

ap comparative government frq

Mastering the AP Comparative Government FRQ: Your Ultimate Guide

If you're preparing for the AP Comparative Government exam, understanding the AP Comparative Government FRQ (Free Response Question) is crucial. This section challenges students to demonstrate their ability to analyze, compare, and evaluate political systems, processes, and concepts. Excelling in this part can significantly boost your overall score, so mastering its structure, expectations, and effective strategies is essential. In this comprehensive guide, we'll explore key tips, strategies, and insights to help you confidently approach and succeed in the AP Comparative Government FRQ.

What Is the AP Comparative Government FRQ?

The AP Comparative Government FRQ is a section of the AP exam designed to assess your ability to apply political concepts, analyze real-world examples, and develop well-structured responses. Typically, the FRQ prompts are centered around themes like political institutions, political ideologies, citizens and participation, and sovereignty and authority.

Key Features of the FRQ Section

- Number of Questions: Usually 2 questions per exam session.
- Time Allocation: Approximately 40 minutes total, with about 20 minutes per question.
- Question Types:
 - Concept Application: Applying political concepts to specific countries.
 - Comparative Analysis: Comparing political systems or processes across countries.
 - Data Response: Interpreting charts, graphs, or other data sources.

Understanding these features helps you allocate your time effectively and tailor your responses to meet exam expectations.

Essential Strategies for Approaching the FRQ

Success in the AP Comparative Government FRQ hinges on strategic preparation and execution. Here are some proven strategies to maximize your performance:

1. Familiarize Yourself with the Exam Format and Prompts

- Review past FRQ prompts to identify common themes and question styles.
- Practice analyzing sample questions to develop a sense of what graders look for.
- Understand the rubric, which rewards clarity, accuracy, and depth of analysis.

2. Develop a Strong Content Foundation

- Build a solid understanding of core concepts like sovereignty, legitimacy, political institutions, and political culture.
- Study the specific countries covered in the curriculum, focusing on their political processes, institutions, and recent developments.
- Use case studies and current events to contextualize your answers.

3. Practice with Timed Responses

- Regularly practice FRQ questions under exam conditions to improve your pacing.
- Allocate approximately 10 minutes for planning and organizing your answer, and 10 minutes for writing.

4. Create a Framework for Structuring Responses

- Use clear introductory statements that directly answer the prompt.
- Organize the main body with logical paragraphs, each focusing on a specific point or comparison.
- Conclude with a brief summary or evaluation that reinforces your main ideas.

5. Use Evidence Effectively

- Support your analysis with specific examples, data, or case studies.

- Incorporate political terminology accurately to demonstrate your understanding.

How to Tackle Different Types of FRQ Questions

The FRQ questions can vary in focus. Here's how to approach each type:

A. Concept Application Questions

Example Prompt:

"Explain how the concept of legitimacy influences political stability in a country of your choice."

Approach:

- Define the concept clearly.
- Provide specific examples from the country to illustrate how legitimacy is established or challenged.
- Analyze the impact on political stability.

B. Comparative Analysis Questions

Example Prompt:

"Compare the executive branches of the United Kingdom and Nigeria, focusing on their structures and powers."

Approach:

- Clearly outline the structures of each country's executive.
- Highlight similarities and differences.
- Evaluate how these structures influence political processes and stability.

C. Data Response Questions

Example Prompt:

Interpreting a chart showing voter turnout in different countries.

Approach:

- Carefully analyze the data presented.
- Connect the data to broader political concepts like citizen participation.
- Use specific data points to support your analysis.

Tips for Writing High-Quality FRQ Responses

Achieving a high score requires more than just answering the question; your response must be well-organized, detailed, and demonstrate critical thinking.

1. Address All Parts of the Question

- Break down multi-part prompts and respond to each component.
- Use headings or signal phrases to differentiate sections when appropriate.

2. Be Clear and Concise

- Use straightforward language.
- Avoid unnecessary repetition or verbosity.

