Unit 5 Study Guide – Political Participation

Directions
This is your study resource to use as we progress through our unit. It lists objectives, concepts, terms, and an outline of items that may appear on the unit exam. The essential guiding questions will help you tie together the important information from the chapter.

As you familiarize yourself with these terms, it is important to not only DEFINE or IDENTIFY the term, but also to know the term’s importance. Ask yourself: Why is it important? How does it relate to the material we are studying? What relationship does a term have to another term on the list? IF YOU MERELY IDENTIFY OR DEFINE THE TERM WITHOUT KNOWING ITS IMPORTANCE YOU WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO SUCCEED ON TESTS AND QUIZZES.

Reading Assignments
United States Government: Our Democracy (chapters 17-20) and Various Historical Documents (as assigned)

By the end of Unit 5, students will be able to...
- Explain factors associated with political ideology, efficacy, structural barriers, and demographics influence the nature and degree of political participation.
- Explain how political parties, interest groups, and social movements provide opportunities for participation and influence how people relate to government and policymakers.
- Analyze the impact of federal policies on campaigning and electoral rules and how they continue to be contested by both sides of the political spectrum.
- Identify the various forms of media that provide citizens with political information and influence the ways in which they participate politically.

Chapter 7 – The Mass Media and the Political Agenda
Essential Guiding Questions
1. Explain the media’s role as a linkage institution.
2. Explain how increasingly diverse choices of media and communication outlets influence political institutions and behavior.

Key Vocabulary
- high tech politics
- Press conference
- Electronic media chains
- Sound Bites
- Mass media
- Investigative journalism
- narrowcasting
- beats
- Plurality Vote
- Policy agenda
- policy entrepreneurs
- Media Events
- Print media
- Selective exposure
- Trial balloons

Chapter 8 – Political Parties
Essential Guiding Questions
1. Describe linkage institutions
2. Explain the function and impact of political parties on the electorate and government.
3. Explain why and how political parties change and adapt.
4. Explain how structural barriers impact third-party and independent success.

Key Vocabulary
- Political party
- Party image
- Party machines
- Open primaries
- Linkage institution
- Party identification
- patronage
- national convention
- Rational choice theory
- Ticket splitting
- Closed primaries
- National committee
National chairperson coalition Party dealignment
Party realignment New Deal coalition Proportional representation
Third parties Winner take all Blue Dog Democrats
Coalition government Responsible party model Closed Primaries

Chapter 9 – Campaigns and Voting Behavior

Essential Guiding Questions
1. Describe the voting rights protections in the Constitution and in legislation
2. Describe different models of voting behavior.
3. Explain the roles that individual choice and state laws play in voter turnout in elections.
4. Explain how different processes work in a US presidential election.
5. Explain how the Electoral College facilities and/or impedes democracy.
6. Explain how the different processes work in U.S. congressional elections.
7. Explain how campaign organizations and strategies affect the election process.
8. Explain how the organization, finance, and strategies of national political campaigns affect the election process.

Key Vocabulary
nomination policy voting Invisible primary
McGovern Fraser Commission Campaign contributions Soft Money
Campaign strategy Independent expenditures Political Action Committees
Party Platform Federal Election Campaign Act Super PACs
Superdelegates frontloading Civic duty
National party convention 527 groups suffrage
Caucus 501( c) groups Political efficacy
direct mail Federal Election Commission Motor Voter Act
Mandate theory of elections Presidential primaries Electoral College

Chapter 10 – Interest Groups

Essential Guiding Questions
1. Explain the benefits and potential problems of interest group influence on elections and policy making.
2. Explain how variation in types and resources of interest groups affects their ability to influence elections and policy making.
3. Explain how various political actors influence public policy outcomes.

Key Vocabulary
Interest Group collective good Political Action Committees
hyperpluralism Free-rider problem Union shop
Pluralism Selective benefits Right-to-work laws
Iron triangles Single-issue groups Elitism
potential group Lobbying Public interest lobbies
Actual group Electioneering

Unit Review and Enduring Understandings
● The United States has a two-party system in which the Democratic Party and the Republican Party have different platforms and political bases, and promote different policies.
● Political parties organize to help people with broad common interests win elections and influence public policy.
● Voting in elections is one of the main ways that citizens can participate in government.
● Interest groups and public opinion can have a large role in shaping public policy.
● Mass media informs and shapes public opinion, plays and important role in election campaigns, and serves as a check on government power.