

Unit 1 Study Guide - Foundations of American Government

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 objectives will help you tie together the important information from the chapter.

Reading Assignments

United States Government: Our Democracy (chapters 1-4) and Various Historical Documents (as assigned)

By the end of Unit 1, students will be able to...

- **Define** the purposes of government and **explain** the principles that guide different types of government.
- **Explain** the role of government in different economic systems.
- **Identify** the events and factors that developed our government institutions and **analyze** their impact.
- **Interpret** how the U.S. Constitution structures government and divides power between the national and state governments.
- **Analyze** why and how governmental power is divided and shared among national, state and local governments.
- **Explain** why and how the United States Constitution has changed throughout our history.
- **Explain** how federalism promotes democracy and civic participation.

Chapter 1 - Foundations of Government

Essential Guiding Questions

1. Explain the purpose of government based on the natural rights philosophy.
2. Explain the principles that guide different types of government.
3. Explain the role of government in different types of economic systems.

Key Vocabulary

Government

Capitalism

Sovereignty

Democracy

Free Market

Social Contract

Constitution

Parliamentary System

Republic

Constitutional Government

Federal System

Chapter 2 - Origins of American Government

Essential Guiding Questions

1. Explain the influence of Enlightenment philosophy on US Government:
2. Explain the significance of the following landmark English documents: Magna Carta, Petition of Right, and the English Bill of Rights.
3. Explain the rationale of American colonists in their war for independence.
4. Describe the first American government under the Articles of Confederation and the failings of that document.
5. Summarize the major compromises that the delegates to the Constitutional Convention agreed to make and the effects of those compromises.
6. Analyze the various arguments presented during the Constitutional Convention surrounding representative government.
7. Identify the arguments of the Federalists and Anti-Federalists.
8. Explain the ratification process of the Constitution and why it was a difficult process.

Key Vocabulary

Anti-Federalists	English Bill of Rights	New Jersey Plan
Articles of Confederation	Federalist Papers	Petition of Right
Baron de Montesquieu	Habeas Corpus	Popular Sovereignty
Bicameral	Jean Jacques Rousseau	Right to Revolution
Connecticut (Great) Compromise	John Locke	Shays' Rebellion
Consent of the governed	Limited government	Three-Fifths Compromise
Continental Congress	Magna Carta	Virginia Plan
Declaration of Independence	Natural Rights	Voltaire

Chapter 3 - The Constitution

Essential Guiding Questions

1. Outline the topic of each article in the Constitution
2. Describe the basic principles of the Constitution: Popular sovereignty, limited government, separation of powers, checks and balances, judicial review, federalism.
3. Know the basic structure of the Legislature: # of Representatives v. Senators
4. Explain the formal amendment process.
5. Explain how the formal amendment process illustrates the principles of federalism and popular sovereignty
6. Describe the ways in which the Constitution has been altered by legislative, executive and judicial actions

Key Vocabulary

Article	Informal Amendment	Bicameral
Amendment	James Madison	Popular Sovereignty
Bill of Rights	Judicial Review	Preamble
Checks and Balances	Limited Government	Ratify
Federalism	<i>Marbury v. Madison (1803)</i>	

Chapter 4 - Federalism

Essential Guiding Questions

1. Explain why the framers chose a federal system of government.
2. Identify powers delegated and denied to National government and powers reserved for and denied to States.
3. Analyze how the federal government diminishes the power of the states through conditions of aid.

Key Terms

10 th Amendment	Federalism	Privileges and Immunities Clause
Commerce Clause	Full Faith and Credit Clause	Reserve (Police) Powers
Concurrent Powers	Implied Powers	Supremacy Clause
Expressed Powers	Necessary and Proper Clause	

Unit Review and Enduring Understandings

- Governments are formed to maintain order and regulate activities in a geographic order.
- Governments have different levels of involvement in the economy depending on the type of economic system that is in place.
- The U.S. Constitution was shaped by the American Revolution, Enlightenment thinkers, and problems with the Articles of Confederation.
- The U.S. Constitution created a federal system of government with a division of powers into three separate branches that check and balance the powers of the other branches.
- In the U.S. Federal system, power is shared between the national government and the state governments, which limits the power of government and helps protect individual rights.
- Federalism increases peoples' opportunities for political participation because people may participate or seek to influence government policy at the national, state, or local levels.