

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

Government in America: chapters 7-10

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
Party realignment
Third parties
Coalition government

coalition
New Deal coalition
Winner take all
Responsible party model

Party dealignment
Proportional representation
Blue Dog Democrats
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 facilitates 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
McGovern Fraser Commission
Campaign strategy
Party Platform
Superdelegates
National party convention
Caucus
direct mail
Mandate theory of elections

policy voting
Campaign contributions
Independent expenditures
Federal Election Campaign Act
frontloading
527 groups
501(c) groups
Federal Election Commission
Presidential primaries

Invisible primary
Soft Money
Political Action Committees
Super PACs
Civic duty
suffrage
Political efficacy
Motor Voter Act
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
hyperpluralism
Pluralism
Iron triangles
potential group
Actual group

collective good
Free-rider problem
Selective benefits
Single-issue groups
Lobbying
Electioneering

Political Action Committees
Union shop
Right-to-work laws
Elitism
Public interest lobbies

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 an important role in election campaigns, and serves as a check on government power.