

Chapter 1 - Introducing Comparative Politics

Multiple Choice

1. Which of the following best summarizes the scope of the comparative politics subfield?
- a. Studying relations among different countries in the world and international organizations
 - b. Studying domestic politics of countries by identifying similarities and differences
 - c. Studying concepts related to power and governance to generate abstract theories
 - d. Studying the functioning of the U.S. political system

ANSWER: b

2. Which of these can be considered a critical juncture for global politics?
- a. The fall of the Berlin Wall
 - b. The century of democratization in Western Europe
 - c. Liberal democracy
 - d. The overturning of *Roe v. Wade* by the U.S. Supreme Court

ANSWER: a

3. What was Francis Fukuyama's main argument in his famous article "The End of History"?
- a. History as a discipline is bound to disappear as all of human history has been studied.
 - b. Humanity is living in the later stages of capitalism, which should give place to revolutions and communism as in the USSR.
 - c. The end of the Cold War signaled the certification of U.S. world leadership which is never likely to be replaced..
 - d. Humanity is arriving at the end point of mankind's ideological evolution with the universalization of Western liberal democracy.

ANSWER: d

4. Which of the following developments does NOT undermine Francis Fukuyama's end of history argument?
- a. The 2008 economic crisis
 - b. The rise of ultraconservative, xenophobic, and populist movements
 - c. The decline of confidence in democracy around the world
 - d. The democratization of Eastern European countries

ANSWER: d

5. Which of the following is the best example of a question that the comparative politics subfield would seek to answer?
- a. What is the most legitimate form of government for a human society?
 - b. Do democracies ever go to war with one another, and, if so, when?
 - c. Can regression analysis establish causal links between two political phenomena?
 - d. Do democracies, autocracies, or anocracies fare better in the provision of health services?

ANSWER: d

6. In the Western tradition, the use of comparative methodology in the study of politics is traced back to which period?

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- a. Aristotle's time
- b. Enlightenment period
- c. Post-World War II
- d. Renaissance period and Machiavelli

ANSWER:

a

7. How can the difference between comparative politics and international relations best be summarized?

- a. The study of comparative politics involves comparing political parties between countries, whereas the study of international relations involves the examination of why wars occur.
- b. The study of comparative politics refers only to domestic politics, whereas the study of international relations refers to globalization.
- c. The study of comparative politics involves comparing domestic political institutions, processes, and politics in different countries, whereas the study of international relations involves examining the foreign policy of, and interactions among, different countries.
- d. The study of comparative politics involves comparing nations, whereas the study of international relations involves examining international organizations, such as the United Nations or the International Monetary Fund.

ANSWER:

c

8. Which of the following statements about the impact of globalization in political science sub-disciplines is true?

- a. It is of concern only to those who study international relations
- b. It is of no concern to comparativists.
- c. It makes it easy to distinguish between domestic and international politics.
- d. It blurs the line between comparative politics and international relations.

ANSWER:

d

9. What does the term "state" refer to in political science?

- a. Subnational units of government like Missouri
- b. The government in power in a country
- c. A group of people with a common ethnicity
- d. The key political institution that has a monopoly on legitimate violence over territory

ANSWER:

d

10. What is the correct ordering of the following terms from the most general and permanent to the most temporary and specific?

- a. State, regime, government, cabinet
- b. Regime, state, government, cabinet
- c. Cabinet, government, regime, state
- d. Government, regime, state, cabinet

ANSWER:

a

11. Which of the following has not been suggested as a crucial factor in state formation by the mainstream theories?

- a. Coordination and agreement among citizens

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- b. Emergence of a modern capitalist economy
- c. Warmaking and creation of armies
- d. The Church and its competition with secular authorities

ANSWER:

d

12. It is often argued that colonial powers had little respect for shared ethnic, linguistic, or historic characteristics when drafting the border in regions such as the Middle East or Africa. This can be considered as going contrary to which notion?

- a. Democracy
- b. Sovereignty
- c. Nation-state
- d. State strength

ANSWER:

c

13. Which historical event can be considered a critical juncture that led to a rise in the number of democratic and partly democratic regimes around the world?

- a. The 2008 economic crisis
- b. The rise of neoliberalism in 1970s and 1980s
- c. The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989
- d. The invasion of Iraq by the United States and its allies

ANSWER:

c

14. Certain topics or research questions of interest can link different themes studied in this course. A study on the effect of gender quotas in boosting women's political participation can be thought of as most related to which themes?

- a. Democracy and identities
- b. Democracy and governing the economy
- c. Identities and governing the economy
- d. Identities and research methods

ANSWER:

a

15. Which conditions have comparativists suggested are necessary for a democracy to take hold?

- a. Secure national boundaries, a stable state, economic development
- b. Secure national boundaries, a large and strong military, and economic values
- c. Christian values, gender equality, and a stable state
- d. International integration, a capitalist economy, and a stable state

ANSWER:

a

16. In country A, the main political competition occurs between a workers' party that mostly receives votes from blue-collar workers and a conservative party that mostly receives votes from middle- and upper-class voters. What can be said about this country?

