Chapter 1

**Knowledge based**

1. What does the ‘capability approach to social science’ state?
2. Why is the design of political institutions relevant for societies?
3. In what ways can democracy reduce corruption?
4. How is corruption related to political legitimacy?
5. What can explain the variations in social trust between countries?

**Critical thinking**

1. Should comparative politics experts advise politicians?
2. Should comparative politics experts engage in public debates?
3. Is democracy helpful or even necessary for societies’ well-being?
4. In what ways can knowledge in comparative politics ‘save lives’?
5. What would be the optimal way to design institutions in a democracy?