

The Supranational European Union

An Advanced Placement Comparative Government and Politics Lesson

AUTHOR INFORMATION

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Lesson Grade Span: Secondary (9-12)

Targeted Grade Level/Course: AP Comparative Government and Politics or European History Course

Estimated Time to Complete Lesson:

- A) Introduction and Homework Prep - Day 1 (5 minutes)
- B) Homework to be completed prior to Day 2 (35-40 minutes)
- C) In Class Skills Practice and Formative Assessment - Day 2 (45 minutes)

Total Time To Complete Lesson: 85-90 minutes

FOCUSED QUESTION

Explain how a supranational organization (such as the European Union) can influence and affect national sovereignty.

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

College Board AP Comparative Government Topic and Learning Objectives:

- Topic 5.5: International and Supranational Organizations
 - Learning Objective: Explain how international and supranational organizations influence domestic policy makers and national sovereignty
 - Essential Knowledge: Supranational organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the European Union (EU), and the World Trade Organization (WTO) have sovereign powers over the national governments that are member states and can apply pressure on policymakers to reduce tariffs and otherwise liberalize trade

Wisconsin Social Studies Standards:

- WI Standard SS.Inq2: Wisconsin students will gather and evaluate sources - 9-12 (h)
 - Inq2.b: Evaluate sources
 - SS.Inq2.b.h Analyze and weigh relevance of a source through a disciplinary lens to determine how the author, context, audience, and purpose affect the reliability, limitations, and usefulness of a source.
 - Inq2.a: Gather diverse sources (electronic, digital, print, and other mass media) applicable to the inquiry
 - SS.Inq2.a.h Explore evidence discovered through personal research through a variety of disciplinary lenses (e.g., economics, history, political science) and multiple perspectives (e.g., race, gender, ethnicity, language, ability, sexual orientation, family background, and/or family income) with a variety of sources including primary and secondary sources and media resources.

STUDENT OUTCOMES & LESSON TARGETS

- Students will understand and be able to describe the basic structure and goals of the European Union.
- Students will be able to describe the role of the European Union for member states
- Students will be able to explain how the European Union affects the national sovereignty of its member states.
- Students will be able to explain how European Union policy affects non-member states.

LESSON OVERVIEW

The focus of the lesson is to have students get a basic understanding of the European Union as a supranational. Students are required to understand the role of a supranational as part of Topic 5.5 in the College Board's AP Comparative Government and Politics Course and Exam Description. The lesson will also practice an AP Comparative Government and Politics required skill, source analysis. Students will analyze a governmental official's statement about European Union policy. After completing the lesson, students will be assessed on their understanding of supranationals and their effect on national sovereignty for member and non-member states.

PROCEDURES

Day 1 - Introduction to Lesson and Homework Instructions

1. The teacher and students will review the AP Comparative Government and Politics "Learning Objectives" and "Essential Knowledge" for Topic 5.5 as indicated below to prepare for the homework assignment: (5 minutes)

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

LEG-3.A

Explain how international and supranational organizations influence domestic policymakers and national sovereignty.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE

LEG-3.A.3

Supranational organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the European Union (EU), and the World Trade Organization (WTO) have sovereign powers over the national governments that are member states and can apply pressure on policymakers to reduce tariffs and otherwise liberalize trade.

2. Students will complete the following tasks as homework in preparation for the follow-up lesson the next day:
 - a. Students will be assigned and will complete the ["A Short Guide to the EU" worksheet \(w/ excerpted readings\)](#) for homework. Students will use information from an excerpted version of the ["A Short Guide to the EU"](#) produced by the Publications Office of the European Union. (estimated 20-25 minutes to complete)
 - b. Students will watch the assigned AP Classroom - "Topic 5.5 - Daily Video #2" (15 minutes)

