

Rubric for Comparative Government Blogs

Your group will be assigned one of the countries we will study this semester. Blog entries are to be completed by Sunday night each week. On Monday we will take time in class to discuss the current events posted on each blog, and you will be responsible for the information discussed. The blog project will represent a major grade for each grading period.

A minimum of 1 post per week per person.

Necessary Components of a Post

Title (appropriate title for the post)	_/5 points
Visual (picture, chart, table, graph, etc)	_/10 points
Summary from appropriate, relevant and reputable source	_/30 points
Link to the source (hyperlinked "click here", "read more"; not entire URL)	_/5 points
Significance You should be able to make the connection between the article you have selected and one of the topics we have discussed in class.*	_/30 points
Label—appropriate label(s) for the blog archive	_/5 points

Miscellaneous Points

Proper order; use the above format	_/5 points
Proper spacing, neatness	_/5 points
"Grade This Post" (Put this at the very end.)	_/5 points

Duplicate Posts—**NO CREDIT** will be earned if you duplicate a post (same news story) made by a fellow group member. Let your teammates know when you decide what article to post on your blog. (Make sure you have each other's email addresses.)

You can get news delivered to your email by going to Google News and signing up for a News Alert for your assigned country or by signing up for rss feed on other news sites.

You may put any appropriate information you would like on the sidebar. Remember that the goal is to help other students in class prepare for the AP exam.

Keep in mind these concepts as you discuss the significance of the article:

- **Sovereignty, Authority and Power:** political culture, communication, socialization, supranational organizations and governance, nations and states, legitimacy, stability, constitutions, belief systems as sources of legitimacy, governance and accountability
- **Political Institutions:** levels of government, executives, legislatures, institutional relations, elections, electoral systems, political parties, party systems, elite recruitment and leadership, bureaucracies, military and coercive institutions, judiciaries.
- **Citizens, Society and the State:** cleavages and politics (ethnic, racial, gender, religious, regional), civil society, media roles, political participation(forms/models/trends)including political violence, citizenship and social representation.
- **Political and Economic Change:** revolution, coups, war, trends and types of political change(democratization), trends and types of economic change(privatization), relationship between economic and political change, globalization and fragmentation, regionalism
- **Common Policy Issues:** economic performance, social welfare (education, health, poverty), civil liberties, civil rights, and freedoms, environment, population and migration, economic development, domestic and international factors influencing policymaking and implementation.