

AP GOVERNMENT STUDY GUIDE

To prepare for your AP Government final exam, you should study the following resources (some of the content overlaps among them):

1. AP Text and Graphic Practice Questions - Parts 1 & 2
2. Required Documents Review Parts 1 & 2
3. Film - Democracy in Peril: The War on Voting (Understand the kinds of laws being passed and the controversy that surrounds them).
4. The material in your unit packets indicated below:

Unit 1-1 – The Constitution

Guided Reading - Creating the Constitution

What are the three systems of government (fully understand each)? What were the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation?

Guided Reading – Federalist #10, 51, and The Fight for Ratification (TB page 30)

Who were the federalists and anti-federalists? What was the procedure for ratifying the Constitution? What were the views and concerns of the anti-federalists? What did the anti-federalist insist be added that the federalist thought was unnecessary? What were the Federalist Papers? What problem did Madison address in Federalist Papers #10? Why did Madison think that a free people will always form factions? How did Madison argue that a **large republic** would minimize the harmful effects of faction? What was Madison describing in Federalist #51 and why was it necessary?

Balancing Liberty and Order - Montesquieu's Separation of Powers

Have a good understanding of the problem that Montesquieu was concerned about and his proposed solution.

Separation of Powers & Checks and Balances Poster

What powers does each branch of the US Government have, and what "checks" does each have over the other?

Unit 1-2 Test – Federalism

Guided Reading - The Structure of the Constitution? - Handout

What are the 3 parts of the US Constitution? What does the "preamble" do? What do articles I, II, and III establish? What do the last 4 articles as a whole deal with? What is the Full Faith and Credit Clause? What is the Supremacy Clause? What is Preemption? According to Article V, how can the Constitution be amended? What is Article VI's Supremacy Clause?

Federalism Powerpoint

What are the three governmental systems that we studied? What are implied powers and what is their constitutional source? What other constitutional clause is most often used with the necessary and proper clause in the "implied powers" formula? What has happened with this clause over time?

The LIMITED Powers of Congress - Article 1, Section 8

What is limited government? What is one way to limit a government? How does Article 1, Section 8 of our Constitution limit our government? What are the two clauses in Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution that have been used more than any others to expand the power of the national government?

Unit 1-2 Test – Federalism (Continued)

The National Government vs. The States (Guided Reading) - Wilson

Fully understand the case of *McCulloch v. Maryland*, one of the most significant Supreme Court cases in US history. What were the details of the case, the questions of the case, the clause of the Constitution that these questions dealt with, the resolutions (answers) to these questions, the reasoning of John Marshall, and the future significance of the case?

Cooperative Federalism Powerpoint

Fully understand the details of the case of *Lopez v. United States*. What was constitutional question of the case (which, of course, requires that you know what clause of the Constitution was involved)? What was the resolution of the case? What is the 'federalism significance' of the case?

Brutus #1

Read through the original text, questions, and answers and have a good overall understanding of Brutus #1's overall position regarding the Constitution.

Unit 2 Political Beliefs and Behaviors

Notes – Political Ideology

How do liberals / Democrats and Conservatives / Republicans and Libertarians differ in terms of the economic views and ethical views (personal and economic self-governor scores)? What sort of policies would each side favor?

Guided Reading - Interest Groups

What is an interest group as opposed to a political party? What are linkage institutions and what are the 4 linkage institutions? What is the free rider problem and how do interest groups try to solve it?

Powerpoint - Political Beliefs and Behaviors

What is political socialization? What are the factors involved in political socialization? How do different kinds of people tend to vote (Republican or democrat)? What kind of Americans are more likely to vote?

Unit 3 - Elections and the Media

Notes - Introduction to U.S. National Elections

What is the census, apportionment, and re-apportionment? What pattern have we typically seen during mid-term elections?

Guided Reading - Public Opinion

What does good public opinion polling entail? What is stratified or multistage sampling? What is sampling error/margin of error?

Question for Debate: Should the Electoral College be replaced by direct popular election of the President?

Understand that the main argument against the electoral college is that a candidate can win the electoral vote (and as a result, the presidency) while losing the popular vote.

Unit 3 - Khan Academy Media Videos 1 & 2 - Media as a linkage institution

What are linkage institutions, and what are *the* linkage institutions in America? How does the media typically cover elections?

Unit 4-1, Part A: Congress

Guided Reading - Congressional Incumbency

What advantages do incumbents have in elections?

