

AP Comparative Government & Politics (AP COGO)
Syllabus 2026-2027

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Course Description: AP Comparative Government and Politics (AP COGO) 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. (source: College Board)

5 Big Ideas (Themes):

- 1 Power and Authority (PAU)
- 2 Legitimacy and Stability (LEG)
- 3 Democratization (DEM)
- 4 Internal and External Forces (IEF)
- 5 Methods of Political Analysis (MPA)

5 Units:

- 1. Political Systems, Regimes, and Governments
(18-27% of multiple choice score)
- 2. Political Institutions
(22-33% of multiple choice score)
- 3. Political Culture and Participation
(11-18% of multiple choice score)
- 4. Party and Electoral Systems and Citizen
Organizations (13-18% of multiple choice score)
- 5 Political and Economic Changes and
Development (16-24% of multiple choice score)

About the Exam – from the College Board website

<https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-comparative-government-and-politics/assessment>

The AP Comparative Government and Politics Exam will test your understanding of the political concepts covered in the course units, including your ability to compare political institutions and processes in different countries.

This is a fully digital exam. You'll complete multiple-choice and free-response questions in the Bluebook testing app, with all responses automatically submitted at the end of the exam.

Exam Duration

2hrs 30mins

Exam Date

May 14, Friday, 8am at KCA

Exam Components

<u>Section 1: Multiple Choice:</u>	55 questions	1 hour	50% of score
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The multiple-choice section includes individual, single questions as well as sets of questions. Questions focus on the core countries of the course: China, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, and the United Kingdom.

You'll be asked to:

- Describe, explain, and compare political concepts and processes
- Compare political concepts and processes of the course countries
- Analyze data in graphs, charts, table, maps, and/or infographics
- Read and analyze text passages

<u>Section 2: Free Response:</u>	4 questions	1hr 30mins	50% of Score
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In the free-response section, you'll respond to four questions with written answers.

The section includes:

- 1 conceptual analysis question: You'll define or describe a political concept and/or compare political systems, principles, institutions, processes, policies, or behaviors.
- 1 quantitative analysis question: You'll analyze data to find patterns and trends and reach a conclusion.
- 1 comparative analysis question: You'll compare political concepts, systems, institutions, processes, or policies in two of the course countries.
- 1 argument essay: You'll write an evidence-based essay supporting a claim or thesis.

Required text:

Waples, Karen, Stephen Orvis, and Carol Ann Drogus. *Comparative Government: Stories of the World for the AP Course*. 1st edition. Bedford, Freeman & Worth, 2023

Students will also read, listen, and view a variety of current events from diverse perspectives, including but not limited to the following media outlets:

Current events sources:

- New York Times
- Al Jazeera
- Reuters
- British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)
- Associated Press (AP)
- Wall Street Journal
- The Christian Science Monitor
- National Public Radio (NPR)
- CNN

Podcasts:

- As It Happens, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC)
- Democracy Now!
- Global News Podcast, BBC
- Throughline, NPR

News aggregators:

- Ad Fontes Media
- AllSides

- The Week

Country-specific reporting:

- Mexico:
 - El Universal
 - Animal Politico
 - Proceso
- United Kingdom:
 - The Guardian
 - The Independent
- Russia:
 - TASS
 - Novaya Gazeta
- Nigeria:
 - This Day
 - Nigerian Television Authority (NTA)
- China:
 - Xinhua
 - China Daily
- Iran:
 - Tasnim News Agency
 - Islamic Republic News Agency

Fall Semester 2026-2027

This syllabus will be adapted as needed:

<u>W E E K</u>		<u>AP Test Unit</u>	<u>Reading/Watching/ Listening</u>	<u>Writing</u>	<u>Homework</u>
1	Introduction to Comparative Politics (only 1 class this week)	1 Political Systems, Regimes, and Governments			
2	Introduction to Comparative Politics	1 Political Systems, Regimes, and Governments	Waples 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4	Chapter 1 Review & AP Practice Questions/Essay	Section Review Questions + AP Political Science Practices

