

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS



About the Advanced Placement Program[®] (AP[®])

The Advanced Placement Program[®] enables willing and academically prepared students to pursue college-level studies — with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both — while still in high school. AP Exams are given each year in May. Students who earn a qualifying score on an AP Exam are typically eligible, in college, to receive credit, placement into advanced courses, or both. Every aspect of AP course and exam development is the result of collaboration between AP teachers and college faculty. They work together to develop AP courses and exams, set scoring standards, and score the exams. College faculty review every AP teacher's course syllabus.

AP Government Program

The AP Program offers two government courses: AP United States (U.S.) Government and Politics and AP Comparative Government and Politics. Each course is designed to be equivalent to a one-semester introductory college course. There is no prescribed sequence of study. A school may offer one or both courses.

AP Comparative Government and Politics Course Overview

AP Comparative Government and Politics introduces students to the rich diversity of political life outside the United States. The course uses a comparative approach to examine the political structures; policies; and the political, economic, and social challenges among six selected countries: Great Britain, Mexico, Russia, Iran, China, and Nigeria. Additionally, students examine how different governments solve similar problems by comparing the effectiveness of approaches to many global issues.

RECOMMENDED PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisite courses for AP Comparative Government and Politics. Students should be able to read a college level textbook and write grammatically correct, complete sentences.

AP Comparative Government and Politics Course Content

Students compare and contrast political institutions and processes across six countries (Great Britain, Mexico, Russia, Iran, China, and Nigeria) and analyze and interpret data to derive generalizations.

Topics include:

- Introduction to Comparative Politics
- Sovereignty, Authority, and Power
- Political Institutions
- Citizens, Society, and the State
- Political and Economic Change
- Public Policy

The emphasis should be on broad trends that allow comparison, rather than on details that are unrelated to larger trends and concepts.

Course Goals

Students successfully completing this course will:

- Compare and contrast political concepts, themes, and generalizations;
- Describe and explain typical patterns of political processes and behaviors and their consequences;
- Compare and contrast political institutions and processes across countries to derive generalizations; and
- Analyze and interpret basic data relevant to comparative government and politics.

AP Comparative Government and Politics Exam Structure

AP COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS EXAM:
2 HOURS 25 MINUTES

Assessment Overview

The AP Comparative Government and Politics Exam asks students to explain and apply key and supporting concepts. The exam measures students' knowledge of the six core countries and their ability to compare and contrast political regimes; electoral systems; federal structures; civil rights; and state responses to economic, social, and religious challenges over time.

Format of Assessment

Section I: Multiple Choice | 55 Questions | 45 Minutes | 50% of Exam Score

- Address major conceptual understandings among the six core countries
- Apply skills of comparison and interpretation in addition to factual recall

Section II: Free Response | 8 Questions | 100 Minutes | 50% of Exam Score

Short-Answer Concept (Five Questions)

- Students identify the significance, provide examples, or contrast concepts or terms.

Conceptual Analysis (One Question)

- Students use major concepts to identify and explain important relationships and to discuss the causes and implications of politics and policy.

Country Context (Two Questions)

- Students use concepts to analyze one or more countries studied.

AP COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS SAMPLE EXAM QUESTIONS

Sample Multiple-Choice Question

In the developed and developing worlds, respectively, the greatest demographic pressures on policy come from which of the following?

<u>Developed</u>	<u>Developing</u>
(A) Gender imbalances	Aging
(B) Aging	Overpopulation
(C) Emigration	Immigration
(D) Overpopulation	High death rates
(E) High birth rates	Emigration

Correct Answer: B

Sample Free-Response Questions

Type: Short-Answer Concepts

Define political socialization. Identify one agent of political socialization. Explain how the agent you have identified promotes political socialization.

Type: Conceptual Analysis

States vary in terms of their party systems and electoral systems.

- Identify and explain the type of electoral system that tends to create a multiparty system.
- Identify and explain the type of electoral system that tends to create a two-party system.
- Describe one reason that a one-party system might emerge.
- Explain one advantage each of multiparty, two-party, and one-party systems in a multiethnic society.

Type: Country Context

Various economic changes have affected the legal system in China.

- Describe two reforms to the legal system in China in the past two decades.
- Explain two reasons that reforms to the legal system have occurred.
- Describe two important features of the Chinese legal system that have not changed in the past two decades.