Day 2 - In Class Skills Practice and Formative Assessment

1. The teacher will collect the students homework worksheet titled [“A Short Guide to the EU”](#)
2. The teacher will lead a short discussion based upon the questions from the worksheet, the assigned AP Classroom video, and by presenting a follow-up presentation titled [“A Short Guide to the EU - Homework Follow-Up Discussion”](#) which will highlight milestones within the European Union. (10 minutes)
3. The teacher will tell students that they will be working on the AP Comparative Government “Practice 4 - Source Analysis” The teacher will provide background information about a new EU border security system, called the “European Entry/Exit System (EES). The EES will remove the requirement to manually stamp passports at the EU’s external border—so called “wet-ink stamps”—and improve physical security by creating a digital file that links a travel document to a person’s identity using biometrics. The teacher will explain this will have a great effect on citizens from the United Kingdom entering and exiting EU member states.
4. Students will be provided [a statement that was given to the United Kingdom’s House of Commons by the Immigration Minister of the UK, Seema Malhotra, about the UK government’s position on the new EES policy.](#) Students will read the statement and analyze it using the following AP Comparative Government “Source Analysis” skills. (25 minutes)

Note: teacher may have the students analyze the statement by writing their answers **or** the teacher may lead a classroom discussion based upon the skill questions below)

- A) Describe Immigration Minister Seema Malhotra’s claim(s), perspective, evidence, and reasoning.
 - B) Explain how Immigration Minister Seema Malhotra’s argument or perspective relates to how supranational organizations (The EU) influence the United Kingdom’s national sovereignty.
 - C) Explain how the implications of the Immigration Minister Seema Malhotra’s argument or perspective may affect the United Kingdom’s policy making and relationship with the European Union.
5. After completing the source analysis, students will be given a formative assessment with the following multiple choice questions and short answer response from the AP Comparative Government’s Topic 5.5

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

- Students will answer the following multiple choice and short answer question after completing the lesson (10 minutes)

Multiple Choice Question

1. The European Union (EU) is an example of a
 - (A) nongovernmental organization
 - (B) multinational corporation
 - (C) supranational organization
 - (D) special economic zone

Short Answer Question

- (A) Define sovereignty.
- (B) Describe two (2) ways in which member states give up some sovereignty as members of the European Union.

RESOURCE LIST

- College Board - AP Comparative Government and Politics Course and Exam Description
 - <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/media/pdf/ap-comparative-government-and-politics-course-and-exam-description.pdf>
- “A Short Guide to the EU” worksheet (w/ excerpted readings) created by Dan Hoppe
 - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Dy2Fj-1s6oHg895LQ4hrYQSWrMfl-TCVsCJOo1fNAXQ/edit?usp=sharing>
- “A Short Guide to the EU” (full version) published by the Publications Office of the European Union
 - <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/1ee943e8-8a7e-11ee-99ba-01aa75ed71a1>

- “A Short Guide to the EU - Homework Follow-Up Discussion” Presentation
 - https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1N_vPL44qGhH9D0GxPPvJBVkgEB3fqCValpoSF6rW44Y/edit?usp=sharing
- European Entry/Exit System - Volume 752: debated on Monday 29 July 2024 - Statement by The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, Seema Malhotra - Published by the UK Parliament
 - <https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-07-29/debates/24072928000024/EuropeanEntryExitSystem>
- Modified formative multiple choice and short answer questions from College Board AP Classroom website
 - <https://myap.collegeboard.org/>

TOPIC 5.5

International and Supranational Organizations

LEG-3.A.3

Supranational organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the European Union (EU), and the World Trade Organization (WTO) have sovereign powers over the national governments that are member states and can apply pressure on policymakers to reduce tariffs and otherwise liberalize trade.

A Short Guide to the EU

What is the European Union?

1. What were the initial goals of the European Union when it was formed in the 1950s, **and** how have these goals evolved over time?
2. Describe the significance of the EU's single-market area and how it impacts the movement of people, goods, services, and money among its member states.
3. Identify some of the major challenges that the EU aims to address by fostering cooperation among its member countries.

The EU Has . . .

