

# AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS Midterm Study Guide

- Use ink- do not type.
- Emailed assignments will not be accepted.
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## CHAPTER 1 CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY

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|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. politics            | 11. indirect democracy       | 21. universal suffrage       |
| 2. institution         | 12. legislature              | 22. majority rule            |
| 3. government          | 13. initiative               | 23. plurality                |
| 4. liberty             | 14. referendum               | 24. limited government       |
| 5. legitimacy          | 15. recall                   | 25. constitutional democracy |
| 6. totalitarian regime | 16. consent of the people    | 26. majoritarian             |
| 7. authoritarianism    | 17. republic                 | 27. elite theory             |
| 8. aristocracy         | 18. popular sovereignty      | 28. pluralism                |
| 9. democracy           | 19. democratic republic      |                              |
| 10. direct democracy   | 20. representative democracy |                              |

1. Explain how order and liberty are important to government and what tension exists between the two.
2. How does authority relate to legitimacy? How do these words apply to U.S. govt?
3. List the 4 types of government.
4. List the 4 forms of direct democracy in America today (1. town meetings.. etc)
5. What are the dangers of direct democracy?
6. What type of government does the U.S. use (2 different names)
7. List the 3 principles essential for democratic government in our society.
8. What principle is a Constitutional Democracy based upon?

*Know the chart - The Traditional Political Spectrum*

## CHAPTER 2 THE CONSTITUTION- Constitution Fill-in

Vocabulary p. 56- 19 words add: expressed powers, delegated powers, implied powers, concurrent powers

1. Explain the most significant actions of the First and Second Continental Congresses.
2. What issues did the Republicans of 1776-1790 support?
3. Six weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation are listed in a chart on p. 35. How was each of these corrected in the Constitution?
4. What does the text say was the most fundamental weakness of the Articles of Confederation?
5. Why was Shay's Rebellion significant?
6. How did the nationalists influence the Constitutional Convention?
7. Draw a Venn Diagram that illustrates the Great Compromise.
8. Fill in the blanks: The three-fifths rule meant that the \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ would be apportioned in part on the basis of \_\_\_ ---specifically, property in \_\_\_. Explain the implications of this statement.
9. List two ways that the South influenced the Constitutional Convention.
10. Why did Madison propose separation of powers?
11. Provide examples of how Congress and the President have gotten around some of the prescribed checks and balances.
12. List the 5 fundamental principles of the Constitution. (add judicial review to make 6)
13. What were the advantages and disadvantages of the Anti-Federalists when it came to ratifying the Constitution?
14. Madison proposed 12 Amendments to be accepted as the Bill of Rights. Which 2 were not accepted?
15. Why was the amendment process made difficult? What fundamental principle does it represent?

## **FEDERALISM CHAPTER 3**

1. Explain three advantages of federalism. List 2 benefits of federalism.
2. List three disadvantages of federalism.
3. Your text explains that the Constitution divides the power of government into three divisions:
  1. the powers of the national govt
  2. the powers of the states
  3. prohibited powers.Provide two examples of each.
4. In what 2 ways does the national government check the state policies?
5. Explain Marshall's rulings in *McCulloch v. Maryland* 1819; and *Gibbons v. Ogden* 1824.
6. List and describe the three Civil War amendments.
7. Describe the 4 ways that cooperative federalism is implemented.
8. Is federalism an ideological theme for the Republicans? Explain.
9. How do *U.S. v. Lopez*, 1995, and *U.S. v. Morrison*, 2000, weaken the commerce power? Why is this significant?

## **CHAPTER 6 Public Interest and Political Socialization**

1. What is meant by public opinion and how is it formed?
2. Explain the most important influences in political socialization.
3. Discuss the most important values of the American political system and the trend in political trust over the last 3 decades
4. How do the following factors influence political preference and voting behavior?
  1. education
  2. race
  3. gender
  4. age
  5. RegionExplain how public opinion is measured. When creating polls, what factors are required to increase the accuracy?
5. List and explain the 3 core values your textbook says binds Americans together.

## **CHAPTER 8: POLITICAL PARTIES**

1. List the 5 basic functions of political parties
2. Does America prefer divided government? Explain.
3. Describe the basic composition and main issues of the Democrat and Republican Parties.
4. Describe the three major components of political parties. Provide examples of each.
5. What is the job of the National Chairperson. Where is the real strength of political parties?
6. Explain 4 reasons why the United States has a two party system.
7. What are 2 roles that minor parties have played in U.S. political history.
8. Explain the difference between a realigning and de-aligning election. Why do political scientists argue about these types of elections?
9. What roles do parties play in each of the following:
  1. legislative branch
  2. judicial branch
  3. executive branch
  4. state and local levels

## Chapter 9 Campaigns, Nominations, and Elections

McGovern-Frazier Commission  
plurality voting system  
blanket primary  
runoff primary

Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act  
of 2002  
FECA  
527s  
staggered terms  
incumbent advantage

split ticket  
straight ticket  
motor voter  
political efficacy

1. List and describe the qualifications for president, vice president, Senate and House.
2. What must a campaign's organization do in order to be successful?
3. Why do candidates use professionals such as political consultants and media strategists?
4. Explain the importance of polls and focus groups to the modern day campaign. (what is the current president's approval rating: [www.pollingreport.com](http://www.pollingreport.com))
5. Identify Buckley v. Valeo (1976) How did it change campaign finance?
6. Fill in the blanks: Spending by candidates is \_\_\_\_ (limited or unlimited), but contributions to these candidates and to presidential candidates are \_\_\_\_\_. (limited or unlimited)
7. Can 527s use soft money? Explain.
8. Why have PACs become a HUGE political force? What is the name of the Top PAC?  
[www.opensecrets.org](http://www.opensecrets.org)
9. How did the fiasco at the 1968 Democratic National Convention change the nomination process for president?
10. How has issue advocacy affected elections? (think: 527s, soft money...)
11. How did the public come to control the presidential nominating process? (301)
12. Why is front loading political? <http://www.gwu.edu/~action/2008/chnothp08.html>
13. List your arguments for or against the Electoral College. (This assumes you understand the process.)
14. What significance to voting are voter registration requirements?
15. What are the factors that influence who votes?
16. List 3 reasons why people do not vote.
17. Identify the 15<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> amendments.
18. How did the Voting Rights Act extend the right to vote?

## CHAPTER 12 EXECUTIVE BRANCH

1. As you read the chapter, list the powers of the president as found in Article II of the Constitution.
2. Specifically, what are the President's war powers and when can they be used?
3. Why was the line item veto granted to the president and then declared unconstitutional in Clinton v. City of New York, 1998.
4. List 3 informal powers of the president.
5. List and describe 3 special powers and privileges of presidential power not available in the other branches. Why is each controversial?
6. How does the president use his cabinet?
7. Explain two significant differences between the EOP and the WHO?
8. What are the Constitutional powers of the Vice President? How is it possible to have an unelected VP?
9. Describe the following amendments related to the president: 20th, 22nd, 23rd, 25th
10. Describe how impoundment, deficits, and continuing resolutions impact the budget process.

## CHAPTER 14 THE COURTS

Vocabulary

- |                            |                            |                   |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. adversary system        | 5. appellate jurisdiction  | 9. petit jury     |
| 2. Marbury v. Madison 1803 | 6. concurrent jurisdiction | 10. grand jury    |
| 3. judicial review         | 7. habeas corpus           | 11. plea bargain  |
| 4. original jurisdiction   | 8. public defender         | 12. "litmus test" |

- List the 3 sources of American law.
- Why does the United States have a dual court system?
- How does a case reach the Supreme Court?
- Describe the process to become a SCOTUS justice. Include nomination and confirmation processes in your answer.
- What other jobs does the Chief Justice have other than heading the group of nine justices who interpret the law?
- Compare judicial activism and judicial restraint.
- Contrast strict vs. broad (loose) construction.
- Describe how the court has ruled in recent years on cases involving federalism and civil rights. (Give case names)
- List and explain four checks on the court system.

## CHAPTER 4 CIVIL LIBERTIES

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

- Explain two reasons why the original Bill of Rights limited only the powers of the nat'l government.
- Explain the court case (Barron v. Baltimore 1833) that affirmed the reasoning.
- District of Columbia v. Heller, 2008 should be added to the chart on p. 111. Why?
- Explain the Supreme Court rulings on:

### ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE:

Definition of Establishment Clause	
Aid to church related schools	
New ruling: Aid to church related schools	
School Vouchers	
School Prayer	
More about school prayer	
Prayers outside the classroom	

Definition of Establishment Clause	
The 10 Commandments	
Teaching of Evolution	
Religious speech	

### 5. FREE EXERCISE CLAUSE:

Which has more protection, the right to practice a religion or the right to hold particular beliefs? consider-polygamy, using peyote in religious services, not participating in the pledge of allegiance at school?

1. Why is the right to free speech and free press fundamental to a democracy?
2. When is prior restraint allowed?
3. When may speech be restrained?
4. Explain why obscenity is difficult to define and outlaw.
  5. Since newspapers are quickly going out of business will freedom of the press be an unnecessary and antiquated right?
6. How is the right to assemble limited by local governments?
7. What issues led the Supreme Court to accept the idea of the right to privacy?
8. Make a timeline of the abortion cases and their rulings.
9. How have Miranda Rights changed?
10. How does the “good faith” exception to the exclusionary rule change what kind of evidence may be admitted in a trial?
11. Can judges impose the death penalty? Explain.

## **CIVIL RIGHTS CHAPTER 5**

1. List the Civil War Amendments and what their goals to African Americans.
2. How did the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (155) and 1968 (157)bring back rights granted by the Civil Rights Act of 1865 to 1875 (149)?
3. Describe the “second Brown” decision. What finally brought integration in schools?
4. Describe two significant features of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
5. Explain three consequences of Civil Rights legislation.
6. Why did the Equal Rights Amendment fail?
7. What rights do legal immigrants have in America? illegal immigrants?
8. Do children in public schools have a legal right to bilingual education? Explain.
9. Why is affirmative action controversial? What have some states done about affirmative action?
10. How does the ADA define persons with disabilities? What disabilities qualify?
11. Why do gays and lesbians consider Lawrence v. Texas 2003, and Romer v. Evans 1996, landmark cases?
12. What rights does the Defense of Marriage Act 1996 give states?
13. Explain civil rights and criminal rights as they pertain to juveniles.