

# Unit 2: Political Institutions

Every country on the exam runs on a set of institutions, and those institutions decide who holds power, how power changes hands, and what limits power faces. This unit covers the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the six course countries, and it is the largest unit on the exam.

AP Comparative Government and Politics

Political Institutions

About 20 minutes to read

## How to use this guide

Read it in order the first time because the comparisons build on each other. The three executive systems come first, then the executives, legislatures, and judiciaries of each country, then a deep dive on Iran, which students mix up more than anything else in the unit. The exam rewards comparison, so the tables are the core of this guide, not decoration.

After the first read, use the trap boxes and the Confusions table to review the distinctions the exam tests most often. Finish with the practice questions, then do the recall check on the last page out loud and note any items you cannot explain yet.

**What this unit is worth.** Political Institutions is 22 to 33 percent of the AP Comparative Government and Politics exam, the largest share of any unit. It also reaches into the other units: questions about legitimacy, democratization, and policy almost always run through institutions, so time spent here pays off across the whole exam.

## 2.1 Parliamentary, Presidential, and Semi-Presidential Systems

Start with the three models, because every executive on the exam is classified against them. In a **parliamentary system**, the executive is drawn from the legislature. The chief executive, usually called the prime minister, is the leader of the party or coalition that holds a legislative majority, and the government stays in power only as long as it keeps the legislature's confidence. There is no separately elected president, and the fates of the executive and the legislature are tied together.

In a **presidential system**, the president is elected separately from the legislature and serves a fixed term. The executive cannot be removed just because the legislature disagrees with it, and the legislature cannot be dissolved by the executive. Each branch has its own electoral mandate, which is the source of both the system's predictability and its tendency toward gridlock when different parties control different branches.

A **semi-presidential system** splits the executive in two. A directly elected president shares power with a prime minister, and the prime minister and cabinet are responsible to the legislature. The real balance of power depends on the country and on the moment. When the president's allies control the legislature, the president dominates. When the opposition controls it, the two executives can pull in different directions.

The classifications are straightforward for four of the six. The United Kingdom is parliamentary. Mexico and Nigeria are presidential. Russia is semi-presidential, with a directly elected president who dominates the prime minister in practice. Iran and China sit outside the three models. Iran is a theocratic republic where an unelected Supreme Leader holds ultimate authority above an elected president. China is a party-state where the CCP General Secretary is the most powerful position and no executive office is filled through competitive election.

## 2.2 Comparing the Three Systems

The three models differ in three ways the exam will ask you to compare: how the chief executive gets the job, how the executive relates to the legislature, and what keeps the system stable or breaks it.

| SYSTEM            | HOW THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE IS SELECTED                                                           | EXECUTIVE-LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS                                           | STABILITY                                                                           | COURSE EXAMPLE                                    |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Parliamentary     | The prime minister is the leader of the party holding a legislative majority                  | The executive is fused with the legislature and depends on its confidence | A government can fall on a lost confidence vote, but stable majorities usually hold | United Kingdom                                    |
| Presidential      | The president is directly elected by voters                                                   | Separation of powers; each branch has its own mandate                     | Fixed terms give predictability, but divided government can produce gridlock        | Mexico, Nigeria                                   |
| Semi-presidential | A directly elected president serves alongside a prime minister responsible to the legislature | Dual executive; the president and prime minister can cooperate or compete | Smooth when one side controls both offices, tense when they split                   | Russia, where the president dominates in practice |

**Trap.** Classify by how the executive got the job, not by the titles. Russia has a prime minister, but it is not parliamentary: the president is directly elected and dominates, which makes it semi-presidential. Mexico's president is directly elected for a fixed term with no prime minister in the picture, which makes it presidential. When a question gives you a country's institutions, ask who answers to whom before you classify.

