

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS Midterm Study Guide

- Use ink- do not type.
- Emailed assignments will not be accepted.

CHAPTER 1 Vocabulary CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY

1. indirect democracy	11. universal suffrage
2. legislature	12. majority rule
3. initiative	13. plurality/pluralism
4. referendum	14. elite theory
5. legitimacy	15. recall
6. totalitarianism	16. republic
7. authoritarianism	18. popular sovereignty
8. aristocracy	19. Pluralism
9. democracy	
10. direct democracy	

1. List the 4 types of government.
2. List 4 examples of direct democracy in America today (1. town meetings.. etc)
3. What are the dangers of direct democracy?
4. What type of government does the U.S. use (2 different names)
5. List the 3 principles essential for democratic government in our society.

FYI- Know the US Political Spectrum (Liberals, Progressives, Moderates, Conservatives)

CHAPTER 2 THE CONSTITUTION- Constitution Fill-in

Vocabulary:

- 1) expressed powers
- 2) delegated powers
- 3) implied powers
- 4) concurrent powers

1. Explain at least 2 significant actions by the First and Second Continental Congresses.
2. List six weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation. How was each of the six corrected in the Constitution?
3. Why was Shay's Rebellion significant?
4. Explain the importance of the Great Compromise.
5. Explain the three-fifths Compromise.

FEDERALISM CHAPTER 3

1. Explain three advantages of federalism and three disadvantages of federalism.
2. Your text explains that the Constitution divides the power of government into three divisions:
 - a. the powers of the national govt
 - b. the powers of the states
 - c. prohibited powers.

Provide two examples of each.

3. In what 2 ways does the national government check the state policies?
4. Explain Marshall's rulings in McCulloch v. Maryland 1819; and Gibbons v. Ogden 1824.
5. List and describe the three Civil War amendments.
6. Describe the 4 ways that cooperative federalism is implemented.

CHAPTER 4 CIVIL LIBERTIES

Vocabulary:

1. (incorporation theory - also called selective incorporation)
2. hate speech
3. fighting words
4. non-protected speech
5. political speech
6. sedition
7. obscenity
8. privacy rights
9. due process clause
10. preferred position doctrine (143)
11. ex post facto laws
12. bills of attainder
13. FOIA Requests

1. Explain two reasons why the original Bill of Rights limited only the powers of the nat'l government.
2. Explain the court case (Barron v. Baltimore 1833).
3. Explain the last incorporation case: District of Columbia v. Heller, 2008. What was its holding?
4. List the most important Supreme Court case/rulings for each of the following: (list a "LANDMARK" case, not some minor district court case from Gastonia)
a) Student Searches in School b) School vouchers c) Miranda Warnings d) Public attorney
e) School Prayer f) Illegal Searches g) Tarry Stop h) libel i. Freedom of Press

CHAPTER 6 Public Interest and Political Socialization

1. Explain the most important influences in political socialization. (Where do you acquire your political bias)
2. Discuss the most important values of the American political system.
3. Describe the trend in political trust over the last 3 decades... what is the implication for our system?
4. How do the following factors influence political preference and voting behavior?
a. education b. race c. gender d. age e. Region
5. Explain how public opinion is measured. When creating polls, what factors are required to increase the accuracy?

CHAPTER 8: POLITICAL PARTIES

1. List the 5 basic functions of political parties
2. Describe the basic composition and main issues of the Democrat Party.
3. Describe the basic composition and main issues of the Republican Party.
4. What are 3 types of minor parties... give an example of each.
What role do minor political parties play in U.S. political history?
5. Explain the difference between a realigning and de-aligning election. Why do political scientists argue about these types of elections?
6. What roles do parties play in each of the following: (This could be the most important question on the guide! Please pay special attention to your answer)
a. legislative branch b. executive branch c. judicial branch d. state and local levels