

AP US Government and Politics
Final Exam Review

The below table shows each part of the AP US Government final; which chapters they cover and the how many questions are on the final from each section. There are 60 multiple-choice questions. AP recommends that you complete the multiple-choice portion in 45 minutes.

Constitutional Underpinnings	Chapters 1-3	6 questions
Civil Rights and Civil Liberties	Chapters 4-5	9 questions
Institutions of National Government	Chapters 12-16	24 questions
Political Beliefs and Behaviors	Chapters 6 & 10	6 questions
Parties, Interest Groups, and Media	Chapters 7-9 & 11	8 questions
Public Policy	Chapters 17-20	7 questions

Section 1-Constitutional Underpinnings

This section begins by looking at the Articles of Confederation and the problems that were associated with them. Be able to recognize problems of the Articles and how the Constitution corrected them.

Another topic is the Madisonian model. Be able to identify elements of the model and what they meant. Plus understand what was the opposition to ratification of the Constitution. Why were the Anti-Federalists opposed?

To finish this section, one needs to look at Federalism and how power is divided. A good place to start is the 10th Amendment. Also look at powers that states have and powers that the federal government has. We created a Venn diagram of these powers.

How is power divided? Who allows power to be divided? What is the original intent of the 10th Amendment?

Section 2-Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

This is the section that we ended the semester with. The best place to start is the Incorporation Doctrine. This is from the 14th Amendment and it applies the Bill of Rights to the states. It is encouraged to know the cases that incorporated the Bill of Rights, like Gideon and the 6th, Gitlow and the 1st and such.

Another key part to Civil Liberties is the separation of church and state. Who said this and what does it mean? Does it still apply today?

Civil Liberties covers the Bill of Rights and how courts have interpreted them. Here are three cases to know how the Amendments apply: Mapp v Ohio, Miranda v Arizona, and Roe v Wade.

The last part of Liberties is the notion of privacy. How did we get privacy? What cases are associated with privacy? Where is privacy found in the Bill of Rights?

When looking at Civil Rights look at the 14th Amendment and its implications. Also look at Plessy v Ferguson and the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Section 3-Institutions of National Government

We will look at the three branches of Government and the bureaucracy and the budget. But first, lets look at Congress.

There are several ways that Congress can communicate with the constituency, one is by using free mail. The mail has a name. Another benefit that the members of Congress do for the constituency is bring back projects that only benefit certain people or a certain state. Again, what is this name?

We know that the size of the house is 435 members and has been since 1929. What are the steps in determining who gets how many seats?

What purpose does a Political Action Committee serve? This answer will help later. The better question is why would they support a member of Congress?

There are several differences between the House and Senate. It is best to know some of the bigger differences, such as size, membership make-up, powers, bills, and a few others such as seniority and its role.

The last thing about Congress is the ability to check the other branches. There is a name for this and a process, know both.

Next up is the Presidency. A good place to start is the relationship between the Presidency and Congress. How does this relationship work? What does it look like? Who checks how and how do they check each other. Take a look at vetos.

A theme that relates to the Presidency and the Public Policy section is the Cabinet. Know some of the early departments; state, defense, treasury and you should be set. Know what the departments do for the President and vice-versa.

Besides the Cabinet, whom does the President meet with and confide in? What is their role?

The last thing to look at is the War Powers Act. Not much more to say here.

When looking at the Budget and Bureaucracy look at the expenditures of the Federal Government. What is the largest expenditure and why is it so?

In a follow-up to how Congress checks others and agencies, the Bureaucracy has a way to check as well. Here is a hint, 477.

An item that crosses unit is the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Know it. Also know Iron Triangles. There is not much more to say, either you know them or you don't.

The last part of institutions is the Supreme Court. Understand where the cases come from that reach the Supreme Court. Also look at the nomination process of Supreme Court justices. Who objects and why would they object? Why would a President nominate someone to the courts?

There are a few terms that you need to know for the courts; stare decisis, amicus curiae, certiorari, and precedent. Also know judicial review, judicial activism, judicial restraint. The only case to understand here is Marbury v Madison.

Section 4-Political Beliefs and Behaviors

There is one theme that carries through this unit and that is how do we get our political understanding? Then to follow-up, once we get it, who influences us? We can also ask about ideology as well, what is it?

Voting plays a part of the unit. When do we vote? How do we vote? Whom do we vote for? Besides voting how active are people in politics?

Besides the voting and political ideology, how we get this information is important. What role does the media play in politics? An example of the media and the politics is the 1st Persian Gulf War. Plus how does technology impact news coverage? Yes, it is fast but is it complete?

Section 5-Parties, Interest Groups and Media

How does the 1st Amendment impact media? Try looking at newspapers since they have been around the longest. What do public opinion polls say about how people get the news?

How do people label themselves? Are they Republicans? Democrats? Independents? How would you rank them? How does the book rank them? How have the parties done since 1968? Look at Congress and the Presidency.

The nomination part of the unit involves superdelegates and the 1974 Federal Election Campaign Act. Both are very straightforward.

Section 6-Public Policy

The last section covers items like Economic Policy, Defense Policy, Foreign Policy, Healthcare and Welfare Policy. Those are a lot of policies. The good thing is that they somewhat overlap each other and will overlap with either Congress or the President. Some of these questions will involve one of those branches of government and how they influence the policy.

The first two policies to know are monetary and fiscal. It is important to know the difference and who impacts them. Does Congress or the President interact with either one?

How does the government impact the distribution of wealth? What tools do they have?

What is Medicare and Medicaid? What is the difference?

When it comes to National Security Policy who, are main actors? What do the Secretary of State do? What role does Congress play in foreign affairs? What does the National Security Council do?

This concludes the study guide. I hope you find it helpful.