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**AP Comparative Government and Politics
Summer Assignment
2025-2026**

Teacher: Mr. Rajeh Mahmoud

Due Date: August 26, 2025

Welcome to AP Comparative Government and Politics. Comparative Government and Politics is the study of the political systems of six countries: **Great Britain, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, Iran and China.** There are a few brief assignments that I would like you to complete before we start our year together in September. The assignments will be due on Schoology on the first day of school. Our assignments this summer will get us acquainted with one of the major concepts of this course. Collectively the assignments will be turned into one file and receive a grade.

Textbook: Essentials of Comparative Politics by Patrick O'Neil, Fifth Edition

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Students successfully completing this course will be able to:

- Define and describe major comparative concepts
- Support generalizations with relevant factual information pertaining to the governments and politics of China, Great Britain, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria and Russia
- Analyze typical patterns of political processes and behavior and their consequences
- Compare and contrast political institutions and processes across countries
- Analyze and interpret basic data relevant to comparative government and politics

SUMMER TASKS

Total Grade for all 3 parts:___/134

Read Carefully:

1- You will submit Everything Handwritten in a notebook that will be physically turned in to me on the first day of school.

2- The digital copy does not have to be filled out, but it has to be submitted on Schoology to include the links to the articles that you have selected.

3- This assignment has 3 (Three) parts

Part I: Vocabulary

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Define Key Terms and provide an example for each.

1. Authoritarianism 2.Bicameral 3.Bureaucracy 4. Checks and Balances

5. Civil Liberties 6.Civil Rights 7. Civil Society 8. Coup d'etat

9. Communism 10.Confederation 11. Democratization 12. Devolution

13. Direct Democracy 14.Executive Branch 15. Fascism 16.Federalism

17. Government 18. Head of Government 19. Head of State 20. Illiberal

Democracy 21. Imperialism 22. Indirect Democracy 23.Judiciary 24. Judicial

Review

25. Legislative Branch 26. Military Junta 27. Liberalization (economic) 28.Liberal

Democracy 29. Nation 30. Nation-state 31. Nationalization 32. Parliamentary System

33. Patron-Client System 32. Political Culture 33. Political Efficacy 34. Politics

35.Power 36.Presidential System 37.Privatization 38. Proportional Representation

39.Referendum 40. Regime 41.Republic 42. Rule of Law 43. Socialism

44. Separation of Powers 45. Sovereignty 46. State 47.Theocracy 48. Totalitarianism 49. Unicameral

50. Unitary System

PART II: Democratization Briefing Paper

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Read the Democratization Briefing Paper on the AP Central website. It can be accessed at the following link: This paper will inform you about how AP approaches Comparative Government and it labels the Six Countries into one of the following: Fully Democratized, Partially Democratized, and Non-Democratized

http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/repository/ap05_comp_govpol_demo_42252.pdf

After reading the briefing paper, answer the following questions completely:

1. What are four characteristics of substantive and procedural democracies.
2. Explain why a procedural democracy is not necessarily a substantive democracy.
3. Identify the “three waves of democratization.”
4. What is the relationship between level of economic development and the international environment of democracy on the outcome of democratization?
5. Who initiates democratization when it is from above? How does this differ when the democratization comes from below?
6. What is meant by democratic consolidation from transitional democracy?
7. What is missing in an “illiberal” democracy?

Part III: News Articles (don't be overwhelmed-work on your own pace)- All articles must have been published on or after JUNE 1, 2025

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During the summer collect three news articles per country. The articles should span the duration of the summer, and not only reflect 1-2 weeks prior to the start of school. The articles should provide you with information about the political, economic, and/or foreign policy issues confronting each nation. Articles may come from newspapers, periodicals, magazines, and/or the Internet.

TASK FOR PART III: WRITE THE NAME OF THE ARTICLE, DATE OF PUBLICATION AND NAME OF PUBLISHER (MAGAZINE/WEBSITE/NEWSPAPER) AND NAME OF AUTHOR. SUMMARIZE THE ARTICLE IN ONE-TWO PARAGRAPHS. **ARTICLES WITHOUT AN AUTHOR WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

NOTE: THE ARTICLES MUST HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED ON OR AFTER JUNE 1, 2025

Three articles per nation are the minimum number of articles required.

Write a 1 paragraph summary for each news article. (include the links to the articles)