

AP Government and Politics
Summer Assignment
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Welcome!

Congratulations on reaching your senior year and taking on the academic challenge of Advanced Placement Government. I look forward to working with you this year to prepare you to make a qualifying score on the exam and get college credit!!

This course is taught second semester, but this assignment is due **AUGUST 9.**

The assignment is two parts. First, is an overview of the Constitution, which is a required document for this course and the basis of American government. The second part is required reading for the first unit of study. You will use the AMSCO textbook provided to you.

Please join google classroom using this code: 7mdjacz This assignment will be loaded on Google Classroom in case you need to access it, but what is turned in to me on August 9, **must be handwritten.**

Directions: Read the U.S. Constitution and complete the following questions directly on this handout. Answers must be **HANDWRITEN**

A link to the US Constitution can be found [here \(https://constitutionus.com/\)](https://constitutionus.com/)

Be sure to identify the location of each answer in the Constitution (example: Article I, Section 3)

Part I: THE OVERALL STRUCTURE OF THE CONSTITUTION

1. Read each article of the Constitution. **Summarize** the general purpose or subject of each article in one sentence in the chart below. Do not just copy down each Article.

Article I	
Article II	
Article III	
Article IV	
Article V	
Article VI	
Article VII	

2. Identify two powers denied to Congress in the Constitution. ****Don't forget to list where each power is found in the Constitution!****

3. How does the House of Representatives determine the rules of proceedings (the ability to have debates, amendments, etc.)? ****Don't forget to list where it is found in the Constitution!****

4. Identify two powers the Constitution denies to the States. ****Don't forget to list where each power is found in the Constitution!****

5.

Constitutional eligibility requirements (also known as formal requirements) **Don't forget to list where each power is found in the Constitution!**		
HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES	SENATE	PRESIDENT

6. The powers of the Constitution that are specifically granted to the branches of government or two office holder are called expressed powers. **Don't forget to list where each power is found in the Constitution!**

- a. Identify two expressed powers of the president.

- b. What are the expressed powers of the vice president?

- c. Identify two expressed powers of Congress.

7. According to the principle of checks and balances, each branch of the government must have control over the other branches. Look at the first three articles of the Constitution and identify one of each type of checks and balances. **Don't forget to list where it is found in the Constitution!**

- a. A power that the executive branch has over the legislative branch.

- b. A power that the executive branch has over the judicial branch.

- c. A power that the legislative branch holds over the executive branch.

- d. A power that the legislative branch holds over the judicial branch.

- e. A power that the judicial branch holds over the executive branch

f. A power that the judicial branch holds over the legislative branch.

8. The court of original jurisdiction is the first court that hears a case. Appellate courts hear cases on appeal from lower courts. Although the Supreme Court functions primarily as an appellate court, it is the court of original jurisdiction in certain kinds of cases. What are those? ****Don't forget to list where it is found in the Constitution!****

9. According to Article I of the Constitution, who has the power to declare war?

10. What power does the Constitution give the President in the area of war?

Part II: IMPORTANT CLAUSES

1. Where is the "Commerce Clause" and what does it say?

2. Where is the "Necessary and Proper Clause" and what does it say?

3. Where is the "Supremacy Clause" and what does it say?

4. How might these clauses above have impacted the power of the federal government?

5. Where is the habeas corpus clause and what does it say?

6. What is habeas corpus?

7. Where are bills of attainders discussed and what does it say?

8. What is a bill of attainder?

9. Where are ex post facto laws discussed and what does it say?

10. What is an ex post facto law?
11. Where is the full faith and credit clause and what does it say?
12. There are two “due process” clauses. Where are they? What does “due process” of law imply?
13. Where is the “equal protection clause?” What does this imply?

Part III: CHECKS AND BALANCES, FUNCTIONS OF BRANCHES

1. Vetoes
 - a. What bodies have the power to override a presidential veto?
 - b. What margin is required to override a presidential veto?
 - c. Where in the Constitution is the veto power described?
2. Treaties
 - a. What body has the power to ratify treaties?
 - b. What margin is required to ratify treaties?
 - c. Where in the Constitution is the ratification power described?
3. To impeach means “to bring charges against” or “to indict”.
 - a. What body has the power to impeach the president?
 - b. What vote is required to impeach?
 - c. What is the standard for impeachment?

- d. Where in the Constitution is the impeachment power described?
4. Electoral College
- a. If not candidate for the presidency wins a simple majority of the total number of electoral votes, what body has the power to choose the president?
 - b. What margin is required to choose the president?
 - c. Where in the Constitution is the Electoral College described (hint: there are two parts)
5. The Constitution has comparatively little to say about the structure and composition of the Supreme Court. Identify two aspects of the Court's structure and composition that the Constitution does not specify. (The Constitution does specify these two basic aspects of structure and composition for the other two branches.)
6. What are two ways that amendments can be proposed?
7. What are two ways that amendments to the Constitution can be ratified?

Part IV. THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Some parts of the Constitution require a simple majority, others a supermajority, while still others protect citizens from the will of the majority. The first ten amendments to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights protects citizens from the will of the majority. In other words, no majority could vote to take these rights away. Read each amendment to the Constitution and answer the questions below.

1. Outline the general purpose of all 27 Amendments.

Amendment 1	
Amendment 2	
Amendment 3	

Amendment 4	
Amendment 5	
Amendment 6	
Amendment 7	
Amendment 8	
Amendment 9	
Amendment 10	
Amendment 11	
Amendment 12	
Amendment 13	
Amendment 14	
Amendment 15	
Amendment 16	
Amendment 17	
Amendment 18	
Amendment 19	
Amendment 20	

Amendment 21	
Amendment 22	
Amendment 23	
Amendment 24	
Amendment 25	
Amendment 26	
Amendment 27	

1. Which amendment(s) of the Constitution protect the rights of women and how do they protect them?
2. Which amendment(s) of the Constitution protect the rights of African Americans?
3. How were U.S. Senators chosen before the 17th Amendment?
4. The 25th Amendment describes the sequence of events that would install the vice president as acting president against the will of the president. Outline that sequence of events.

AP United States Government & Politics

Textbook Guiding Questions

Use the guiding questions and tasks as you complete reading assignments from your *AMSCO Advanced Placement United States Government & Politics* textbook. The questions and tasks are broken up and organized by the chapters within each unit. The accompanying page numbers are also provided.

UNIT 1- Foundations of American Democracy

UNIT 1.1-1.2 GUIDED QUESTIONS

While reading pages 3-15 in your textbook, answer the following questions by incorporating complete responses with keys terms and phrases.

Unit 1.1- Guiding questions:

- Describe “limited government”.
- What Enlightenment concepts are associated with “Limited Government”?
- Is New York State’s seat belt law a good example of limited government? Why or why not? (*You only need to have a surface understanding of NYS seat belt law.*)

Unit 1.2- Guiding Questions:

- Explain the differences between a Participatory Democracy, a Pluralist Democracy, and an Elite Democracy.
- Which of the three best represents democracy in the United States today? Why?

UNIT 1.3-1.4 GUIDED QUESTIONS

While reading pages 16-30 in your textbook, answer the following questions by incorporating complete responses with keys terms and phrases.

Unit 1.3- Guiding questions:

- Explain two specific differences between Federalists and Anti-Federalists.

- The word “Faction” was referred to a lot in 1.3- what does that mean? Can you provide an example of a “faction” in a present-day group (it doesn’t have to be political)? *You may need to look up what a faction is to get a clear definition that makes sense to you.*
- **Answer the multiple-choice questions (1-6) on pages 23-24.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
 - 6.

Unit 1.4- Guiding Questions:

- Explain the responsibilities and operations of Congress under the Articles of Confederation.
- How did Shay’s Rebellion demonstrate the weakness of the central government? What other weaknesses existed under the Articles of Confederation?

UNIT 1.5-1.6 GUIDED QUESTIONS

While reading pages 32-51 in your textbook, answer the following questions by incorporating complete responses with keys terms and phrases, and evidence.

Pages 32-51

1.5- Guiding Questions:

- How did the Great Compromise address the issue of representation of the states? How was the issue of slavery included in this discussion?
- Read about why the Electoral College was established on page 34. Then, read the “Think like a Political Scientist” section on page 35, and then answer this question: **Should the Electoral College remain in place? Explain.**

- Explain the roles and responsibilities of each branch of the federal government as it is laid out in Articles I-III of the Constitution:
 - **Legislative-**
 - **Executive-**
 - **Judicial-**
- Explain the debate regarding the addition of a “Bill of Rights” to the US Constitution:

1.6- Guiding Questions:

- Checks & Balances:
 - Describe the **veto** process between the legislative and executive branches when creating bills or laws.
 - How does **advice & consent** reflect Checks & Balances?
 - How are impeachments determined and run by the legislative branch?

UNIT 1.7-1.9 GUIDED QUESTIONS

While reading pages 57-80 in your textbook, answer the following questions by incorporating complete responses with keys terms and phrases, and evidence.

Pages 57-80

1.7- Guiding Questions:

- **Define FEDERALISM:**
- Provisions defining “Federalism”: **Define the Article IV Constitutional Provisions:**
 - FULL FAITH AND CREDIT-
 - PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES-
 - EXTRADITION-

- National (Federal) and State Powers: **Provide a few examples of powers that each level of government has:**
 - **EXCLUSIVE (Federal)-**
 - **STATE-**
 - **CONCURRENT (shared)-**

- Grants and “Power of the Purse”: **Explain each Federal Grant below:**
 - GRANT-IN-AID PROGRAMS:

 - CATEGORICAL GRANTS:

 - BLOCK GRANTS:

 - MANDATES:

 - **Explain **Devolution** under Ronald Reagan and how the **Unfunded Mandates Reform Act** and the **Personal Responsibility and Work Reconciliation Act** reflect Devolution:*

1.8- Guiding Questions:

- **Federal Power:** Describe how the constitution outlines the powers & limitations of the federal government in **Article I, Sections 8, 9, and 10** of the Constitution:

- **States:** Describe how the constitution outlines the powers of the states in **Amendment 10** and **Amendment 14:**

- Read about *Dual Federalism* and *Selective Elusiveness*. What is the role/power of Congress in regard to **Commerce**? **Also: What is an example of how Congress used the Commerce Clause to legislate during the Progressive Era (see “National Concerns, State Obligations”)?*

****Look over the two SCOTUS cases on the issue of Federalism in the textbook- *McCulloch v. Maryland* and *United States v. Lopez*, to have a general understanding of each. Give a brief synopsis of each with the ruling.**

McCulloch v. Maryland-

US v. Lopez-

1.9- Guiding Questions:

Federalism in Action: Read about the following TWO issues on pages 75-80 and explain how the federal government and states used their shared powers to address each issue. **What policies/laws were created to address that issue? Who had the upper hand (fed or state gov), and how has that changed over time in relation to that issue?**

- **ENVIRONMENTAL POLICYMAKING-**

- **LEGALIZING MARIJUANA-**