3	Political Systems	1 Political Systems, Regimes, and Governments	Waples 2.1, 2.2, 2.3		Section Review Questions + AP Political Science Practices
4	Political Systems		Waples 2.4, 2.5	Chapter 2 Review & AP Practice Questions/Essay	Section Review Questions + AP Political Science Practices
5	Mexico		Waples 3.1, 3.2, 3.3		Section Review Questions + AP Political Science Practices
6	Mexico (only 1 class this week)		Waples 3.4, 3.5	Chapter 3 Review & AP Practice Questions/Essay	Section Review Questions + AP Political Science Practices
7	Mexico		<i>Creative Thinking Project: You Are A Political Journalist in Mexico.</i>		
8	Mexico/Political Institutions		Waples 4.1, 4.2		Section Review Questions + AP Political Science Practices
9	Political Institutions	2	Waples 4.3, 4.4	Chapter 4 Review & AP Practice Questions/Essay	Section Review Questions + AP Political Science Practices
10	United Kingdom (only 1 class this week)		Waples 5.1, 5.2, 5.3		Section Review Questions + AP Political Science Practices
11	United Kingdom		Waples 5.4, 5.5	Chapter 5 Review & AP Practice Questions/Essay	Section Review Questions + AP Political Science Practices
12	United Kingdom (only 1 class this week)		<i>Creative Thinking Project: Politics on the Stage – the United Kingdom</i>		

13	UK/Political Culture and Participation		Waples		Section Review Questions + AP Political Science Practices
14	Political Culture and Participation		Waples 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4	Chapter 6 Review & AP Practice Questions/Essay	Section Review Questions + AP Political Science Practices
15	Russia		Waples 7.1, 7.2, 7.3		Section Review Questions + AP Political Science Practices
16	Russia		Waples 7.4, 7.5	Chapter 7 Review & AP Practice Questions/Essay	Section Review Questions + AP Political Science Practices
17	Russia		<i>Creative Thinking Project: When Music Becomes Politics – Russia</i>		

Spring Semester 2026-2027

This syllabus will be adapted as needed:

WEEK		Reading/Watching/Listening	Writing	Homework
1	Party and Electoral Systems and Citizen Organizations	Waples 8.1, 8.2, 8.3	Chapter 8 Review & AP Practice Questions/Essay	Section Review Questions + AP Political Science Practices
2	Nigeria	Waples 9.1, 9.2, 9.3		Section Review Questions + AP Political Science Practices
3	Nigeria	Waples 9.4, 9.5	Chapter 9 Review & AP Practice Questions/Essay	Section Review Questions + AP Political Science Practices
4	Nigeria	<i>Creative Thinking Project: Politics Through Dance – Nigeria</i>		

5	Globalization	Waples 10.1, 10.2, 10.3	Chapter 10 Review & AP Practice Questions/Essay	Section Review Questions + AP Political Science Practices
6	China	Waples 11.1, 11.2, 11.3		
7	China	Waples 11.4, 11.5	Chapter 11 Review & AP Practice Questions/Essay	
8	China	<i>Creative Thinking Project: China in Wire - A Sculpture of Power</i>		Section Review Questions + AP Political Science Practices
9	Political and Economic Change and Development	Waples 12.1, 12.2, 12.3	Chapter 12 Review & AP Practice Questions/Essay	Section Review Questions + AP Political Science Practices
10	Iran	Waples 13.1, 13.2, 13.3		Section Review Questions + AP Political Science Practices
11	Iran	Waples 13.4, 13.5	Chapter 13 Review & AP Practice Questions/Essay	Section Review Questions + AP Political Science Practices
12	Iran	<i>Creative Thinking Project: Iran in Poetry – When Words Become Political</i>		
13	AP Review			
14	AP Review AP Exam Friday 5/14 8am			
15	Create a Country Project			
16	Create a Country Project			
17	Create a Country Project			