

AP Comparative Government and Politics (2020-2021)

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All summer work is due on the first day of classes!

Welcome to AP Comparative Government and Politics! I am very excited to work with you all to better understand international affairs and the specific conditions in each of our case study countries: The **United Kingdom**, the **Russian Federation**, **Nigeria**, **Mexico**, **Iran**, and **China**.

General Instructions

Please complete each part for the FIRST DAY of the 2020-2021 school year. All work must be completed individually. The PG Honor Code applies at all time. All answers, even definitions, should be put into your own words. If you have any questions, you can email me during the summer. Submission will depend on our opening status in August, so do all of these electronically for easy submission.

Part I: Current News Events (20 points)

Please complete the attached "Current Events Summary" sheet for **ONE** of the countries we are going to study this year. Your choice of an event must be about a **major political, economic, or social development** in that country **or** about that **country's involvement on the world stage**.

Part of this class requires you to keep up with international news. For this part the summer work (and for all parts of this class) we are looking for reliable international news. CNN, MSNBC, and Fox News are **NOT** reliable sources for us. **DO NOT USE THEM**. Some good reliable sources are the World/International sections of the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. *The Economist* has great economic international reporting. BBC News is a good online source. So is *The Guardian*. There are English language versions of *Le Monde* (France) and *Der Spiegel* (Germany).

Please complete the Current Events Summary and attach a copy of the article.

Part II: Country Info (30 pts)

Using the **CIA World Factbook**, complete the attached chart of key information about the countries we are studying this year.

Part III: Vocabulary (34 points)

In your own words, find the definitions of the following key political science terms we will use in this class. You will have a vocabular quiz on these words within the first two weeks of school. **Please note, some terms that we use as Americans are not the same as the more academic definitions use by international relations scholars**. Some useful sites for definitions are:

http://webhome.auburn.edu/~johnspm/gloss/political_science

http://cf.linnbenton.edu/artcom/social_science/clarkd/upload/International%20Relations%20and%20Global%20Politics--Glossary.pdf

<http://www.socialsciencedictionary.com/>

Authority

Bicameralism

Bureaucracy

Checks and Balances

Confederation
Devolution
Executive
Federalism
Interest Groups
Judicial Review
Judiciary
Legislature
Legitimacy
Liberal Democracy
Nation
Nationalization
Nation-state
Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)
Parliamentary System
Political Culture
Political Socialization
Presidential System
Proportional Representation
Referendum
Regime
Republic
Rule of Law
Separation of Powers
Sovereignty
State
Theocracy
Unicameral Legislature
Unitary State

Name: _____ I pledge.....: _____

Part I: Current Event Summary Form
(Print and attach your article.)

Country: _____ Source: _____

Article Title: _____

Article Date: _____

Who was involved in this development/event? (Identify specific people, groups, organizations, etc.)

What happened? (Write this in a short summary paragraph, being as specific as you can.)

How does this article help us explain the country’s internal politics and/or its actions on the world stage?

Name: _____

I Pledge: _____

Part II: Country Info Chart

	United Kingdom	Russia	China	Nigeria	Iran	Mexico
Head of State						
Head of Government						
Type of Government						
Population						
Life Expectancy						
Natural Resources						
Major Religions						
Languages Spoken						
Ethnic Groups						
Capital City						
Recent GDP						