4. How many people live in the European Union? _____
5. How many countries belong to the European Union? _____
6. How many languages are officially recognized in the European Union? _____

The EU At a Glance

7. What is the Schengen Area?

What is the EU Doing to Tackle the Big Issues We Face Today? - Climate Change

8. What is the primary goal of the European Green Deal, **and** by what year does the EU aim to achieve climate neutrality?
9. How does the European Green Deal plan to support regions, industries, and workers that may face challenges in achieving the set climate targets?

How does the EU Work?

10. According to the text, what is the basis for all actions taken by the EU? How do these treaties reflect the agreement of member countries?
11. In which areas does the EU have the authority to act, **and** what conditions must be met for it to take action in those areas?

Who Does What?

12. What are the primary roles of the European Parliament, and how does it relate to the Council of the European Union?
13. Describe the difference between the European Council and the Council of the European Union, including their leadership.

14. What responsibilities does the European Commission have in relation to EU laws and rules?

15. Explain the function of the Court of Justice of the European Union and its significance in maintaining EU law.



What is the European Union?

The European Union (EU) is a unique economic and political union between [27 European countries](#). They work together to improve the lives of people in Europe, and even further afield.

The EU has worked for the peace, prosperity and well-being of its citizens for over 60 years. From six founding countries – or Member States – in the 1950s, it has grown into a Union of 27 countries with a population of almost 450 million people.

What started as an economic project to help raise living standards in post-war Europe has led to the creation of the world's largest single-market area, where people, goods, services and money can move freely. Over the decades, the EU has widened its scope to areas where cooperation between countries brings better results. The countries that belong to the EU believe that by working together they are stronger and better able to tackle today's big challenges, such as COVID-19, climate change and the digital transformation of our society.

The EU has:



THE EU FLAG



THE EU'S MOTTO

**UNITED
IN
DIVERSITY**

EUROPE DAY



The EU at a glance

Thanks to the **Single Market** people, goods, services and money can move around the EU's 27 countries almost as freely as within a single country.

Twenty-two EU Member States and four non-EU countries – Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland – belong to what is known as the **Schengen area**. This means you don't have to show your passport when crossing the border between these countries. Travel has been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. You can find more information about this at reopen.europa.eu/en