## 2.3 Executive Systems

Now the six countries one by one. Learn the title, the selection method, and the term rules for each executive, because the exam tests all three.

| COUNTRY        | CHIEF EXECUTIVE                                                                                                | HOW SELECTED                                                                                                                       | TERM RULES                                                     |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| United Kingdom | Prime minister, head of government                                                                             | Leader of the party holding a House of Commons majority, formally appointed by the monarch                                         | No fixed term; stays in office only with Commons confidence    |
| Mexico         | President, head of state and head of government                                                                | Popular election                                                                                                                   | Single 6-year term, the sexenio; no reelection ever            |
| Nigeria        | President, head of state and head of government                                                                | Popular election; needs a plurality plus at least 25 percent of the vote in two-thirds of the states                               | 4-year terms, maximum of two                                   |
| Russia         | President                                                                                                      | Popular election                                                                                                                   | 6-year terms; the dominant executive                           |
| Iran           | Supreme Leader plus president                                                                                  | Supreme Leader selected by the Assembly of Experts; president popularly elected, but all candidates vetted by the Guardian Council | Supreme Leader serves for life; president serves 4-year terms  |
| China          | CCP General Secretary, the most powerful position; president as head of state; premier heads the State Council | No competitive selection; advancement through the party hierarchy                                                                  | Presidential term limits removed from the constitution in 2018 |

Notice what the table hides: titles that sound alike but work differently. The prime minister of the United Kingdom and the prime minister of Russia are not the same job. In the UK the prime minister is the chief executive and answers to the Commons. In Russia the prime minister is appointed by the president, confirmed by the Duma, and subordinate to the president. Same title, different system.

**Trap.** Head of state and head of government are two different jobs, and they are split in some countries and combined in others. In the United Kingdom the monarch is the ceremonial head of state while the prime minister is the head of government. In China the president is the head of state while the premier runs day-to-day governance through the State Council, and the most powerful position is the party office of General Secretary. In Mexico and Nigeria the president holds both jobs at once.

## 2.4 Executive Term Limits

Term limits look like a small detail until you compare them across the six countries. Then they become one of the clearest windows into how each system handles power.

- **Mexico:** the strictest rule on the exam. One 6-year term, the sexenio, and no reelection ever. Article 83 of the 1917 constitution bars anyone who has held the office, even on a caretaker basis, from holding it again.
- **Nigeria:** 4-year terms with a maximum of two, which forces regular rotation at the top.
- **Russia:** the president serves 6-year terms, lengthened from 4 by a 2008 constitutional amendment, and the presidency is the dominant office in the system.
- **China:** the NPC removed presidential term limits from the constitution in 2018, so the presidency no longer has a constitutional cap.
- **Iran:** the president serves 4-year terms, with every candidate vetted by the Guardian Council. The Supreme Leader faces no term limit at all and serves for life.
- **United Kingdom:** no fixed term for the prime minister. The PM serves as long as the party holds its Commons majority and keeps its confidence, with elections due at least every five years.

Term limits matter for this course because they set the rhythm of accountability. A president who can never be reelected, as in Mexico, never faces voters again, which removes both electoral pressure and electoral accountability. A two-term cap, as in Nigeria, forces turnover. Removing limits, as China did in 2018, opens the door to indefinite rule. When an FRQ asks you to compare two countries, term rules are often the fastest way to show how their systems differ.

**Trap.** The variations are the point, and the exam will test whether you know which country uses which rule. Mexico bans reelection entirely. Nigeria allows two terms. Russia's president serves 6-year terms. China removed its presidential term limits in 2018. The UK's prime minister has no fixed term at all. Name the country before you answer.

## 2.5 Removal of Executives

Every system has a way to remove its executive. The mechanism tells you where real accountability sits.

In the **United Kingdom**, the prime minister stays in office only with the confidence of the Commons majority. A government that loses that confidence falls, and a formal vote of no confidence is the mechanism that ends it. Losing the support of the legislature is itself the removal process.

In **Mexico** and **Nigeria**, presidents serve fixed terms, so the legislature cannot remove them over policy disagreements. The formal mechanism is impeachment, a legal process against a specific officeholder rather than a political judgment on the government. Fixed terms protect the executive from the legislature, which is exactly why impeachment exists as the exception.

**Iran's** Majles can question and dismiss cabinet ministers and can impeach the president, which gives the elected legislature a real removal power even inside a theocratic system. That power sits underneath the Supreme Leader's authority, but it is genuine against the president and the cabinet.