3. Incorporate Political Vocabulary

- Use terms like sovereignty, legitimacy, bureaucracy, political socialization, etc., correctly and contextually.

4. Provide Specific Examples

- Reference real-world countries, recent events, or historical instances to strengthen your arguments.

5. Link Concepts and Examples

- Demonstrate how your examples illustrate broader political theories or concepts.

6. Review and Edit

- If time permits, review your answer for clarity, grammatical accuracy, and completeness.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Vague or General Responses: Be specific and detailed.
- Ignoring the Question Parts: Address each component thoroughly.
- Poor Organization: Structure your answer logically.
- Lack of Evidence: Support claims with concrete examples.
- Running Out of Time: Practice pacing to ensure completion within the time limit.

Additional Resources for Success

- Past FRQ Prompts and Sample Responses: Review available resources on the College Board website.
- AP Classroom and Review Books: Use these for targeted practice.
- Study Groups: Collaborate with peers to discuss concepts and practice responses.
- Teacher Feedback: Seek constructive criticism on practice essays.

Final Thoughts: Success in the AP Comparative Government FRQ

Mastering the AP Comparative Government FRQ requires a blend of content knowledge, analytical skills, and strategic exam techniques. Regular practice, familiarization with question formats, and developing a clear response structure will help you approach exam day with confidence. Remember to stay calm, manage your time wisely, and demonstrate your understanding of political systems and concepts through detailed, well-organized answers.

By following these guidelines and dedicating consistent effort to practice, you'll be well on your way to excelling in the free response section and achieving your target score in the AP Comparative Government exam. Good luck!

Frequently Asked Questions

What strategies can students use to effectively prepare for AP Comparative Government FRQs?

Students should familiarize themselves with the specific frameworks and key concepts of each country studied, practice analyzing past FRQs, develop strong essay organization skills, and focus on crafting clear, concise thesis statements supported by relevant evidence.

How important is understanding the political institutions when answering AP Comparative Government FRQs?

Understanding political institutions is crucial because many FRQs require analysis of how institutions like legislatures, executives, or courts influence policy and political behavior. Clear explanations of institutional functions and their impact are often key to scoring well.

What common mistakes should students avoid on AP Comparative Government FRQs?

Students should avoid vague answers, failing to cite specific examples, not directly addressing the question prompt, and neglecting to organize their essays logically. It's also important to stay within the scope of the question and avoid unrelated information.

How can students effectively incorporate case studies into their FRQ

responses?

Students should select relevant case studies that directly illustrate their arguments, integrate them smoothly into their responses, and explain how the case studies support their analysis, ensuring they are specific and detailed enough to strengthen their answers.

What are some key themes or concepts frequently tested in AP

Comparative Government FRQs?

Common themes include political institutions, political culture and participation, sovereignty, legitimacy, development, and political change. Familiarity with concepts like legitimacy, authority, and policy-making is also essential.

How can practicing past FRQs improve performance on the exam?

Practicing past FRQs helps students understand the question formats, develop time management skills, identify common themes, and refine their ability to craft well-organized, evidence-based responses under exam conditions.

What role does understanding the comparative method play in answering FRQs effectively?

Understanding the comparative method allows students to analyze similarities and differences between countries systematically, which is often required in FRQs to support comparative analysis and demonstrate depth of understanding.

Additional Resources

AP Comparative Government FRQ: A Comprehensive Analysis

In the realm of AP Comparative Government, Free Response Questions (FRQs) serve as a critical

component that tests students' ability to analyze, compare, and synthesize complex political concepts across different regimes. These questions are designed not only to assess factual knowledge but also to evaluate students' analytical skills, understanding of political institutions, processes, and ideologies, and their capacity to apply theoretical frameworks to real-world political systems. Given the diversity of political systems covered in the AP curriculum—ranging from liberal democracies to authoritarian regimes—success in answering FRQs requires a nuanced understanding of political structures, electoral systems, policy-making processes, and the socio-economic factors influencing governance.

