

## AP Comparative Government Debate Topics

- 1) In the near future, British devolution will continue to the benefit of the state.

*Topic Overview: Devolution refers to the process of taking power from the national government and giving it to local governments. In Britain's case, some small power has been given to Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Some argue that this will lead to less dissatisfaction in these regions. Others contend that further devolution could eventually break Britain apart in separate states.*

*PRO: Caddie and Dan*

*CON: Tom and Alden*

- 2) In the near future, Russia will be a growing threat to European security.

*Topic Overview: With the recent war in Georgia and troubled relations with the Ukraine, many fear that Russia is attempting to reassert its historic dominance over the region. Some of the former pieces of the Soviet Union seek to or already have joined organizations like NATO and the European Union which Russia has resisted. Others see Russia as vital partner in the continued peace in Europe.*

*PRO: David*

*CON: Ansley and Angela*

- 3) In the near future, China will be able to maintain its economic growth without democratization.

*Topic Overview: China has experienced rapid growth but many experts contend that, in the long run, authoritarian government is incompatible with capitalism. Others see no reason why the government can't maintain both authoritarianism and capitalism.*

*PRO: Isabella and Erin*

*CON: Connor and Matt P.*

- 4) In the near future, Nigeria's inability to provide basic services for its growing population will lead to a return to authoritarian government.

*Topic Overview: Nigeria has the largest population in Africa and is growing. At the same time a majority of its population lives in poverty. Nigeria has had a history of losing its democracy and becoming a military dictatorship when times get tough. Will this happen again or is Nigeria's record stretch of 10 years of democracy going to become permanent?*

*PRO: Nicole and Diana*

*CON: Caroline and Molly*

- 5) In the near future, Mexico's ongoing problems with gang violence will result in the state curtailment of civil liberties.

*Topic Overview: Drug cartel violence continues to grow in Mexico and the Mexican government struggles to bring the situation under control. Some argue that Mexico may seek to limit some civil liberties such as privacy rights or freedom of the press to better attack the drug cartels. Others argue that Mexico has come too far to return to a less democratic state.*

*PRO: Kathryn W. and Kathryn Z.*

*CON: Nadine and Sarah*

- 6) In the near future, Iran's dissident groups will successfully further state democratization.

*Topic Overview: After recent elections revealed massive fraud, protestors took to the streets for days to express their dissatisfaction with the system. Was this a one-time occurrence or will these groups successfully pressure the Iranian state into moving down the path of greater democratization?*

*PRO: Annie and Coleman*

*CON: Nick and Mary Katherine*

These statements should be treated as true/false questions. PRO must prove "true" while CON must prove "false". CON does NOT need to come up with alternatives, only prove that the statement is false.

Please email Mr. Hiland by Thursday, January 14 with:

- your name
- your partner's name
- your topic
- your side (PRO/CON).

You may also choose to send your top 3 picks in case your first choice is taken.