In **Russia** and **China**, formal removal rules exist, but removal through institutional channels is not how power actually changes hands. In Russia the president dominates a constrained legislature and a dependent judiciary, so the institutions that would have to act against the president answer to him. In China there is no competitive selection at all, so removal runs through the party hierarchy, not through voters or an independent legislature.

The pattern is worth stating plainly. In the democracies, removal is a legislative or electoral process with real teeth. In the authoritarian systems, the formal rules describe removal, but the power structure decides whether those rules can ever be used.

## 2.6 Legislative Systems

Legislatures vary more than any other institution on the exam. Learn the structure, the size, and how members get their seats.

| COUNTRY        | STRUCTURE  | CHAMBERS AND SIZE                                     | HOW MEMBERS ARE CHOSEN                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------|------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| United Kingdom | Bicameral  | House of Commons (650) and House of Lords (unelected) | Commons: FPTP in single-member constituencies, terms up to 5 years. Lords: unelected; appointed life peers, senior bishops, and remaining hereditary peers; can delay but not permanently block most legislation |
| Mexico         | Bicameral  | Chamber of Deputies (500) and Senate (128)            | Deputies: 3-year terms, 300 FPTP plus 200 PR. Senate: 6-year terms, 96 elected by plurality plus 32 by PR                                                                                                        |
| Nigeria        | Bicameral  | House of Representatives (360) and Senate (109)       | Both FPTP. Senate: 3 per state plus 1 for the Federal Capital Territory. House: single-member constituencies, 4-year terms                                                                                       |
| Russia         | Bicameral  | State Duma (450) and Federation Council               | Duma: 5-year terms, 225 FPTP plus 225 PR on closed party lists with a 5 percent threshold. Federation Council: senators representing the federal subjects                                                        |
| Iran           | Unicameral | Majles (290)                                          | 4-year terms, two-round electoral system; five seats reserved for recognized religious minorities                                                                                                                |
| China          | Unicameral | National People's Congress                            | Elections are not competitive; a Standing Committee acts between sessions                                                                                                                                        |

Electoral systems shape who sits in these chambers. The UK and Nigeria use first-past-the-post, which rewards large parties. Mexico and Russia use mixed parallel systems that combine district winners with proportional seats. Iran uses a two-round system for the Majles. In China, where elections are not competitive, the NPC's composition reflects party decisions rather than voter choice.

**Trap.** The United Kingdom is unitary, not federal. Devolution gave Scotland its own parliament, Wales the Senedd, and Northern Ireland its assembly, but those powers were granted by the central government inside a unitary state. In a federal system, Mexico, Nigeria, and Russia, the subnational units hold constitutionally protected powers that the center cannot take back on its own. Devolution can be revised from London. Federalism cannot be revised from the capital alone.

## 2.7 Independent Legislatures

A legislature exists in every course country. The question is whether it can check the executive.

- **United Kingdom:** the Commons is a genuine check. The government needs its confidence, most real legislative power sits with the elected Commons rather than the unelected Lords, and a majority can end a premiership.
- **Mexico:** the Congress of the Union is separately elected with its own mandate, and real opposition parties sit in it. The PRI's loss of the presidency in 2000 ended decades of one-party dominance and made the legislature a functioning check.
- **Nigeria:** the National Assembly has the tools to check the president, including impeachment, though democratic deficits limit how far that checking power goes in practice.
- **Iran:** the Majles is elected and can question ministers, dismiss them, and impeach the president. But the Guardian Council can veto any Majles legislation for incompatibility with Sharia or the constitution, which caps the Majles' independence from above.
- **Russia:** the Duma legislates, but United Russia dominates it and genuine opposition is marginalized, so in practice it functions as an extension of presidential power rather than a check on it.
- **China:** the NPC is constitutionally the highest organ of state power, but in practice it ratifies decisions already made by the CCP.

Three things determine whether a legislature is independent: its own electoral mandate, real opposition sitting in its seats, and an executive that actually needs its approval. An elected chamber with no opposition, or one whose laws can be vetoed by an unelected council, is a legislature in form more than in function.