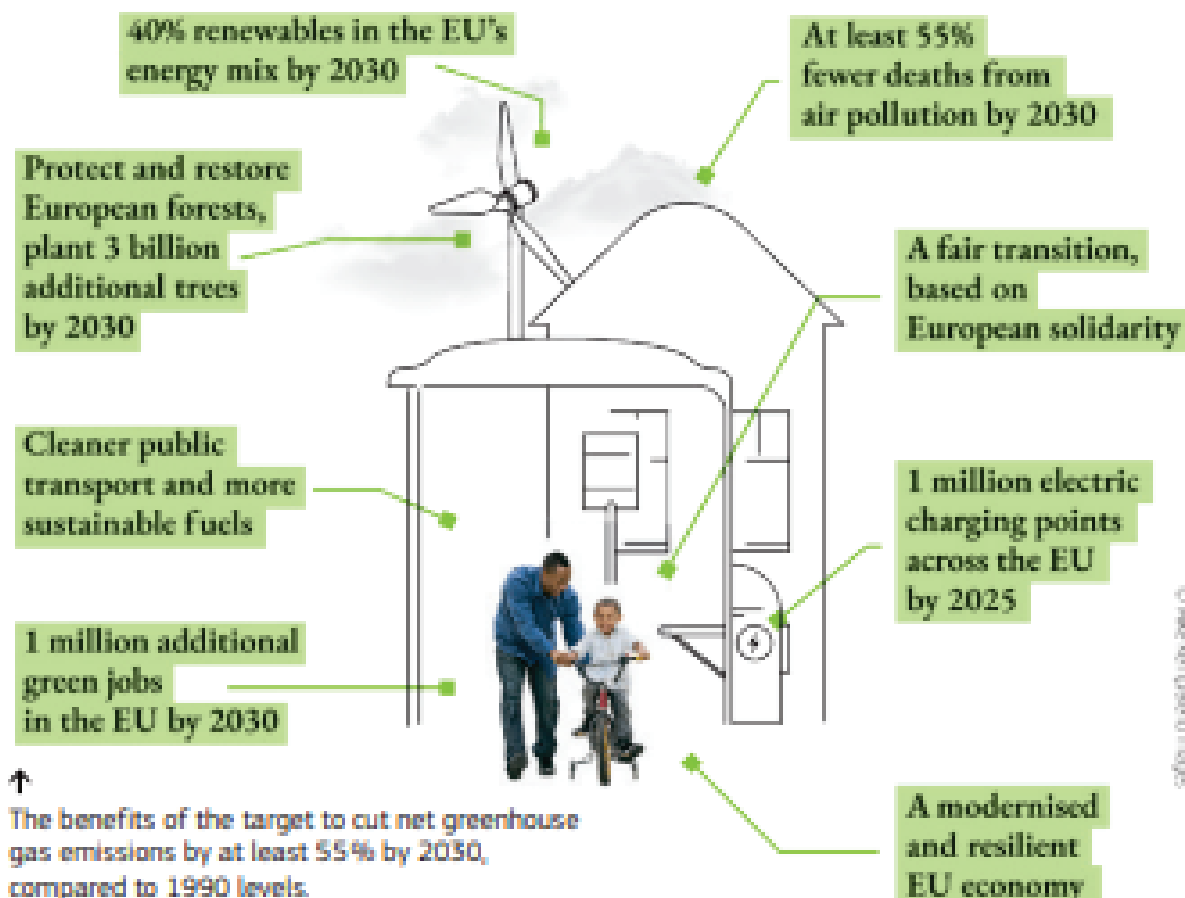
Climate change

Climate change and damage to the environment threaten Europe and the world

The [European Green Deal](#) is the EU's strategy to create a modern and competitive European economy. It aims to make Europe the first climate neutral continent by 2050, at which point we will produce no more greenhouse gases than our ecosystems can naturally absorb.

As a first milestone on this ambitious path, the EU has set a new target of cutting its net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55 % by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. All sections of society and the economy will have to play their part – from industry, energy and transport to food production, agriculture and construction. There will be financial support for those regions, industries and workers that face the greatest challenges. In July 2021 the European Commission proposed a package of [measures](#) to make sure that the EU achieves its objectives under the European Green Deal.

What's in it for you?





How does the EU work?



Plenary Session of the
European Parliament,
Brussels, Belgium,
26 April 2021.

Everything that the EU does is based on treaties that contain the rules for how the EU works. These have been agreed voluntarily and democratically by all EU countries.

The EU takes action in those areas where its Member States have authorised it to do so and where it makes sense to act together, such as on climate change or trading across the world.

The EU treaties specify who can pass laws in what areas: the EU, national governments or both. EU countries are responsible for making their own decisions and laws in certain areas of national policy, such as industry, health and education, and the EU provides support. In areas where either the EU or national governments can act, the EU may only do so if it can act more effectively.

To help achieve their goals, the EU countries have created a number of institutions to take decisions at the EU level and to then carry them out.

Who does what?



The [European Parliament](#), which sits in Strasbourg and Brussels, represents the interests of the citizens of the EU. Together with the Council, it is the main decision-making body of the EU.

The 705 Members of the European Parliament, also known as MEPs, are directly elected by EU voters every 5 years. The most recent election was in 2019. Each EU country elects a number of members, in proportion to its population. MEPs don't sit in groups based on their nationality, but in political groups that cover several countries, or as independents. David Sassoli is the current President of the European Parliament.



- Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)
- Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament
- Renew Europe Group
- Identity and Democracy
- Group of the Greens/ European Free Alliance
- European Conservatives and Reformists Group
- Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left
- Non-attached Members

The [Council of the European Union](#), also known as the Council, is made up of the government ministers of all the EU countries. Together with the European Parliament, it is the main decision-making body of the EU. Every 6 months a different

EU country holds the [presidency](#) of the Council. To ensure continuity, the presidencies work together closely in groups of three on a common agenda over an 18-month period.



