Connections Education logo.



# Comparative Government and Economic Systems

American Government Unit Companion

**Directions**

* Complete Prepare and Strategies for Success sections before you begin a unit.
* Complete Summaries and Reflect and Review sections before you take the unit assessment.
* For more details about each section, return to the course overview unit.

## Prepare icon. Prepare

Throughout the Comparative Government and Economic Systems unit, you will explore the following Essential Questions.

### Essential question icon. Essential Questions

* What are the appropriate powers/functions of government in the economy?
* To what extent should government be able to regulate the economy?
* What elements make a country’s economy strong, successful, and enduring?

In Lessons 1–5, you will learn about these topics:

* the basics of the economic system of capitalism
* the various ways the federal government influences the U.S. economy
* the federal budget and debt crisis
* the U.S. in a global economy
* comparing capitalism to socialism and communism

At the end of Lesson 5, you will take a cumulative quiz.

In Lessons 6–10 you will learn about these topics:

* the differences in the governmental systems of autocracy, democracy, aristocracy, and theocracy
* the benefits and challenges of changing from a dictatorship to a democracy
* the special relationship between the U.S. and UK
* the similarities and differences between the U.S. and Russia

In Lesson 10, you will participate in a discussion.

In Lessons 11–12 you will learn about these topics:

* the role of the Communist party in China’s government and economy
* how China’s government and economy compares to the U.S.

At the end of Lesson 12, you will take a cumulative quiz.

In Lesson 13 you will learn about the following topic:

* the aims of U.S. foreign policy today

After reviewing for the unit in Lesson 14, you will take a cumulative test in Lesson 15.

## Strategies for success icon. Strategies for Success

### Making Predictions

Did you check the weather forecast today? If so, you are relying on a prediction a meteorologist made about the weather. Predictions are educated guesses about the future. They are based on clues found in written material combined with prior knowledge of a topic or issue. Weather forecasts help you decide how to dress for the day, what to do after school, or whether you should carry an umbrella. While they may not always get it exactly right each and every time, meteorologists do give you an educated guess of what kind of weather to expect for the day.

Meteorologists make their weather predictions after analyzing many different factors. After reviewing what the weather was like the day before, they then examine current patterns in the atmosphere. Only after connecting this new information with past knowledge can they predict scenarios of what’s likely to happen in the day’s weather.

You can practice making predictions. You have learned in previous units that the U.S. has a long history of immigration. Imagine you have been asked to predict what your town will look like 40 years from now. In particular, how will the population change? Will there be larger numbers of immigrants from other countries? What impact would that have on your town?

Access the “Make Predictions” 21st Century Skill Video through the Web Links resource by selecting the backpack icon. Two students are preparing for this class presentation about what their town will look like in the future. As you access the video, notice how the students make predictions by doing the following:

* reviewing the content to get a better understanding of the issue
* looking for new clues or evidence
* thinking about what they already know about the issue
* creating a list of possible outcomes

You will have several opportunities to practice making predictions, especially in your discussion assignment in Lesson 10. Remember to review the steps previously listedbefore you prepare your discussion.

 Summaries

You may read summaries of the Magruder’s American Government textbook pages assigned in each lesson. Decide whether you want to read them before, during, or after a lesson.

* Read before a lesson to preview the most important information ahead of time, including people, places, and events.
* Read during or after a lesson to review Magruder’s American Government pages without rereading every word.

Access the American Government Summaries through the Web Links resource by selecting the backpack icon. Read the corresponding summary with the lesson.

* Lesson 1: Introduction to Capitalism
* Lesson 2: Fiscal and Monetary Policy
* Lesson 3: Spending and Borrowing
* Lesson 4: U.S. Global Economy and Trade
* Lesson 5: Socialism and Communism
* Lesson 6: Governmental Systems
* Lesson 7: Great Britain: History and Government
* Lesson 8: Great Britain: Comparison to U.S.
* Lesson 9: Russia: History and Government
* Lesson 10: Russia: Comparison to U.S.
* Lesson 11: China: History and Government
* Lesson 12: China: Comparison to U.S.

 Reflect and Review

Before the unit assessment, use the checklist to reflect on what you have learned throughout the Comparative Government and Economic Systems unit. This will help determine what content to review to prepare for the multiple question types on the assessment.