## 2.8 Judicial Systems

Judicial independence is the degree to which courts can decide cases without pressure from the executive. The six countries spread across the full range.

| COUNTRY        | INDEPENDENCE    | NOTES                                                                                                              |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| United Kingdom | High            | An independent judiciary that can check executive action                                                           |
| Mexico         | Moderate        | Courts have real independence but are not fully insulated from political pressure                                  |
| Nigeria        | Low to moderate | Courts function but face political pressure; Sharia courts operate in some northern states for Muslim personal law |
| Russia         | Low             | The judiciary, including the Constitutional Court, has low independence from the executive                         |
| China          | Low             | Courts operate under CCP authority                                                                                 |
| Iran           | Low             | The head of the judiciary is appointed by the Supreme Leader                                                       |

## 2.9 Independent Judiciaries

Two phrases capture what judicial independence is for. Under the **rule of law**, the law binds everyone, including the government: leaders can lose in court, and courts can strike down what the other branches do. Under **rule by law**, the law is a tool the government uses to control others without constraining itself: courts exist and hear cases, but they answer to the executive.

That is why **judicial review** matters. It is the mechanism that lets courts invalidate actions of the legislature or the executive, which is what turns constitutional limits into enforceable ones. Where independence is high, as in the UK, review is a real constraint. Where it is low, as in Russia, China, and Iran, constitutional promises have no court willing or able to enforce them.

## Deep Dive: Iran's Institutions

Iran causes more lost points than any other country in this unit because it has three councils with similar names and jobs that blur together. Give each council one composition and one job, and the blur disappears.

**The Guardian Council: the gatekeeper.** Twelve members: six clerics appointed directly by the Supreme Leader, plus six jurists nominated by the head of the judiciary and approved by the Majles. It does three things: it can veto any Majles legislation for incompatibility with Sharia or the constitution, it vets all candidates for president, the Majles, and the Assembly of Experts, and it supervises elections. It guards the laws, the ballot, and the vote.

**The Expediency Council: the tiebreaker.** Created in the 1988 constitutional revision, it resolves legislative deadlocks between the Majles and the Guardian Council, and it advises the Supreme Leader. Its members are appointed by the Supreme Leader. When the Majles passes a bill and the Guardian Council vetoes it, this is the body that settles the dispute.

**The Assembly of Experts: the body that picks the Leader.** Eighty-eight clerics, popularly elected to 8-year terms. Its job is to select the Supreme Leader. It can theoretically dismiss him, though it never has.

Around those councils sit the offices students already know. The Supreme Leader holds lifetime tenure with ultimate authority over the military, the judiciary, and the media. The president serves 4-year terms and is popularly elected, but every candidate must pass Guardian Council vetting, and the president is subordinate to the Supreme Leader on security and foreign policy. The Majles has 290 members elected to 4-year terms in a two-round system, with five seats reserved for recognized religious minorities, and it can question and dismiss ministers and impeach the president. There are no formal Western-style parties; politics runs through factions, mainly principlists and reformists.

**Trap.** The names are the test. If a question says a body rejected a presidential candidate or struck down a Majles bill, that is the Guardian Council. If it says a body broke a deadlock between the Majles and the Guardian Council, that is the Expediency Council. If it says a body chose the Supreme Leader, that is the Assembly of Experts. Match the job to the name before you pick.

