

AP Comparative Government and Politics: Updates for 2019-20

- To bring you and your students new classroom resources and supports, we're making updates to AP[®] Comparative Government and Politics for the 2019-20 school year.
- These updates will give you a clearer sense of the content and skills that will be tested on the AP Exam. They'll also ensure that the exam format remains consistent from year to year.
- You won't need to update your syllabus in the AP Course Audit. You'll simply need to acknowledge the updates on your AP Course Audit form.
- Starting in August, you'll need to complete a simple digital activation process to access the new resources and help your students register for their exams.

Course Updates

AP Comparative Government and Politics has been updated for the 2019-20 school year to make things clearer for you and your students, reduce scope, and better align with college-level expectations.

Course and exam information is now clearly presented in a course and exam description (CED).

- Currently, a course description booklet—a very general overview of course content, with a topic outline—is available to help you plan your instruction.
- Starting in late May 2019, you'll have access to a **course and exam description (CED)** that clearly outlines all required course content and defines how that content will be assessed on the exam.

The CED organizes the course into five commonly taught units.

- This series of units represents a sequence that is found in widely adopted college textbooks and that many AP Comparative Government and Politics teachers have told us they follow:
 - ♦ **Unit 1:** Political Systems, Regimes, and Governments
 - ♦ **Unit 2:** Political Institutions
 - ♦ **Unit 3:** Political Culture and Participation
 - ♦ **Unit 4:** Party and Electoral Systems and Citizen Organizations
 - ♦ **Unit 5:** Political and Economic Changes and Developments
- By organizing the course content and skills into units, we're able to give you and your students free formative assessments—personal progress checks—that you can assign throughout the year to measure student progress.
- We want to respect your time and expertise by providing a road map you can modify and adapt to your local priorities and preferences. You can choose to follow this suggestion for how content can be sequenced and paced. As always, you'll have the flexibility to organize the course content as you like.

The CED defines specific learning objectives and skills for students.

- Specific learning objectives are included in the course framework so that it's clear for you and your students exactly what they should be able to do.
- Each learning objective is clearly connected to specific course content in the form of essential knowledge statements. With this kind of specificity, you and your students will know **how** that content will be assessed on the AP Exam.
- The framework outlines the specific disciplinary practices that AP Comparative Government and Politics students should practice throughout the year—skills that will help them learn to think and act like political scientists. For example, students will read and interpret data and develop evidence-based arguments.
- Throughout the CED, you'll find thoughtful suggestions for pairing course content with these skills.

Exam Updates

Starting in the 2019-20 school year:

- The AP Comparative Government and Politics Exam will have question types, point values, and rubrics that stay consistent every year so that you and your students know what to expect on exam day.
- There will be less focus on knowledge about the individual countries and more on concepts and on comparisons between different concepts and different countries. The six countries addressed in AP Comparative Government and Politics will remain the same: China, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, and the United Kingdom.
- The exam will also focus more on quantitative analysis.

Exam Updates

Currently (2019 Exam)

SECTION I: MULTIPLE CHOICE

55 Questions | 45 Minutes | 50% of Exam Score

- Each question has five options.

Starting with the 2020 Exam

SECTION I: MULTIPLE CHOICE

55 Questions | **60 Minutes** | 50% of Exam Score

- Each question will have **four** options.
- There will be **two text-based sources**, each accompanied by 2–3 questions.
- There will be **three quantitative sources**, each accompanied by 2–3 questions.

SECTION II: FREE RESPONSE

8 Questions | 1 Hour, 40 Minutes | 50% of Exam Score

- 5 short answer questions
- 1 conceptual analysis question
- 2 country-specific questions

SECTION II: FREE RESPONSE

4 Questions | **1 Hour, 30 Minutes** | 50% of Exam Score

- **1 conceptual analysis** question
 - **1 quantitative analysis** question
 - **1 comparative analysis** question
 - **1 argument essay—a new question type** requiring students to write an argument-based essay
-

You'll find complete details about the updated AP Comparative Government and Politics course and exam in the CED, available on AP Central® in late May 2019.

Print copies of the CED will be available in easy-to-use, customizable binders in June 2019. Preorder your free copy at collegeboard.org/CED.

Visit collegeboard.org/APCompGoPo2019 for the most up-to-date information, including:

- A video overview of the AP Comparative Government and Politics updates;
- More information about the new resources;
- A detailed timeline of what you can expect and when; and
- A video preview of the CED and unit guides.