This article aims to provide a comprehensive, detailed, and analytical overview of AP Comparative Government FRQs, exploring their structure, common themes, strategies for effective response, and the key concepts students need to master. Whether you are a student preparing for the exam or an educator designing practice questions, understanding the intricacies of FRQs is essential for achieving a high score.

Understanding the FRQ Structure in AP Comparative Government

Format and Expectations

AP Comparative Government FRQs typically span a 15-minute time frame and are designed to evaluate students' ability to construct coherent, evidence-supported responses within a limited period. The questions are often divided into parts (e.g., Part A and Part B), each requiring specific responses.

The typical structure includes:

- Question Prompts: These may ask students to compare political systems, analyze political phenomena, or evaluate policies.
- Part A: Usually a shorter, focused question prompting students to define key concepts or describe

specific institutions.

- Part B: A more complex prompt requiring analysis, comparison, and synthesis of information across different regimes or within a single system.

Students are expected to support their answers with concrete examples, data, and clear reasoning, demonstrating both factual knowledge and analytical depth.

Scoring Rubric and Key Components

The scoring rubric emphasizes four main components:

1. Thesis/Claim: A clear, defensible position responding directly to the prompt.
2. Use of Evidence: Incorporation of relevant examples, case studies, or data to support claims.
3. Analysis and Explanation: Demonstration of understanding by explaining how evidence supports the thesis.
4. Organization and Clarity: Logical structure, coherence, and clarity in writing.

To excel, students need to balance these elements, providing thorough explanations while staying concise and focused.

Common Themes and Question Types in AP Comparative Government FRQs

The exam's FRQs often revolve around recurring themes that test core concepts in comparative politics. Understanding these themes helps students anticipate the types of questions they might encounter.

1. Political Systems and Regimes

Questions may ask students to compare and contrast different types of regimes, such as liberal democracies, authoritarian regimes, or hybrid systems. They might analyze the characteristics, advantages, and disadvantages of each or evaluate how regimes maintain stability or face challenges.

Example: Compare the executive-legislative relations in the UK and Russia, analyzing how institutional differences influence policy-making.

2. Political Institutions and Processes

This includes questions on electoral systems, party systems, federalism vs. unitary states, and the role of the judiciary. Students might be asked to explain how specific institutions shape political behavior or policy outcomes.

Example: Analyze how the electoral system in Nigeria influences party competition and representation.

3. Political Culture and Ideology

Questions may explore how political ideologies (liberalism, conservatism, communism, etc.) influence policy choices or societal conflicts. They might also examine the role of political culture in shaping regime stability.

Example: Discuss the impact of political socialization on voter behavior in Mexico.

4. Policy-Making and Governance

Students might evaluate policy responses to economic, social, or environmental issues, considering institutional constraints and political context.

Example: Assess the effectiveness of China's climate change policies within its political structure.

5. Socio-Economic Factors and Political Outcomes

Questions may connect economic development, inequality, or social movements to political stability or change.

Example: How does economic inequality influence social protests in Nigeria?

Strategies for Approaching FRQs Effectively

Success on AP Comparative Government FRQs hinges on strategic preparation and response techniques.

1. Develop a Strong Theoretical Foundation

Students should familiarize themselves with core concepts such as sovereignty, legitimacy, political socialization, institutions, and policy-making. Understanding these frameworks enables quick identification of relevant points during the exam.

2. Practice Comparative Analysis

Given the emphasis on comparison, students should regularly practice contrasting different regimes or systems, focusing on similarities and differences in institutions, processes, and outcomes.

3. Use Specific Examples

Vague answers are penalized. Incorporate specific case studies, data, or historical examples to substantiate arguments. For instance, citing the role of the Supreme Court in the U.S. or the electoral system used in Japan adds credibility.

