

Japan Lesson Plan: Japan through the lens of AP Comparative Politics

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Materials: PowerPoint and means to share it (display or through a Learning Management System); students will need laptops to work on their own projects

Note: I would typically present this PowerPoint live with my students as a means to introduce the AP Comparative Politics course or to introduce their final comparative project at the end of the course, where they will be assigned a country outside of the AP6 (Mexico, China, Russia, Iran, the UK, and Nigeria) to create a presentation on and to compare with the most similar country from the AP6. I have modeled that for students by creating a presentation on Japan. Japan's political landscape is shifting right now which may mean I need to update the slides before presenting next semester. I have created the PowerPoint with a voiceover for my students to reference on Canvas, or LMS platform.

Below are the directions for the students' final project which I have tried to model in my presentation on Japan. The rubric is on the next page.

AP COPO Final Project!

Please read these instructions carefully so that you can all earn 100%! The goal of this assignment is for you to learn about other countries' political systems so that you can add to your understanding of comparative government and politics. In class you will draw a country to study for this final project. You are then tasked with creating a Google Slides presentation that explores that country through the various themes across the five units of our course. For each unit, I have listed below the required information to provide about the country. Within your slide show, please make it more interesting by adding relevant images of people and places. You will post your final slide presentation in a Canvas discussion board and are then asked to read and comment (nicely!) on what you learn from five other countries' presentations that are shared there. The due date for these projects is May 22, 2026. You will have the time in class from May 25th-May 27th to look at each other's presentations in Canvas or present in person and to provide feedback. I am posting a model slide show about Japan on Canvas so you can see my expectations for your presentation (forthcoming!)

Final Project Rubric

Title Slide	Country Name, Your Name, and Flag
Unit 1 Slides (up to 5)	Include information about the type of regime and the state and whether the country has a federal or unitary system and include a slide or slides with the country's applicable: a. The Human Development Index (HDI) b. Gross domestic product (GDP) and GDP per capita c. GDP growth rate d. Gini index (coefficient) e. Freedom House f. Transparency International g. Failed States Index
Unit 2 Slides (up to 5)	If appropriate, create a slide about whether your country has a presidential, semi-presidential, or parliamentary system; then create a slide each on the country's executive, legislature, and judicial systems. Include information about term limits, size, removal, independence, etc. where appropriate.
Unit 3 Slides (up to 3)	Create a slide each about what you can discover about the country's political culture, political ideology, and social, ethnic, or political cleavages.
Unit 4 Slides (up to 3)	Create a slide each about political parties in the country, elections in the country, and prominent social movements or interest groups within the country.
Unit 5 Slides (up to 5)	Create a slide each about your country and globalization (including challenges), their participation in international or supranational organizations, their natural resources, and their social policies (include the country's population pyramid)
Conclusion (1 slide)	In your closing slide, explain which of the AP6 is most similar to the country you explored and explain why using at least 2 pieces of specific and relevant evidence.

Note: If something is irrelevant for your country explain why. Rubric is 8/8 for each unit if complete, plus two points for correct title and conclusion slide, out of 42. Points will be taken off for incomplete information or lack of quality presentation. Proofread! Add images! 10 points off for each day late.