

AP Comparative Government



The following descriptions represent the major concepts studied and assessed in this course.

Unit 1

Political Systems, Regimes, and Governments

- How political scientists collect and use data and information
- Types of political systems: regimes, states, nations, and governments
- Democracy and authoritarianism
- The ways governments and regimes get, keep, and lose power
- Factors that can either help or undermine the stability of a government

Unit 2

Political Institutions

- Parliamentary, presidential, and semi-presidential government systems
- Executive institutions (for example, presidents, prime ministers, cabinets)
- Legislative systems (for example, congressional or parliamentary)
- Judicial systems (judges and courts)

Unit 3

Political Culture & Participation

- Where the political attitudes and beliefs of citizens come from
- Political ideologies such as individualism, communism, and fascism
- Political participation by citizens and its effects
- Civil rights and civil liberties
- Social divisions within a country and their effects

Unit 4

Party and Electoral Systems and Citizen Organizations

- Types of electoral systems and election rules
- Types of political party systems
- How social movements and interest groups cause political change

Unit 5

Political and Economic Changes and Development

- Political responses to global market forces
- The effects of economic liberalization policies
- How governments adapt social policies to address political, cultural, and economic changes
- Rapid industrialization and its impacts
- The causes and effects of demographic changes