4. Structure Responses Clearly

Organize answers logically—start with a thesis, follow with supporting evidence, analyze the evidence, and conclude by tying back to the prompt. Bullet points or numbered lists can help during practice but should be integrated into paragraph form during the exam.

5. Manage Time Wisely

Allocate time proportionally: spend a few minutes planning, then write succinctly but thoroughly. Leave a few minutes for review.

Key Concepts and Frameworks for FRQ Success

Mastery of certain concepts is crucial for performing well on FRQs. Here are some of the most

important:

- Regime Types: Liberal democracies, authoritarian regimes, hybrid regimes.
- Institutions: Executive, legislature, judiciary, electoral systems, political parties.
- Political Culture: Political socialization, ideology, legitimacy.
- Policy-Making Processes: Bureaucracy, policy formulation, implementation.
- Political Economy: State control, privatization, economic development.
- Comparative Frameworks: Modernization theory, dependency theory, political culture theory.

Familiarity with country-specific examples (e.g., UK's parliamentary system, Nigeria's federal structure, China's one-party rule) enhances the richness of responses.

Analyzing Sample FRQs: A Step-by-Step Approach

To illustrate, let's analyze a typical prompt:

Sample FRQ:

Compare the role of the executive in the United Kingdom and Nigeria. In your answer, discuss the powers, limitations, and political influence of the executive in each country.

Step 1: Break down the question

Identify key components: role of the executive, comparison, powers, limitations, influence.

Step 2: Outline your response

- Introduction: Define the executive in each context.
- Body Paragraph 1: Executive in the UK—constitutional monarchy, Prime Minister's powers, cabinet influence, limitations via Parliament.
- Body Paragraph 2: Executive in Nigeria—presidential system, powers of the President, checks and balances, influence of political parties.
- Comparative Analysis: Similarities and differences in authority, accountability, and political influence.

- Conclusion: Summarize the comparative insights and implications for governance.

Step 3: Provide evidence

Cite specific features such as the UK's Prime Minister's question time, Nigeria's presidential elections, or the role of the military.

Step 4: Synthesize and analyze

Discuss how institutional differences shape political stability or policy effectiveness.

Step 5: Write clearly and concisely

Ensure logical flow, clear topic sentences, and strong transitions.

Conclusion: Mastering the FRQ for Success

AP Comparative Government FRQs are designed to challenge students' analytical capabilities and their understanding of complex political systems. Success depends on a solid grasp of core concepts, the ability to compare systematically, and the skill to support arguments with concrete examples. Strategic preparation—focused study, regular practice, and developing a clear writing style—can greatly enhance performance.

Ultimately, excelling in FRQs requires not only memorization of facts but also the capacity to think critically about how political institutions and processes interact within different regimes. By mastering these skills, students can confidently approach the exam questions, demonstrate their political acumen, and achieve their academic goals in AP Comparative Government.

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Suzanne Bailey, 2020-10-02 MATCHES THE LATEST EXAM! In this hybrid year, let us supplement your AP classroom experience with this easy-to-follow study guide! The immensely popular 5 Steps

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States exam is given during the morning administration, the Comparative exam will be given during the afternoon administration. The AP United States Government & Politics Exam

The United States exam is 145 minutes in length and is divided into two sections: I. Multiple-Choice (50% of your grade): This 45-minute section is composed of 60 questions designed to measure your understanding of facts, concepts, and theories pertinent to United States government and politics. Your ability to analyze and understand data, and the patterns and consequences involved with political processes and behaviors will also be tested. In addition you must have knowledge of the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas relevant to United States government and politics. II. Free-Response (50% of your grade): This 100-minute section consists of four mandatory questions, each of which accounts for one-fourth of your total free-response score. You should allot roughly 25 minutes - or one-quarter of the total time in the free-response segment - for each essay. Each question normally asks you to interrelate ideas from different content areas from among the topics listed below. In addition, you may also be asked to evaluate and define fundamental concepts in the study of United States politics, and possibly to analyze case studies that bear on political relationships and events in the United States. You will be required to demonstrate mastery of political interpretation, and analytic and organizational skills through writing. In addition, you may be presented with graphs, charts and tables from whose data you would be asked to draw logical conclusions. Here's a breakdown of coverage on the United States exam: Topics / % of Exam

