The purpose of the report is to present a comparative state analysis in relation to a key contemporary issue.

It should be approximately 3000 words in length and may be NO MORE than 10% (300 words) more or less than this – ones that fall outside of these limits will be penalized. The word count does not include title, bibliography etc., but means everything from the first word of the introduction to the last word of the conclusion.

For GI6009, this counts for 50% of your final grade; for GI6009S, it is 100% of your final grade.

**N.B. Please use the report topic you write on (e.g. ‘Constitutions’) as the title for Turnitin.**

***Aims of the report***

The report is intended to be an *in-depth*, *comparative* analysis. It requires you to:

- Compare and contrast TWO different modern states in relation to ONE of the topics listed on the next page

- You are free to select whichever states you wish – BUT in order to compare and contrast, there should be *significant differences* between them (e.g. a democracy v. an authoritarian state; a developed v. a developing state)

- The analysis should centre on the *contemporary* *period* (21st century) – historical background will, of course, be important, but the main focus should be on the present-day

***Issues to consider***

You will need to analyze issues such as:

* 1. The meaning(s) of your chosen topic – and its significance *for the modern state*
  2. The main *similarities* and *differences* between the two states in relation to the topic
  3. The *effects* these similarities and differences have (e.g. on policy-making)
  4. *Why* each state operates in the way that it does
  5. How each state may have *changed* over time in terms of the topic
  6. The *advantages* and *disadvantages* of each state’s approach to the topic
  7. Conclusions drawn from the comparison

The above list is *not* intended to be a rigid plan that must be followed – much will depend on the two states and the topic chosen – and how you organize and structure the report will be a matter for you to decide.

***Report topics***

1. Comparing constitutions

Compare and contrast two states with different types of constitution (e.g. codified v. uncodified, or rigid v. flexible) and how this affects policy-making

2. Comparing governments

Compare and contrast two states with different systems of government and the impact this has on policy-making (e.g. presidential v. parliamentary systems)

3. The welfare state

Compare and contrast two states that have adopted different approaches to the delivery of welfare (e.g. free market v. state-centred)

4. Multiculturalism and citizenship

Compare and contrast two states that have adopted different approaches to multiculturalism and citizenship (e.g. different approaches to integrating minorities)

5. Civil society

Compare and contrast two states that adopt different attitudes to civil society (e.g. encouraging v. restricting; working with or against)

6. Protest movements

Compare and contrast the impact of two protest movements on the policies of different states (e.g. violent v. non-violent movements, or successful v. unsuccessful campaigns)

**Since this is a report, you may use sub-headings, maps, graphs, tables etc. that you might not do in ordinary essays. However, as with all written assessments, a proper introduction, references, bibliography etc. are still required.**