

AP COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT & POLITICS – SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

As the world continues to be more interdependent, it is essential to gain insights on the traditions and practices of other nations' governments. We will investigate in depth the United Kingdom, Iran, China, Russia, Nigeria, and Mexico. Comparisons will be made in terms of government institutions, economic policies, citizen participation, and public policies.

THE ASSIGNMENT MUST BE DONE IN YOUR OWN HANDWRITING

******Create a chart that has the following elements (you should not use this chart – there is not enough room to write):***

Topic/Indicator	U.K.	Iran	China	Russia	Nigeria	Mexico
*For each indicator (identified with an *), provide a short description of what it measures or how it was constructed						
Type of govt system: describe in a short phrase or sentence						
Type of electoral syste: describe in a short phrase or sentence						
Major political parties: names and political ideology (liberal, conservative, etc.)						
*Democracy index and sub-categories						
*Women in legislative body: rank and score						
*Gini index						
*Freedom House Political Rights and Civil Liberties scores						
*Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) Score						
Life expectancy: in years						
Literacy rate: male and female						
Infant mortality rate						
*GDP per capita						

Resources:

www.freedomhouse.org
www.humanrightsdata.org
www.transparency.org
www.gapminder.org
<http://www.internetworldstats.com>

<http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2014/>

www.eiu.com/public/thankyou_download.aspx?activity=download&campaignid=Democracy0115

www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/Index
www.undp.org
www.wikipedia.org
www.data.worldbank.org

Your assignment is due on the FIRST DAY of class. We will discuss these indicators and related topics, and you will have a quiz on them in the first week. You will be able to use your chart on the quiz to assist you. Be prepared to discuss topics such as:

1. What does it mean to say that the British make use of a “first past the post” or “winner take all” electoral system?
2. What does it mean to say that Iran is a unitary state? That Nigeria uses a federal system?
3. Is a Freedom House Political Rights score of 7 good or bad? Why? What does this score say about the level of political development in each country?
4. How is Transparency International’s Corruption Perception Index constructed? What is the range of possible scores? How pervasive is corruption in Nigeria compared to the United Kingdom?
5. How does the level of women’s representation in politics compare across the six countries? What might account for the similarities? The differences?
6. How do the six countries compare in terms of the overall democracy index? The subcategories? What factors may explain these similarities? Differences?
7. Is high poverty/income inequality correlated with corruption? Do you think one causes the other?
8. Is a country’s level of economic development correlated with its level of democratization? Consider Mexico and China. Does one cause the other?

Scoring Rubric
Please attach this sheet to the front of your chart

PRINTED NAME _____

Clarity: were the information and indicators clear?	20 17.5 15 12.5 10 7.5 5 2.5
Accuracy: were the data and description accurate?	20 17.5 15 12.5 10 7.5 5 2.5
Completion: was the assignment completed on time, without errors and according to the directions?	10 7.5 5 2.5
Comments:	TOTAL: _____ / 50