I. Constitutional Underpinnings of United States Government	/ 5-15%
II. Political Beliefs and Behaviors	/ 10-20%
III. Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Mass Media	/ 10-20%
IV. Institutions of National Government: The Congress, the Presidency, the Bureaucracy, and the Federal Courts	/ 35-45%
V. Public Policy	/ 5-15%
VI. Civil Rights and Civil Liberties	/ 5-15%

The AP Comparative Government & Politics Exam

The Comparative exam is 145 minutes long and is divided into two sections: I. Multiple-Choice (50% of your grade): This 45-minute section is composed of 60 questions designed to measure your understanding of facts, concepts, and theories pertinent to Comparative government and politics. Your ability to analyze and understand data, and the patterns and consequences involved with political processes and behaviors will also be tested. The countries normally tested in the multiple-choice questions include Great Britain, France, the former Soviet Union (Commonwealth of Independent States), and China; these are referred to as the core countries tested on the exam. For certain questions, basic knowledge of the United States will be assumed. II. Free-Response (50% of your grade): This 100-minute section consists of four mandatory questions, each of which accounts for one-fourth of your total free-response score. You should allot roughly 25 minutes - or one-quarter of the total time in the free-response segment - for each essay. Comparative Free-Response questions may require you to compare one or two of the core countries (Great Britain, France, China, and the former Soviet Union) with the developing nations of either India, Mexico, or Nigeria. To do this, you must be able to demonstrate knowledge of the politics of one of these developing nations. Here's a breakdown of coverage on the Comparative exam: Topics / % of Exam

I. The Sources of Public Authority and Political Power	/ 5-15%
II. Society and Politics	/ 5-15%
III. The Relationship Between Citizen and State	/ 5-15%
IV. Political and Institutional Frameworks	/ 35-45%
V. Political Change	/ 15-25%
VI. The Comparative Method	/ 5-10%

About the Review Sections As mentioned earlier, this book includes two reviews: one for United States Government and Politics, the other for Comparative Government and Politics. The United States Government and Politics Review covers all of the key information you'll need to score well on the United States exam. These topics include: - Constitutional Framework - The Federal Government - Political Institutions and Special Interests - Public Opinion and Voter Behavior - Civil Rights and the Supreme Court We also provide a glossary for the United States Government and Politics exam. Included are the key historical figures, court cases, programs, laws, etc., that often appear on this AP exam. The Comparative Review provides a thorough discussion of the material most often tested on the Comparative exam. Special emphasis is placed on the governments and politics of: - Britain - France - The former Soviet Union - The People's Republic of China A glossary for the Comparative Government and Politics exam enables you to brush up on terms that you are likely to encounter on

this test. Scoring the Exam After the AP administrations, more than 1,700 college professors and secondary school teachers are brought together to grade the exams during the first two weeks of June. These readers are chosen from around the United States for their familiarity with the AP program. The Multiple-Choice sections of the Comparative Government & Politics and U.S. Government & Politics exams are scored by granting one point for each correct answer and deducting one-fourth of a point for each incorrect answer. Unanswered questions receive neither credit nor deduction. The Free-Response answers are read and scored using a specific set of objective criteria, but the actual points available for each question may vary from administration to administration. For purposes of this discussion - and REA's practice tests - the Comparative exam questions will yield a score between 0 and 9 (with 0 being the lowest and 9 the highest) on Free-Response Part I, and a score of between 0 and 5 (with 0 being the lowest and 5 the highest) on Free-Response Part II. All four Free-Response items on our U.S. Government practice exam are scored on the 0-to-9 scale. Once the responses are graded, the scores can be converted. The AP Government and Politics exam is based on a 120-point scale. The breakdown of the percentages and points is as follows (note that the available free-response points will vary): Once raw scores have been obtained for each section, they are weighted to produce a composite score. Then the composite scores for each section are added together to form a total composite score for the exam. The range for the composite score is from 0 to 120. Finally, the composite score is translated into a range of from 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest.