# Confusions That Cost Points

| PAIR                                                          | HOW TO KEEP THEM STRAIGHT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Parliamentary vs presidential vs semi-presidential            | Parliamentary: the executive is drawn from the legislature and depends on its confidence, as in the UK. Presidential: a separately elected president serves a fixed term, as in Mexico and Nigeria. Semi-presidential: a directly elected president plus a prime minister responsible to the legislature, as in Russia. Ask how the executive got the job. |
| Guardian Council vs Expediency Council vs Assembly of Experts | The Guardian Council vets candidates and can veto Majles legislation. The Expediency Council resolves deadlocks between the Majles and the Guardian Council. The Assembly of Experts selects the Supreme Leader. Match the job to the name.                                                                                                                |
| Head of state vs head of government                           | These are two different jobs. The UK splits them between the monarch and the prime minister. China splits them between the president and the premier, with real power in the General Secretary's party office. Mexico and Nigeria combine both jobs in the president.                                                                                      |
| Devolution vs federalism                                      | Devolution is power granted by the center inside a unitary state, as with Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland in the UK. Federalism is subnational power protected by the constitution, as in Mexico, Nigeria, and Russia. Devolution can be revised from the capital. Federalism cannot.                                                                |
| Mexico's one-term rule vs Nigeria's two-term cap              | Mexico: one 6-year sexenio, no reelection ever. Nigeria: 4-year terms, a maximum of two. Russia: 6-year terms. China: presidential term limits removed in 2018. The UK prime minister has no fixed term. Read the number of terms each country allows.                                                                                                     |
| No confidence vs impeachment                                  | A vote of no confidence removes a government that has lost the legislature's support, as in the UK. Impeachment is a formal legal process against a specific officeholder, as with presidents in Mexico, Nigeria, and Iran. No confidence is political. Impeachment is legal.                                                                              |
| Rule of law vs rule by law                                    | Rule of law means the law constrains the government, which requires independent courts. Rule by law means the government uses the law as a tool without being constrained by it. Judicial review is what makes rule of law enforceable.                                                                                                                    |

# Practice Questions

Original questions written for this guide in the style of the AP exam. Answers and explanations are on the next page, so complete the questions before checking them.

**1. Which of the following best describes Russia's system of government?**

1. A parliamentary system in which the prime minister is the dominant executive
2. A semi-presidential system in which a directly elected president dominates the executive
3. A presidential system with a single six-year term and no reelection
4. A theocratic system in which a clerical leader holds ultimate authority

**2. Which statement about Mexico's presidency is accurate?**

1. The president serves a single six-year term and may never be reelected
2. The president serves four-year terms with a maximum of two
3. The president serves six-year terms with no constitutional limit
4. The president serves at the pleasure of the Congress of the Union

**3. The Guardian Council of Iran is best described as the body that**

1. selects the Supreme Leader from among senior clerics
2. resolves legislative deadlocks between the Majles and the executive
3. vets all candidates for president and the Majles and can veto legislation
4. appoints the head of Iran's judiciary

**4. Which of the following correctly pairs a country's head of state with its head of government?**

1. United Kingdom: the prime minister is head of state and the monarch is head of government
2. China: the CCP General Secretary is head of state and the president is head of government
3. Mexico: the president of the Senate is head of state and the president is head of government
4. United Kingdom: the monarch is head of state and the prime minister is head of government

**5.** Which of the following countries has a unicameral legislature?

1. Iran
2. Mexico
3. Nigeria
4. Russia

**6.** A vote of no confidence is a mechanism by which

1. Mexico's Congress can remove the president before the sexenio ends
2. the United Kingdom's House of Commons can remove a government that has lost its support
3. Iran's Assembly of Experts can dismiss the Supreme Leader
4. China's National People's Congress can dismiss the CCP General Secretary

**7.** Judicial independence is generally considered highest in which of the following countries?

1. Russia
2. China
3. The United Kingdom
4. Iran

**8.** Which of the following lists only federal countries?

1. The United Kingdom, China, and Iran
2. Mexico, the United Kingdom, and Nigeria
3. Russia, China, and Mexico
4. Mexico, Nigeria, and Russia