- a. It is a communist regime.
- b. Class-based identities are politically salient.
- c. Ethnicity shapes the political competition.
- d. It is not an industrialized country.

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ANSWER:

b

17. In many Muslim majority countries, Islamist movements desiring a religion-based governance have competed with nationalist currents arguing that ethnicity should be the basis of political community. How can this be best interpreted?

- a. Political movements can consciously attempt to increase the political salience of different collective identities.
- b. Different collective identities tend to be in conflict with one other.
- c. Culture is a big determinant of how states are formed.
- d. Religious and nationalist movements tend to act together and oppose class-based politics.

ANSWER:

a

18. The term “political economy” refers to which of these?

- a. How much a country spends on elections
- b. How politics and the economy interact with each other
- c. The global economic system
- d. The ratio of GDP compared to the percentage of voting citizens

ANSWER:

b

19. Qatar is currently one of the richest countries in the world with a GDP per capita over 80,000 USD. Yet, it still remains a monarchy and ranks quite low in all democracy indexes. How can this best be interpreted?

- a. Qatar is likely to democratize soon due to its economic development.
- b. Richer countries tend to not democratize easily since they have less need to collect taxes.
- c. There is no clear relation between economic growth and democracy in either direction.
- d. Democracy flourishes better in richer countries.

ANSWER:

c

20. Some political scientists use numbered scales (e.g., ranging from 0 to 100) to rank the level of democracy in a country, while others choose to rely on a binary scale of democratic versus undemocratic. What is the most accurate interpretation of this situation?

- a. There is no scholarly consensus on what typology to use when classifying political regimes.
- b. Typologies are well-established classifications in political science that help to classify countries according to characteristics such as regime type.
- c. More nuanced typologies such as 100-point scale always hold more heuristic value when compared to simplistic binary typologies.
- d. Typologies are not of use in political science since they always vary.

ANSWER:

a

21. To what does the term “hybrid state” (or hybrid regime) refer?

- a. A country whose political systems exhibit some democratic and some authoritarian elements
- b. A state whose formation was a mixture of warmaking and capitalist development
- c. A country whose population includes people with different racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds
- d. A state that is transitioning from an authoritarian regime to a democratic one

ANSWER:

a

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22. Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of authoritarian regimes?

- a. Power (or authority) is highly concentrated in a single individual, small group of people, single party, or institution.
- b. They include democratic values and practices within their governing systems.
- c. Those in power claim an exclusive right to govern and use various means, including force, to impose their will on their citizens.
- d. They have few institutional procedures for holding political leaders accountable.

ANSWER: b

23. Which of the following countries are considered consolidated democracies?

- a. Germany and the UK
- b. India and Morocco
- c. United Arab Emirates and Chile
- d. Democratic Republic of Kongo and South Korea

ANSWER: a

24. Blendia has a history of free and fair elections as well as peaceful transition of power. It also protects civil rights and liberties to a large extent. Yet, in the last decade, it has experienced concerns of voter suppression regarding a minority ethnic group residing in its northern region. The government banned any speech supporting autonomy or independence for the northern region. What would be the most accurate way to think about Blendia's regime?

- a. It remains a liberal democracy as long as a majority of the citizens can vote in fair and free elections.
- b. The country is likely becoming an illiberal democracy due to increased constraints on political participation and civil rights.
- c. The country should now be considered an authoritarian regime since it limits freedom of expression.
- d. The country is likely to become more democratic as it will give the majority ethnicity the chance to govern without hinderance by minority groups.

ANSWER: b

25. The study of how the head executive is chosen is most likely to be included in which section of this book?

- a. Political institutions
- b. Parties, elections, and representation
- c. Political identities and culture
- d. Politics in transition

ANSWER: a

Essay

26. What is the end of history argument presented by Francis Fukuyama? To what extent does this argument have merit, if at all?

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

27. Do you think the boundary between comparative politics and international relations is meaningful? Define both fields and present a concrete example through which you discuss the meaning of this boundary.

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ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

28. What roles could the concept of nation play in the formation of states according to the three main theories of state formation, if at all?

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

29. Choose a research question that can show the relationship between collective identities and democracy. Explain how this question relates to both these themes and how it can make the two themes relate to one other.

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

30. Most political scientists today tend to prefer a more nuanced typology or numbered scale in characterizing political regimes rather than relying on a binary between democratic versus autocratic regimes. What are some new in-between categories used in this effort to nuance? What do you think is the value of introducing these new categories or a more nuanced ranking approach, if at all?

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

Subjective Short Answer

31. Give two examples of events that present globally impactful critical junctures and explain why they are critical junctures.

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

32. What are some institutions commonly found in democratic regimes? What roles do they play?

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

33. What is a nation-state? How universally applicable is this concept?

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

34. What is distributional politics, and how does it relate to collective identities?

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

35. What institutional changes are likely to be seen in a country that is transitioning from a hybrid regime to a consolidated democracy?

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.