1. Read each of the statements.
2. If you agree with the statement, check the box.
3. Revisit statements that you did not check. Return to the lesson resources to review the content. Study the key words using the Glossary.

### Statements

| **[**check mark**]** | **Statement** | **Key Words** | **Resources** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | I can explain the role of the government in the U.S. economy including how the federal government regulates the economy for the benefit of the public. | * monetary policy * fiscal policy * NAFTA * federal budget * protectionism | * Lesson 2: Flipped Video “Economic Policies and You” * Lesson 2: *Magruder’s American Government:* Government and the Economy> Fiscal and Monetary Policy > How Fiscal Policy Influences the Economy * Lesson 2: *Magruder’s American Government:* Government and the Economy> Fiscal and Monetary Policy > How Monetary Policy Influences the Economy * Lesson 4: Flipped Video “The U.S. in a Global Economy” * Lesson 4: *Magruder’s American Government:* Government and the Economy> The U.S. in Global Economy > U.S. Trade Policies and Trade Alliances and Organizations |
|  | I can describe the economic theory of capitalism and how it compares to socialism and communism. | * capitalism * communism * laissez-faire * socialism | * Lesson 1: *Magruder’s American Government:* Government and the Economy> Types of Economic Systems> Capitalism and the Factors of Production * Lesson 1: *Magruder’s American Government:* Government and the Economy> Types of Economic Systems> The American Free Enterprise System * Lesson 1: *Magruder’s American Government:* Government and the Economy> Types of Economic Systems> What is a Mixed Economy? * Lesson 5: *Magruder’s American Government:* Government and the Economy> Types of Economic Systems> Comparing the Free Enterprise System with Other Systems |
|  | I can explain the factors leading to the U.S. public debt and different approaches to the issue. | * federal budget * deficit * public debt * supply-side economics * demand-side economics | * Lesson 3: Flipped Video “Borrowing and the Public Debt “ * Lesson 3: *Magruder’s American Government:* Government and the Economy > Spending and Borrowing > Borrowing and the Deficit * Lesson 3: *Magruder’s American Government:* Government and the Economy > Spending and Borrowing > Understanding the Public Debt |
|  | I can explain the similarities and differences between the governments and economic systems of the U.S. and Great Britain. | * parliamentary system * party system * devolution | * Lesson 8: Flipped Video “ The United Kingdom” * Lesson 7:  *Magruder’s American Government* > Comparative Political Systems > The United Kingdom > Government in the United Kingdom * Lesson 7:  *Magruder’s American Government* > Comparative Political Systems > The United Kingdom > Comparing Governments—The United States and United Kingdom |
|  | I can compare and contrast the structure of government and the economic system of the U.S. and Russia including how public policy is created. | * Cold War * Duma | * Lesson 9: Flipped Video: “The Russian Federation” * Lesson 9: *Magruder’s American Government* > Comparative Political Systems > Russia > Government in Russian Federation * Lesson 9: *Magruder’s American Government* > Comparative Political Systems > Russia > Public Policy Creation * Lesson 9: *Magruder’s American Government* > Comparative Political Systems > Russia > Comparison to the United States * Lesson 9: Two-Column Chart: Strengths and Weaknesses of Russian Government |
|  | I can compare and contrast the government and economic systems of the U.S. and China. | * cultural Revolution * propaganda | * Lesson 11: *Magruder’s American Government* > Comparative Political Systems >China> China and Its History * Lesson 11: *Magruder’s American Government* > Comparative Political Systems >China> Government in China * Lesson 11: Two-Column Chart: Comparing Constitutions |
|  | I can describe the goals of U.S. foreign policy and different methods for promoting American ideals abroad including the challenges in Somalia, Afghanistan, and Iraq. | * foreign policy * soft power * hard power * protectionism * democratization * dictatorship * autocracy * failed state | * Lesson 6: Flipped Video:   “Democracy Around the World”   * Lesson 6: *Magruder’s American Government* > Democracy in a Changing World > Transitions to Democracy * Lesson 6: *Magruder’s American Government* > Democracy in a Changing World > Examples of Transitions to Democracy * Lesson 6: *Magruder’s American Government* > Democracy in a Changing World > Outcomes of Transitions to Democracy * Lesson 6: Comparing Governments Teachlet® tutorial * Lesson 6: Two-Column Chart Answers: Transition to Democracy * Lesson 13: See Lesson’s Instruction Slides |