

Chapter 1

COMPARATIVE POLITICS: WHAT IS IT? WHY STUDY IT?

ESSAY ASSIGNMENTS

1. Write a brief essay indicating what you hope to get out of a course on comparative politics.
2. Write an essay outlining the differences and the connections between comparative politics and international politics, providing examples of each.
3. Write an essay outlining the necessary pre-conditions for a country to have before a new democracy can flourish.

HYPOTHESIS-TESTING ASSIGNMENTS

1. Discuss evidence for and against the hypothesis, “Globalization is promoting world harmony.”
2. Discuss evidence for and against the proposition that “democracy promotes peace.”
3. Discuss evidence for and against the proposition that “democracy is essentially a Western concept, one that is ill-suited to countries with other cultures and historical traditions.”

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. Comparative politics
 - a. focuses on relations between governments.
 - b. is concerned primarily with political opinion.
 - c. examines political realities within countries.
 - d. compares government structures with political behavior.
2. Political science as a science is NOT concerned with
 - a. description.
 - b. definition.
 - c. explanation.

- d. rationalization.
3. Theories
 - a. are rarely relevant to real-world politics.
 - b. may posit cause-and-effect explanations.
 - c. are purely speculative.
 - d. are frequently misused in political science.
 4. Comparative politics is most likely to be concerned with
 - a. diplomacy.
 - b. elections.
 - c. international law.
 - d. war.
 5. Globalization refers to
 - a. the ways governments, non-state actors, and populations are interconnected.
 - b. trends affecting war and peace around the world.
 - c. economic dynamism.
 - d. the development of world government.
 6. The 1997 global financial crisis
 - a. started on Wall Street.
 - b. spread from Asia to other countries around the world.
 - c. spread from Russia to Latin America and Asia.
 - d. led to a long-term recession in the United States.
 7. The International Monetary Fund
 - a. is a coalition of private banks around the world.
 - b. provides loans to countries in debt.
 - c. is not permitted to impose conditions on debtor countries.
 - d. often demands increased welfare spending for the poor.
 8. The Kyoto Protocol concerns
 - a. greenhouse gases.
 - b. U.S.-Japanese relations.
 - c. auto emissions.
 - d. world trade.
 9. Which of the following came first?

- a. The Declaration of the Rights of Man.
 - b. The British parliamentary bill of rights.
 - c. The U.S. Bill of Rights.
 - d. *The Rights of Man*.
10. Which of the following statements is false about the Lycian League?
- a. It was history's first representative parliament.
 - b. It inspired the seating arrangement in the U.S. Capitol.
 - c. It inspired other democracies to emerge soon after its establishment
 - d. James Madison and Alexander Hamilton referred to it in the *Federalist*.
11. Terrorism
- a. is an example of globalization.
 - b. originates in the Middle East.
 - c. is an aspect of comparative politics rather than international politics.
 - d. is an aspect of international politics rather than comparative politics.
12. At the time of September 11, 2001 attacks, al Qaeda was directly or indirectly active in as many as ___ countries
- a. 70
 - b. 100
 - c. 20
 - d. 12
14. The Kyoto Protocol expires in
- a. 2012.
 - b. 2020.
 - c. 2010.
 - d. 2015.
15. When Iran's democratically elected prime minister engineered the government's takeover of a largely British-owned oil company in the 1950's, who forcibly removed him and replaced him with the shah?
- a. The U.S. and the U.K. acting together.
 - b. The U.S. acting alone.
 - c. The U.K. action alone.
 - d. The U.S., U.K., and Saudi Arabia acting together,
16. Between 1990 and 1998, direct investment in the developing world by foreign private companies grew from to \$24.5 billion to

- a. \$50 billion.
 - b. \$200 billion.
 - c. \$155 billion.
 - d. \$75 billion.
17. The National Endowment for Democracy was formed
- a. by the European Union to aid former Soviet Bloc members to educate leaders about the mechanics of democracy.
 - b. by the U.S. government to promote democracy around the world.
 - c. by a private North American foundation to promote democracy around the world.
 - d. by the U.N. to promote democracy around the world.
18. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- a. was modeled on the U.S. Bill of Rights.
 - b. emphasizes political rights over economic, social, and cultural rights.
 - c. was co-authored by the Soviet Union.
 - d. is observed by the world's democracies.
19. Which of the following is LEAST likely?
- a. A democracy attacking a non-democracy.
 - b. A democracy attacking a democracy.
 - c. A non-democracy attacking a democracy.
 - d. A non-democracy attacking a non-democracy.
20. The U.S. system of government is
- a. a model adopted by most other democracies.
 - b. occasionally prone to gridlock.
 - c. difficult to compare to other countries.
 - d. a continuing example of democratization.