Film: One person, One vote What sort of problem arose as people moved from rural areas to cities? What was determined in the cases of Baker v. Carr, and then in the other apportionment cases that followed?

Unit 4-1: Congress Part B

Redistricting Notes. Commit everything on these notes to your memory and understanding

Guided Reading - Study Questions - Redistricting. Understand the terms: apportionment, census, redistricting, and gerrymandering. Understand what the Supreme Court has ruled regarding redistricting. Identify the significance of Baker v Carr and Shaw v Reno.

Guided Reading - Congressional Decision Making

Understand Congress' relationship with the other branches in terms of congressional oversight, appointments, impeachment, and judicial review.

Table 7.5 - The advantages of Incumbency.

Be familiar with the advantages that incumbents have.

Unit 4-2: The Executive Branch and the Bureaucracy

Powers of the President Power Point Part 1. What are "formal / constitutional" powers of the President? Where do they come from? What are the formal / constitutional powers of the President? Be fully familiar with each of them and know the details given about each power (Why Presidents have these powers, the checks that exist on them, the different forms of each power, all of it.) Why do appointments of Supreme Court Justices have the greatest likelihood of conflict between the President and the Senate as opposed to other presidential appointments? Note: It is not necessary to memorize the specific examples that I gave you about these powers.

Powers of the President Power Point Part 2 What are "informal" powers of the President? Where do they come from? What are the informal powers of the President? Be fully familiar with each power and know the details given about each power (What controversy surrounds each power, whether the power can still be exercised or not, all of it). Note: It is not necessary to memorize the specific examples that I gave you EXCEPT NAFTA and the details of Nixon's claim of executive privilege. What is the impeachment procedure?

The Federalist #70 A Single Unified Executive

Read through the original text, questions, and answers and have a good overall understanding of Federalist #70.

Guided Reading - Presidential Approval and the Budget. What pattern does a president's approval rating typically follow over time?

The federal budget Key Terms. What is the federal budget? What is the largest source of government revenue? What do these terms mean: Mandatory spending, Entitlement Spending, and Discretionary Spending? What are the 3 largest categories of federal spending? What trends have we seen over time with these three categories? What do these terms mean: The national debt, balances budget, budget surplus, budget deficit?

Guided Reading - The Bureaucracy. How does the bureaucracy shape policy with implementation, rule-making and administrative discretion? What is an Iron Triangle/Issue network? What are the three points of an Iron Triangle/Issue network? Understand them. How can the other branches hold the Bureaucracy responsible?

Unit 4-3: The Judicial Branch & Civil Liberties

Bill of Rights Cut and Paste (Note, this one is particularly important)

Know which rights are protected by which amendment that I told you to when we graded this assignment together.

Guided Reading: Judicial ideology and Selection

What is Judicial Review? Where did it come from? What is the different between Judicial Restraint / Strict Constructionism and Judicial Activism?

Guided Reading: Limits on the Supreme Court

What are the different checks or limits that the other branches have on the Supreme Court? Where does the Supreme Court's independence come from? What is it independent from? How does the Supreme Court make policy? What is Stare Decisis and why is it important?

An Independent Judiciary (Film)

What Americans can the independence of the court protect?

Federalist 78

Read through the original text, questions, and answers and have a good overall understanding of Hamilton's overall position regarding judicial independence and judicial review.

Guided Reading – Civil Liberties & Freedom of Speech. What are civil liberties as opposed to civil rights, and which clauses of which amendments protect them? What was decided in Palko v Connecticut? What is 'selective incorporation? What amendment protects free speech?

Guided Reading - Freedom of Speech and Elections. What was the 'Soft Money' amendment to the Federal Election Campaign Act? What is the McCain Feingold/Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act? What happened in the case of Citizens United v Federal Election Commission? What are Super-Pacs?

Unit 5: Civil Liberties & Civil Rights

Guided Reading – Freedom of Religion, Due Process, and privacy

What is included in the 1st amendment (be sure to understand the difference between the two clauses that protect freedom of religion)? What is Due Process? What is the 'story' of how the Constitution came to protect the right to an abortion (with Griswold v Connecticut and penumbral rights)? What did the case of Roe v. Wade determine about the right to an abortion?

Guided Reading - Civil Rights What are civil rights? Which clauses from which part of the Constitution protects civil rights and civil liberties? What happened in the cases of Plessy v. Ferguson and Brown v. Board of Education? What is Affirmative Action and the different views about it?

Comprehension Questions - Letter From a Birmingham Jail. Read through the original text, questions, and answers and have a good overall understanding of King's position on civil disobedience.