

AP Comparative Summer Assignment

Summer 2018

During the Fall semester of 2018, we will be comparing the governments of six countries. Many of you have limited to no knowledge of how other countries are governed or the impact of these countries in our global society. This summer you should concentrate on building your base knowledge by starting with some basic country facts, learning basic vocabulary, and following these countries in the media.



Part 1: Answer the following the questions

1. Why is it important for Americans to understand what is going on in the rest of the world?

2. What are the three steps in comparative analysis? Give examples.

3. List and describe the various approaches to studying comparative politics.

4. Define the following terms: POWER and AUTHORITY. How do the two differ? Use real world examples to demonstrate the difference.

5. What is legitimacy? Explain the three sources of political legitimacy. Give real world examples of each.

6. Why is legitimacy increasingly linked with democratic principles in our time?

7. What is the difference between “state”, “nation”, “country”, and “regime”?

8. Define SOVEREIGNTY. What are examples of intrusions into state sovereignty?

9. According to the idea of a legitimate democracy there are 4 requirements for a democracy: free elections, a guarantee of civil liberties & human rights, and limited governmental powers. Summarize the idea of each of these categories. Also explain why these concepts are considered important for democracy?

Part 2: Fill out the following chart.

	USA	Britain	Russia	Mexico	Iran	China	Nigeria
Leader							
Type of Government							
Area							
Border Nations or bodies of water							
Natural Resources							

Population							
Population Growth Rate (%)							
Infant Mortality Rate							
Life Expectancy							
HIV/AIDS Adult prevalence rate							
Primary Ethnic Group (%)							
Languages Spoken							
Education Expenditure							
Major Problem facing the nation							
Most influential political parties							
Branches of Government GDP & GDP per capita							
Capital City							

Population below poverty line							
Unemployment Rate							
Inflation Rate							
Industries							
Types of Transpiration used							
Military Expenditures (% of GDP)							