

AP Summer Assignment **AP Comparative Government & Politics**

Welcome to AP Comparative Government & Politics. The course is the study of the political systems found in the United Kingdom, Russia, China, Mexico, Nigeria and Iran, and how these systems impact public policy within each state.

Complete the following assignments to get a jump on learning about comparative politics and the comparativist method. The assignment is due the first day of school in August and should be ready to turn in when you arrive in class. Be prepared – we will also have a Socratic seminar within the first week to discuss the assignment. I recommend that you keep an annotated copy of the briefing paper for that discussion.

- I. Read the Democratization Briefing Paper found on the AP Central website. You can access the paper at the following link:
https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/apc/ap05_comp_govpol_demo_42252.pdf
or you can simply search for “Democratization Briefing Paper College Board.” It will be the first result.

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

1. What are the characteristics of substantive and procedural democracies? Explain why a procedural democracy is not necessarily a substantive democracy.
 2. Identify the “three waves of democratization.”
 3. What is the relationship between level of economic development and the outcome of democratization?
 4. Who initiates democratization when it is from above? How does this differ when the democratization comes from below?
 5. What is meant by democratic consolidation from transitional democracy?
 6. What characteristics are present in an illiberal democracy? What characteristics are missing?
- II. Based on your reading of the Democratization Briefing Paper, find a current news article from a reliable source (BBC, The Economist, Washington Post, New York Times) that illustrates the concept of democratization (any country). Write a one-page summary of the article, including a paragraph that explains how the concept of democratization is illustrated in your article. Be sure to parenthetically cite any quotes (from the article and from the briefing paper) and to create a works cited page in MLA format.

If you have any questions over the summer about this assignment, email Mrs. Crawford at Jennifer_Crawford@dekalbschoolsga.org. I am looking forward to a great year with all of you!