**APCOGO/FALL 2013**

**Unit 3 – Russia Study Guide/Possible FRQ’s for U3: The LEAST You Need to Know!**

*In addition to the outline below, be sure to know all of the vocabulary for this unit…whether we “covered” it or not.* ☺

**\*\*\*Also, be prepared for comparisons with the UK!!!\*\*\***

**Part 1: The Making of the Modern Russian State**

* What is unique about Russian geography?
* Describe Marxism and explain how Marxism-Leninism (Soviet-style communism) is different, including the role of vanguardism and democratic centralism.
* Explain the role of the Communist Party starting with Stalin, including nomenklatura, the Central Committee, the Politburo and the General Secretary.
* Describe the role of collectivization and 5 year plans in the Soviet Union.
* Describe Stalinism and identify attempts to “de-Stalinize.”
* Explain goals of Gorbachev’s policies, including glasnost and perestroika and evaluate their success/failure.
* Describe the events that led to the end of the USSR and the creation of the Russian Federation.
* Explain the policies of Yeltsin, including Shock Therapy, and describe the effects of these policies.

**Part 2: Institutions**

* Analyze the Russian Constitution of 1993. Are there any parts of the constitution that have not been “upheld” under Putin?
* Explain why Russia is considered to be an illiberal democracy.
* Explain how Asymmetric Federalism differs from Federalism and why Russia has this form of federalism.
* Describe how Putin has weakened regional authority and has centralized power.
* Define Presidential/Parliamentary system (Semi-Presidential).
  + What features does it have in common with a presidential system? A parliamentary system?
* Identify the current head of state and head of government in Russia. What are their titles?
* How is the president elected? What is 2nd round voting? How many years is a president’s term? Term limits?
* Describe the powers of the president in Russia. Identify any checks on the president’s power.
* Explain the changes Putin has made to further strengthen the power of the president.
* How is the prime minister chosen? What are the PM’s powers? Identify any checks on the PM’s powers (including vote of no confidence).
* Identify the type of legislature found in Russia.
  + Identify the upper house. How are members selected? What is its role?
  + Identify the lower house. How are members selected? What is its role?
  + What is the legislature’s relationship to the other branches?
* Describe the role of the Judiciary.
  + What is the difference between the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court
  + What is the Judiciary’s relationship to the other branches?
* Evaluate the extent of rule of law in Russia. What role does corruption play?
* Describe the status of the military in Russia.
* Describe elections in Russia.
  + What type of electoral system is used in Russia for the State Duma. How has it changed in recent years?
  + How is referenda initiated? How has referenda been used historically in Russia?
* Explain why political parties have been unstable in Russia.
* Identify the current type of party system in Russia.
* Describe the role of each of the following: United Russia, Communist Party of the Russian Federation, Liberal Democratic, A Just Russia
* Define state corporatism. Explain why Russian interest groups are corporatist.
* Describe the role of oligarchs, mafia, and the media in Russia.

**Part 3: Citizens, Society, and the State:**

* Identify social cleavages in Russia. Classify them as coinciding or cross-cutting.
* Explain key components of Russian political culture. What role has history played in shaping this culture?
* Analyze the ability of civil society to flourish in Russia. Identify obstacles.
* Analyze the role of Russian youth groups. Why were they created? What do critics say?

**Part 4: Public Policy (see student presentation and book)**

* Describe current major public policy issues in Russia today.
  + How do they reflect either fragmentation or integration/globalization?
  + What impact do they have on the economic development of Russia?
* How does Russia compare to other countries in the AP6 in terms of GDP, Gini, Freedom House, CPI?
* Explain the difference between civil liberties and political rights.
  + Describe how both have declined under Putin – give specific examples.
  + Based on the above, what type of regime does Russia currently have?

**\*\*\*Also, be prepared for comparisons with the UK!!!\*\*\***