

Advanced Placement Comparative Government and Politics

Summer Assignment – 2019-20

Welcome to AP Comparative Government and Politics (sometimes known as CoGoPo for short). 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 to turnitin.com on **August 30th**. Our assignments this summer will get us acquainted with each other, as well as get us acquainted with one of the major concepts of this course. ***Collectively the assignments will count as a test grade and will be collected as one file to turnitin.com.***

PART I: Statements of Purpose and Knowledge

Please respond to the following questions in a few thoughtful sentences or a short paragraph.

1. Why are you taking AP CoGoPo? What do you hope to get out of this course?
2. What do you know about global politics? Briefly explain your understanding of world politics (it is ok if you don't know much!).

PART II: Democratization Briefing Paper

Read the Democratization Briefing Paper on the AP Central website. It can be accessed at the following link:

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

It can also be accessed by googling "Democratization briefing paper College Board" (it is the first result).

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

1. List the 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: Article Summaries

Based on your reading of the Democratization Briefing Paper, find two current news articles (***from a reliable news source such as the BBC, The Economist, The Washington Post, NPR or the New York Times – bbc.com, economist.com, washingtonpost.com, npr.org, nytimes.com***) that illustrate the concept of democratization (each article should preferably be about one of the six countries we are focusing on in class). Write a one-page summary of each article, including a paragraph that explains ***how*** the concept of democratization is illustrated in each article. Be prepared to discuss on the first day of school.

If you have any questions about the assignment do not hesitate to email me at mtrokan@vtsd.com. I look forward to working with you in September.

This assignment will also be available online at www.thetrokanwebsite.weebly.com.

- Join remind.com by texting @cogopo2019 to 81010
- Join the class turnitin by going to turnitin.com. ***The Class ID is 21266299 and the password is 2222***