

**PS 140 Intro to Comparative Politics
Arguments and Research Design**

I. Measurement

Use comparative politics examples throughout.

1) What are three variables that could be measured using a nominal scale? _____

2) Give three variables that could be measured using an ordinal scale. _____

3) How are nominal and ordinal scales different again? _____

4) Using one of your nominal variables suggested above, ‘measure’ three countries we have discussed on that variable. Do the same (using the same countries, please) for one of your ordinal variables. You may need to make implicit assessments of other countries to score your selected states.

Nominal: _____ Ordinal: _____

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

II. Hypotheses and Causality

1) The _____ variable represents a potential or hypothesized cause, and the _____ variable is the outcome or effect.

2) _____ does not imply _____. We need a _____ to connect a hypothesized ‘causal variable’ with its outcome.

3) When two variables share a _____ relationship, they go up (or down) together. When two variables share a _____ relationship, they move in different directions but at related rates: One goes up while the other goes down.

We’ve discussed a number of theories and some of their attendant hypotheses in class. Construct 4 hypotheses from the expressions in the box. A variety of combinations are possible. You may use entries more than once, though not twice in the same combination. You may construct one hypothesis from terms not included in the box if you so choose. Be sure to indicate the direction of the relationship between the variables using ↑ and ↓ as needed!

income	representation threshold	inequality	representativeness of legislature
# parties in legislature	veto points	# parties in government	average citizen age
presidential power	voter participation	speed of policy change	district magnitude

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| 1) | ← | 2) | ← |
| 3) | ← | 4) | ← |

III. Mill's Methods

For each of the examples below, identify the causal variable, then state which of Mill's methods allows you to make this determination (Agreement [A], Difference [D], or Concomitant Variation [CV]).

N, N, n, n, n*, and n' represent different values on the same variable, ranked from greatest/highest value to least/lowest; 0 represents the absence of that variable.

- | | | |
|----|------------------------|---------------|
| 1) | A ← B + C + d + E | Causal: _____ |
| | A ← B + c + d' + e | Method: _____ |
| 2) | F ← G + h + I + 0 + k* | Causal: _____ |
| | f ← G + H + I + 0 + k* | Method: _____ |
| 3) | L ← m* + n + O + P | Causal: _____ |
| | l* ← m* + n' + O + P | Method: _____ |
| 4) | q ← r + S + t* + u | Causal: _____ |
| | 0 ← r + S + t* + 0 | Method: _____ |
| 5) | v' ← W + x* + y + Z | Causal: _____ |
| | V ← W + x* + y + z' | Method: _____ |