Scoring the Multiple-Choice Section Use this formula to calculate your raw score for the multiple-choice section: $(\# \text{ right answers}) - (\# \text{ wrong} \times 1/4) = \text{raw score}$ round off to nearest whole number; if the number is less than zero, enter zero

Scoring the Free-Response Section The following guide explains typical free-response scoring criteria:

Score Explanation of Score 8-9 The thesis is extremely well developed and is supported with concrete evidence; all aspects of the question have been addressed thoroughly; discussions presented are balanced.

6-7 The thesis is defined and supported; the evidence provided is very organized; the essay may be slightly imbalanced with one strong argument and one weak argument and/or discuss one topic more thoroughly than the next; sporadic factual errors may appear.

5 A basic argument or thesis is provided; evidence given supports the argument or thesis, but does not clearly connect with the argument or thesis; only the formal facets of the question are dealt with, and informal facets are not adequately covered; not all aspects of the question are discussed.

4 The thesis is not organized and is not referred to in the essay; the essay is little more than a recounting of facts and events; the essay may be overloaded with data; only one facet of the questions may be discussed; numerous factual errors may appear.

3 The thesis is weak; evidence provided in support does not apply to the thesis; factual errors are apparent.

2 The thesis is very weak; little or no factual evidence is provided to support the thesis; irrelevant and inaccurate information appears.

1 An attempt is made to answer the question, but the support given is insignificant and the coverage of topics is incomplete.

0 The question is not answered with any significance.

Free-Response Part II (Comparative only)

Score Explanation of Score 5 The thesis is extremely well developed and is supported with concrete evidence; all aspects of the question have been addressed thoroughly; discussions are presented in a balanced way.

4 The thesis is defined and supported; the evidence provided is very organized; the essay may be slightly imbalanced, with one strong argument and one weak argument; likewise, one topic may be more thoroughly explored than another; may be marred by sporadic factual errors.

3 A basic argument or thesis is presented; evidence given supports the argument or thesis, but does not clearly connect with the argument or thesis; only the formal facets of the question are dealt with, and informal facets are not adequately covered; not all aspects of the question are discussed.

2 The thesis is weak; evidence provided in support does not apply to the thesis; factual errors are apparent.

1 An attempt is made to answer the question, but the support given is insignificant and the coverage of topics is incomplete.

0 The question is not answered with any significance.

It would be extremely helpful to find someone who is willing to score your essay - your teachers or anyone who is familiar with the test material. If you do, ask the person to assign each of your U.S. and Comparative (Part I) essays a score of 0 to 9. For your Comparative (Part II)