This is not to be confused with the [European Council](#), which is made up of the leaders of all the EU countries. It sets the EU's political direction and priorities. Charles Michel is the current President of the European Council.



The [European Commission](#) is the EU's civil service. It has the right to propose new actions and new laws, which are then decided on by the Parliament and the Council. It is also responsible for ensuring that EU rules are correctly applied. The Commission is led by President Ursula von der Leyen and her team of Commissioners – one from each EU country.

All countries in the European Union have to follow EU rules and meet the targets they sign up to, otherwise the Commission can take [action](#) against them.



The [Court of Justice of the European Union](#) ensures that EU law is enforced and applied in the same way in every EU country.



The [European Central Bank](#) manages the euro. Its main aim is to keep prices stable in the euro area.

A Short Guide to the EU

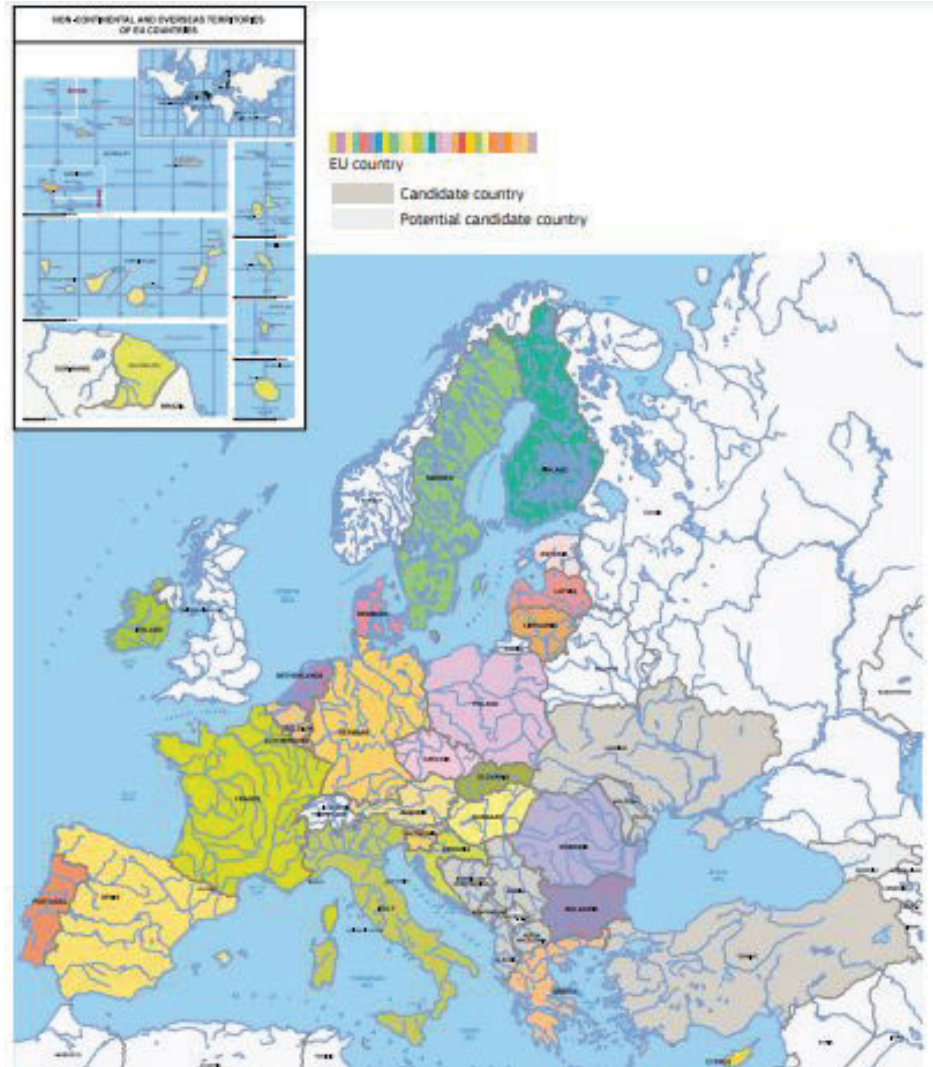
Homework Follow-Up Discussion



THE EU AT A GLANCE























































Thanks to the single market, people, goods, services and money can move around the EU's 27 countries almost as freely as within a single country.

