

## AP US Government & Politics Semester One Review

### Students and Parents:

This packet is designed to *assist* students as they prepare for the AP Government semester exam. In no way should this packet be used as the only preparation method. Use this packet as a means to spread out studying on the topics we have covered throughout the semester. The packet is to pace and supplement your own studying (possibly doing one part a night/day). Bring any questions you have to class. Please do not shortchange yourself in your preparation for the exam; your hard work this week will pay-off later!

Remember to review vocabulary, have some quiz you!

### Part I: Constitutional Underpinnings

- Review your notes from Chapters 1,2 & 3
- Review the Constitution & Amendments
- Review any assessment pieces you may still have (quizzes, Exam FRQs)
- Complete the Review Questions below after you have studied.

#### Major Concepts:

- Constitution
- Separation of Powers
- Federalism

#### Review Questions

1. What were the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation?
2. What was the importance of Shay's Rebellion?
3. Discuss the problem of representation at the Constitutional Convention. Mention the 3 major plans proposed.
4. How was slavery dealt with at the Convention?
5. Define Separation of Powers. How does the War Powers Act & the Budget Impoundment Act exemplify this concept.
6. List as many effects of divided government that you can think of. What are the methods that a president can use to overcome these barriers?
7. Define Checks & Balances. How does each branch check and balance each other?
8. Review Federalist #10 & 51. What was the major discussion in these?
9. What were the arguments from the Federalists and Anti-Federalists?
10. What are the Amendment processes for revising the Constitution? (Article V)
11. What are some Informal processes to amend the Constitution?
12. What is the importance of being able to amend the Constitution? Why does it seem difficult to do then?
13. Define Federalism. Compare cooperative v. dual federalism.
14. What is the importance of *McCulloch v. Maryland*, *Gibbons v. Ogden*, and *US v. Lopez* when discussing Federalism?
15. Describe how the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment & Commerce Clause, & Elastic Clause play a role with Federalism?
16. What are some Enumerated Powers, Reserved Powers, and Concurrent Powers?
17. Define conditions of aid. Give an example.
18. Compare Grants-in-aid, Categorical grants, Block grants, and Revenue sharing.
19. Define Mandates and unfunded mandates. Name a few examples of each that we studied.

## Part II: Political Beliefs and Behaviors

- Review your notes from Chapters 4, 7, & 8
- Review any Data Analysis Questions
- Review the Amendments regarding Voting Rights
- Review any assessment pieces you may still have (quizzes, Exam FRQs)
- Complete the Review Questions below after you have studied.

### Major Concepts:

- Political Culture
- Efficacy, & Tolerance
- Political Socialization
- Political Ideology
- Public Opinion
- Participation (including Voting Behaviors)

### Review Questions

1. What are the elements that the book identifies with our political culture?
2. Define liberty, equality, and individualism in regards to culture.
3. How are American's views about equality and economics unique?
4. What is the difference between equality of opportunity and equality of results?
5. What is the difference between internal and external efficacy?
6. Why has there been a recent steady decline in the proportion of Americans who trust the government in Washington to do the right thing?
7. What was the Founders' attitude towards public opinion?
8. The book gives four factors that affect political socialization. Identify those four factors and summarize the conclusions about how those factors affect people's political attitudes.
9. The book gives three cleavages that divide people's political beliefs. Identify those three factors and summarize the conclusions about the correlation between these factors and people's political opinions.
10. Summarize the four ideological labels the authors describe.
11. Summarize the arguments as to why voter turnout has declined.
12. Make a list of the generalizations that the book makes about which groups tend to be more or less likely to vote.
13. Summarize the five reasons the book gives for why Americans register and vote less frequently.
14. What are some laws, Amendments, or other proposals that directly impact voter-turnout?
15. What are some differences seen demographically on political ideology and voter-turnout?

## Part III: Political Parties, Elections, Interest Groups, and Mass Media

- Review your notes from Chapters 9, 10, 11, & 12
- Review your list of the 25 most influential Interest Groups
- Review any assessment pieces you may still have (quizzes, Exam FRQs)
- Complete the Review Questions below after you have studied.

### Major Concepts:

- Campaign Finance Reform
- Political Parties
- Elections
- Interest Groups

- Mass Media

### Review Questions

1. What were the provisions of the 1974 Campaign Finance law, its major reforms, *and* how did the court rule on the major provisions?
2. What is the difference between hard money and soft money and regulations on each?
3. What are 527s?
4. What major roles and functions do political parties serve?
5. How do the basic platforms and structure of the major parties differ?
6. Why are parties in a decline?
7. Why does the US have a two-party system?
8. Analyze why third parties are so rarely successful.
9. List as many effects as you can of having weaker parties. Give examples.
10. What are the formal and informal qualifications to run for Congress *and* the Presidency?
11. What are the differences between retrospective and prospective voting and what effect does such voting have on elections?
12. Summarize what the book says about how the following groups vote and the effect they have on campaigns: Hispanics, African Americans, Jews, Catholics, southerners, union members, business people, and poor people.
13. Define the various types of elections (for example the various primaries, caucuses, etc.)
14. What does the rise of split-ticket voting account for?
15. How has the court ruled on malapportionment and gerrymandering?
16. What are four major factors that account for the rise of interest groups?
17. What six activities does the book list for how interest groups work to influence policy? Give examples for each activity. What activity is the most important activity they do?
18. What roles does the media serve the public?
19. What does the book say regarding the effects of the media on politics?
20. Summarize the rules regulating the media and the government including the following: prior restraint, libel, confidentiality of sources, FCC regulations, Telecommunications Act (1996), Equal time rule, Right-of-reply rule, political editorializing rule, fairness doctrine.

### Part IV: Institutions of Government

- Review your notes from Chapters 13
- Review Article I and the powers of the legislative branch
- Review the major Congressional Committees and their duties
- Review any assessment pieces you may still have (quizzes, Exam FRQs)
- Complete the Review Questions below after you have studied.

### Major Concepts:

- Congress

### Review Questions

1. List several factors for why Incumbents have such an advantage.
2. Describe the impact that Reciprocity (“Logrolling”), Specialization and Expertise, Seniority, and Senatorial Courtesy plays in Congress.
3. How is the leadership of Congress organized?
4. What is meant by centralized and decentralized forces? What are some examples?
5. What are the major steps for a bill to become a law? What is the most important step?
6. What are some of the influences on a bill or agenda?

7. How closely is Congress representative of the American demographics?
8. If Americans dislike Congress so much, why then do they love their Congressmen?
9. How can a filibuster be broken?
10. What are the differences (structure and power) between the House and Senate?
11. What controls does the Congress have if it does not like a decision of the Court? Give an example for each one.

**Below are some online quiz sites.**

<http://www.meridian.wednet.edu/~slawrenc/PracticeQuizzes.htm>

[http://college.cengage.com/polisci/wilson/am\\_gov/9e/students/ace/index.html](http://college.cengage.com/polisci/wilson/am_gov/9e/students/ace/index.html)

<http://www.funnelbrain.com/category.php?sid=15>

<http://www.raleighcharterhs.org/faculty/bnewmark/1GoPoQuizzes.html>

<http://www.quia.com/pages/apgovreview.html>

[http://boballey.org/trinity/exam\\_review.htm](http://boballey.org/trinity/exam_review.htm)