essays, use the 0-to-5 scale. If you must grade your own essays, try to be objective! In addition, you may want to give your essays three different grades. For instance, if you feel you did well, try giving the essay a score of 5, 6, or 7 to represent the various scores you may receive. By underestimating what your score may be, you are more likely to receive a better score on the actual exam. Use the following formulae to determine your raw score for the Free-Response section: United States Exam (Free-Response) Response (1) score $\times$ 1.66 = raw score Response (2) score $\times$ 1.66 = raw score Response (3) score $\times$ 1.66 = raw score Response (4) score $\times$ 1.66 = raw score Comparative Exam Response (1) score $\times$ 1.66 = raw score Response (2) score $\times$ 1.66 = raw score Response (3) score $\times$ 3 = raw score Response (4) score $\times$ 3 = raw score The Composite Score Once you have obtained your raw scores for both the Multiple-Choice and the Free-Response sections, add the scores together to get your composite score: United States Exam Multiple-Choice raw score + Free-Response raw score = composite score (round to nearest whole number) Score Essay 1 + Score Essay 2 + Score Essay 3 + Score Essay 4 = raw score Comparative Exam Multiple-Choice raw score + Free-Response raw score = composite score (round to nearest whole number) Now compare your composite score with the scale below: Composite Score / AP Grade 88 - 120 / 5 74 - 87 / 4 54 - 73 / 3 35 - 53 / 2 0 - 34 / 1 AP grades are interpreted as follows: 5-extremely well qualified, 4-well qualified, 3-qualified, 2-possibly qualified, and 1-no recommendation. Scores that Earn College Credit and/or Advanced Placement Most colleges grant students who earn a 3 or above college credit and/or advanced placement. You should check with your school guidance office about specific college requirements. Studying for Your AP Examination It is never too early to start studying. The earlier you begin, the more time you will have to sharpen your skills. Do not procrastinate! Cramming is not an effective way to study, since it does not allow you the time needed to learn the test material. It is very important for you to choose the time and place for studying that works best for you. Some students may set aside a certain number of hours every morning to study, while others may choose to study at night before going to sleep. Other students may study during the day, while waiting on a line, or even while eating lunch. Only you can determine when and where your study time will be most effective. But, be consistent and use your time wisely. Work out a study routine and stick to it! When you take the practice exam(s), try to make your testing conditions as much like the actual test as possible. Turn your television and radio off, and sit down at a quiet table free from distraction. Make sure to time yourself. As you complete the practice test(s), score your test(s) and thoroughly review the explanations to the questions you answered incorrectly, but do not review too much during any one sitting. Concentrate on one problem area at a time by reviewing the question and explanation, and by studying our review(s) until you are confident that you completely understand the material. Since you will be allowed to write in your test booklet during the actual exam, you may want to write in the margins and spaces of this book when practicing. However, do not make miscellaneous notes on your answer sheet. Mark your answers clearly and make sure the answer you have chosen corresponds to the question you are answering. Keep track of your scores! By doing so, you will be able to gauge your progress and discover general weaknesses in particular sections. You should carefully study the reviews that cover the topics causing you difficulty, as this will build your skills in those areas. To get the most out of your studying time, we recommend that you follow the Study Schedule which corresponds to the exam you are taking. It details how you can best budget your time. If you are taking both exams, do not try to study for each at the same time. Try alternating days by studying for the United States exam one day and the Comparative exam the next. Test-Taking Tips Although you may be unfamiliar with tests such as the Advanced Placement exams, there are many ways to acquaint yourself with this type of examination and help alleviate your test-taking anxieties. Listed below are ways to help yourself become accustomed to the AP exam, some of which may also be applied to other standardized tests. Become comfortable with the format of the AP Examination in Government and Politics that you are taking. When you are practicing to take the exam(s), simulate the conditions under which you will be taking the actual test(s). You should practice under the same time constraints as well. Stay calm and pace yourself. After simulating the test only a couple of times, you will boost your chances of doing well, and you will be

able to sit down for the actual test much more confidently. Know the directions and format for each section of the exam. Familiarizing yourself with the directions and format of the different test sections will not only save you time, but will also ensure that you are familiar enough with the AP exam to avoid nervousness (and the mistakes caused by being nervous). Work on the easier questions first. If you find yourself working too long on one question, make a mark next to it in your test booklet and continue. After you have answered all of the questions that you can, go back to the ones you have skipped. Use the process of elimination when you are unsure of an answer. If you can eliminate three of the answer choices, you have given yourself a fifty-fifty chance of getting the item correct since there will only be two choices left from which to make a guess. If you cannot eliminate at least three of the answer choices, you may choose not to guess, as you will be penalized one-quarter of a point for every incorrect answer. Questions not answered will not be counted. Be sure that you are marking your answer in the circle that corresponds to the number of the question in the test booklet. Since the multiple-choice section is graded by machine, marking the wrong answer will throw off your score.

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