteristics of their political, social, and economic systems.

Directions: Using the country profile feature of the *BBC News* website and the *CIA World Factbook* Online (see links below), complete the following chart for each core country, and for the United States. Refer to the rubric on the instructions page.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country_profiles/default.stm

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>

Country Name:	
Geography	
Continent/ Region	
Bordering nations	
Main bodies of water	
Climate and key geographic features	
Top natural resources	
Political	
Capital City	System of Government
Political classification (more democratic or more authoritarian?)	
Head of State	Head of government
Current Ruling Party	
Corruption perceptions index (CPI) *see transparency.org	
Demographic	
Population	
Dominant National/ Ethnic Groups	
Main Languages Spoken	
Top religions	
Life Expectancy	Literacy Rate
Economic	
GDP (official exchange rate and PPP)	
Per Capita GDP	
HDI	
Poverty Rate	
Unemployment Rate	
Level of development	
Key economic characteristics (important sectors, economic systems, etc.)	

Part 3 – Current Articles

In order to become familiar with some of the current events affecting the countries that we will study, over the summer you will be required to follow international news regarding the AP6 countries (China, Great Britain, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, and Russia). Your article should relate to government, politics, or economics in the country.

Directions: Using the [resources below](#), identify a minimum of 6 current articles (written this year, the more recently, then better) from reputable sources, dealing with social, political, or economic issues or events in any of the AP6 countries. For each article, provide the following information:

- A. Headline
- B. Author
- C. Source (name of publication)
- D. Article URL/ link to the article
- E. Type of article (News Story, News Analysis, Editorial, Op-Ed/ Commentary) **see next page for explanations*
- F. Brief summary of the article (3-5 sentences is fine, try to address who, what, when, where, why, and why it matters)

You must have at least 1 article about each country. You may include additional articles (including articles about the European Union or the United States) for extra credit. Each article is worth 10 points (2 point for citing relevant article with all required information, 2-8 points for summary ([see History Department writing rubric](#)))

Suggested Resources

AllAfrica	http://www.allafrica.com
BBC News	http://www.bbc.co.uk
The Economist	http://www.economist.com (subscription, but available through Gale Database on library site)
Foreign Affairs	http://www.foreignaffairs.com (subscription, available through Gale Database)
The Guardian	http://www.guardian.co.uk
Moscow Times	http://www.themoscowtimes.com
The New York Times	http://www.nytimes.com
VOA News	http://www.voanews.com
The Washington Post	http://www.washingtonpost.com
Xinhua Net	http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/

(I strongly recommend using the Gale Academic OneFile Database, available through the school library website – one search covers all of the publications except BBC News. You can also search individual publications' websites but it will take longer).

Key Terms in Article Analysis**

Story Types

News story:

Definition: Standard, objective, fact-based reporting on a current matter of public concern. Author's name is identified in the byline. These stories usually represent the majority of stories in printed publications and on the Websites of mainstream news organizations.

Example: Associated Press. 2010. "N.J. transit worker who burned Quran sues over firing." Associated Press Wire Service. Available Online: <http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/news.aspx?id=23576>. Newark, N.J.: Nov.8.

News analysis:

Definition: Similar to a news story, but also includes some analysis by the reporter based on the facts. The reporter does not take a definitive stand on the issues addressed in the article. Author's name is identified in the byline. These stories are less frequent and often appear in the aftermath of a later event when the author is able to look back and offer additional perspective.

Example: Preston, Julia. 2010. "Democrats Reframe Debate on Immigration." *New York Times*. Available Online: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/01/us/politics/01immig.html>. NY: April 30.

Editorial:

Definition: Opinion-based articles that take a definitive stand on major issues of public concern with the intent of persuading the reader to adopt their stated position. The authors are from the media outlet's editorial board and are not identified individually in the editorial's byline. These articles typically appear on the second-to-last page of the front section of a print newspaper.

Example: Editorial. 2010. "Too Young for Life without Parole." *Washington Post*. Available Online: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/05/17/AR2010051703457.html>. Washington, DC: May 18.

Opinion-Editorial (Op-Ed):

Definition: Opinion-based articles that take a definitive stand on major issues of public concern with the intent of persuading the reader to adopt their stated position. The authors are identified individually in the byline and may be regular contributors or experts who speak out on issues where they have special insights. These articles typically appear on the last page of the front section of a print newspaper.

Example: Healy, Shawn. "What's Happened to Free Speech?" *Chicago Tribune*. Available Online: http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2009-04-13/news/0904120081_1_boston-college-academic-freedom-william-ayers. Chicago: April 13, 2009.

Other key terms

Byline: Name of the author or authors of an article.

Source: An individual or organization that provides information to a reporter.

Off the record: A source that provides background information for a story, but asks the reporter to keep this information confidential.

Anonymous source: A source that speaks on the record and can be quoted in a story, but asks that his or her identity is kept confidential.

Objectivity: Journalistic standard that requires news presentation of facts in a story without bias. This is accomplished by telling all sides of the story.

Bias: Occurs when personal opinion influences the direction or tone of a story.

Social Studies Department Writing Rubric

Score	Criteria
4	The answer addresses all parts of the question All facts are accurate with clear analysis Includes multiple pieces of evidence or historical examples (facts, direct quotation or paraphrase) Spelling and grammar have been edited so the answer reads clearly
3	The answer addresses almost all parts of the question All facts are accurate with some analysis Includes some pieces of evidence or historical examples (facts, direct quotation or paraphrase) Spelling and grammar have been edited so the answer reads clearly
2	The answer addresses only part of the question Some facts are accurate with no analysis Includes one piece of evidence or historical example (facts, direct quotation or paraphrase) Spelling and grammar have not been edited so the answer reads unclearly
1	The answer does not address the question Few or no facts are used or are accurate Includes few to no pieces of evidence or historical examples (facts, direct quotation or paraphrase) Spelling and grammar have not been edited so the answer is difficult to read and understand
0	The answer is incorrect, or no response