## Answer Key

- 1. B.** Russia is semi-presidential: a directly elected president serves alongside a prime minister, and the president dominates in practice. A is wrong because Russia's prime minister is appointed by the president, confirmed by the Duma, and subordinate to the president. C describes Mexico's sexenio, not Russia. D describes Iran's theocratic system.
- 2. A.** Mexico's president serves one 6-year term, the sexenio, and Article 83 of the 1917 constitution bars reelection ever. B describes Nigeria's two-term cap. C describes Russia's 6-year presidential terms. D describes the parliamentary model, where the UK's prime minister needs the Commons' confidence.
- 3. C.** The Guardian Council vets all candidates for president, the Majles, and the Assembly of Experts, and it can veto Majles legislation for incompatibility with Sharia or the constitution. A describes the Assembly of Experts, which selects the Supreme Leader. B describes the Expediency Council, which resolves deadlocks between the Majles and the Guardian Council, not the executive. D describes a power of the Supreme Leader, who appoints the head of the judiciary.
- 4. D.** In the UK the monarch is the ceremonial head of state and the prime minister is the head of government. A reverses the two roles. B is wrong because China's president is head of state; the General Secretary holds the most power but it is a party office, not the head of state. C is wrong because Mexico's president is both head of state and head of government; the Senate president holds neither role.
- 5. A.** Iran's Majles is unicameral, with 290 members. B is wrong: Mexico's Congress of the Union is bicameral, with a 500-member Chamber of Deputies and a 128-member Senate. C is wrong: Nigeria's National Assembly is bicameral, with a 360-member House of Representatives and a 109-member Senate. D is wrong: Russia's Federal Assembly is bicameral, with the 450-member State Duma and the Federation Council.
- 6. B.** In a parliamentary system, a government that loses the legislature's confidence falls, and a vote of no confidence is the formal mechanism. A is wrong: Mexico's president serves a fixed sexenio and cannot be removed by Congress over policy disagreements. C is wrong: the Assembly of Experts selects the Supreme Leader and can theoretically dismiss him, but not through a vote of no confidence. D is wrong: the NPC ratifies CCP decisions in practice and does not dismiss the General Secretary.
- 7. C.** The UK has high judicial independence, with courts able to check executive action. A is wrong: Russia's judiciary, including the Constitutional Court, has low independence from the executive. B is wrong: China's courts operate under CCP authority. D is wrong: Iran's judiciary has low independence, and the head of the judiciary is appointed by the Supreme Leader.
- 8. D.** Mexico, Nigeria, and Russia are the three federal countries on the exam. A is wrong: the UK, China, and Iran are all unitary, and the UK's devolution does not make it federal. B is wrong because the UK is unitary. C is wrong because China is unitary.

When you check your answers, note which distinction each miss came from. Make a flashcard for that distinction and drill it spaced out over the next few days instead of rereading the whole section. If you missed one of these questions, the same distinction is worth practicing again in Rycal, where the Political Institutions deck has flashcards for it and more practice questions use the same kinds of traps.

# One-Page Recall Check

Say each answer out loud before you look back, and mark the ones you cannot finish. Anything you cannot say out loud yet belongs in your flashcard deck. In Rycal, add those items to the Political Institutions deck and let spaced review bring them back over the next few days.

- Define parliamentary, presidential, and semi-presidential systems in one sentence each.
- Classify each of the six course countries and give the reason for each classification.
- Explain how the UK's prime minister gets the job and what keeps the prime minister in it.
- State the term rules for the chief executive in Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, China, and Iran, and note where the UK differs.
- Explain why term limits are a useful comparison point across countries.
- Contrast removal by vote of no confidence with removal by impeachment, and name a country for each.
- List each country's legislature, its chambers, and how members are chosen.
- Explain which legislatures genuinely check the executive and which function as rubber stamps, with reasons.
- Explain the difference between devolution and federalism, and say which applies to the UK.
- Name Iran's three councils, give the composition of each, and state its main job.
- Explain the difference between head of state and head of government, with two country examples.
- State the level of judicial independence in each country, and explain rule of law versus rule by law.

**Where to go next.** Turn every missed item above into flashcards and drill them spaced out over several days rather than in one sitting. In Rycal, open the Political Institutions deck under AP Comparative Government and Politics. The deck covers the terms in this guide, and its practice questions target the same traps named here. If you have a test date, add it in the Test Planner. You can also start your next review with a Brain Dump, then check what you missed against this guide.

## Key terms for this unit

Parliamentary system, Presidential system, Semi-presidential system, Vote of no confidence, Impeachment, Sexenio, Guardian Council, Expediency Council, Assembly of Experts, Supreme Leader, Majles, National People's Congress, State Duma, Federation Council, House of Commons, House of Lords, Devolution, Federalism, Head of state, Head of government, Judicial independence, Judicial review, Rule of law, Rule by law.

About this guide. Written for Rycal and aligned to the College Board AP Comparative Government and Politics course framework, Unit 2. All questions and explanations are original Rycal writing. Rycal is independent and is not affiliated with or endorsed by the College Board.