Twenty-three EU Member States and four non-EU countries – Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland – belong to what is known as the Schengen area. This means you don't have to show your passport when crossing the borders between these countries.



 Joined the EU
 Population in millions in 2023

 Currency
 Not part of the Schengen area

 AUSTRIA  1995  9.1 M 	 FRANCE  1958  68.1 M 	 MALTA  2004  0.5 M 
 BELGIUM  1958  11.8 M 	 GERMANY  1958  84.4 M 	 NETHERLANDS  1958  17.8 M 
 BULGARIA  2007  6.4 M Lev (BGN) 	 GREECE  1981  10.4 M 	 POLAND  2004  36.8 M Zloty (PLN)
 CROATIA  2013  3.9 M 	 HUNGARY  2004  9.6 M Forint (HUF)	 PORTUGAL  1986  10.5 M 
 CYPRUS  2004  0.9 M  	 IRELAND  1973  5.2 M  	 ROMANIA  2007  19.1 M Leu (RON) 

 Joined the EU
 Population in millions in 2023

 Currency
 Not part of the Schengen area

 CZECHIA  2004  10.8 M Koruna (CZK)	 ITALY  1958  58.9 M €	 SLOVAKIA  2004  5.4 M €
 DENMARK  1973  5.9 M Krone (DKK)	 LATVIA  2004  1.9 M €	 SLOVENIA  2004  2.1 M €
 ESTONIA  2004  1.4 M €	 LITHUANIA  2004  2.9 M €	 SPAIN  1986  48.1 M €
 FINLAND  1995  5.6 M €	 LUXEMBOURG  1958  0.7 M €	 SWEDEN  1995  10.5 M Krona (SEK)

EU MILESTONES

1950

9 May

The **Schuman Declaration**. France's Foreign Minister Robert Schuman proposes to pool coal and steel production so that no single country can make weapons to turn against another.



Robert Schuman signing the Treaty of Paris establishing the European Coal and Steel Community, Paris, France, 18 April 1951.



1952

23 July

The **European Coal and Steel Community** is established.

1957

25 March

The **Treaties of Rome** are signed by six countries – Belgium, France, Germany Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. They create a common market, the **European Economic Community**, from 1 January 1958.

1962

30 July

The **common agricultural policy** is launched, helping to safeguard food supplies and supporting farmers and rural areas.

1968

1 July

Customs duties between the six Member States are abolished.

1979

7 to 10 June

For the first time, **European citizens can vote** for who represents them in the European Parliament.

1987

15 June

The **Erasmus** student exchange programme is launched.

The fall of the Berlin Wall, Germany, 11 November 1989. ↘



1989

The collapse of communism triggers a wave of democratic change across central and eastern Europe.



1993

1 January

The launch of the **single market**, where people, goods, services and money can circulate freely.

1 November

The **European Union** is created.

1995

26 March

The **Schengen Agreement** removes border controls between certain Member States. Twenty-three of them now enjoy this advantage.

2002

1 January

Euro notes and coins first appear, and are now used in 20 EU countries.

2012

1 April

The **European citizens' initiative** is launched.

10 December

The EU is awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize**.

2015

12 December

A total of 195 countries, including all the EU Member States, adopt the **Paris Agreement** on climate change.

UN Climate Change Conference [COP21], Paris, France, 1 December 2015.



2017

15 June

Roaming charges end.

2020

January

COVID-19 reaches Europe, sparking the **biggest-ever response to a public health emergency** in the history of the EU.

2021

9 May

The **Conference on the Future of Europe** is launched.

2022

The EU and its international partners **condemn Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine** and offer strong political, financial and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine.