**AP US Government**

**Readings 1, 3, 4, 5**

*Doc 1: Alexis De Tocqueville – Democracy in America*

1. How are nations like children?
2. Why is the US unique?
3. What helps explain a nation’s laws, customs and opinions?
4. What is the most important bond that makes up a nation?
   1. What does this say about America today?
5. What idea did the early immigrants reject from Europe?
6. What kind of laws (and traditions) exists in America regarding land when the owner dies?
7. Explain Tocqueville’s opinion of wealth in America
8. What conclusion does the author make about equality in America?
9. What is the author saying in the last paragraph? Is this true?

*Doc 3: James Hunter – the Enduring Culture War?*

1. What is the heart of the “Culture War” argument?
2. What does the author imply is the real problem behind these “culture wars”?
3. What are the two “moral visions” of America that causes this conflict?
4. What percentage of Americans tends to be active in this culture war?
5. What happened in Gaston County, NC in the early 90s?
6. Who opposed it and why?
7. How did the “People For The American Way” become involved?
8. What was the result of this conflict?
9. What does the author say is responsible for this conflict? Who loses?

*Doc 4: C. Wright Mills – Power Elite*

1. According to the author, what are the three branches of the modern elite?
2. According to the author, do elites understand their role in American society?
3. What three institutions adapt to modern life in America?
4. Which elite group is the “largest and most expensive feature of government?”
5. Do these elites work together to manipulate society?

*Doc 5: Richard Zweigenhaft – Diversity in the Power Elite*

1. What is an “overclass”? Explain
2. Do the authors agree or disagree with Mills? Explain
3. How can the golf course be used as an anecdote to the elite in America?
4. How does Ed Brooke, Carol Mosley-Braun & Barak Obama represent the three different generations of African Americans?
5. According to the authors, has the changes in the elite also changed the distribution of wealth in America?