

Unit 1 Study Guide – Foundations of American Democracy

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 1-3

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

- **Explain** how democratic ideals are reflected in the Declaration of Independence and Constitution
- **Describe** how models of representative democracy are visible in major institutions, policies or debates
- **Explain** how Federalist and Anti-Federalist views on central government and democracy are reflected in foundational documents.
- **Explain** the relationship between key provisions of the Articles of Confederation and the debate over granting the federal government greater power formerly reserved to the states.
- **Explain** the ongoing impact of political negotiation and compromise at the Constitutional Convention on the development of the constitutional system
- **Explain** the constitutional principles of separation of powers and “checks and balances”
- **Explain** how societal needs affect the constitutional allocation of power between the national and state governments
- **Explain** how the appropriate balance of power between national and state governments has been interpreted differently over time
- **Explain** how the distribution of powers among three federal branches and between national and state governments impacts policy making

Chapter 1 (Introducing Government in America)

Essential Guiding Questions

1. Identify the key functions of government and explain why they matter
2. Define politics in the context of democratic government
3. Assess how citizens can have an impact on public policy and how policies can impact people
4. Identify the key principles of democracy
5. Outline theories on how democracy works in practice and the challenges it faces today
6. Outline the debate on the proper scope of government

Key Vocabulary

Government

Political Participation

Linkage Institution

Policymaking Institutions

Democracy

Representation

Hyperpluralism

Political Culture

Collective Goods

Single-Issue Groups

Policy Agenda

Public Policy

Majority Rule

Pluralism

Policy Gridlock

Politics

Policymaking System

Political Issue

Policy Impacts

Minority Rights

Elitism

Chapter 2 (The Constitution)

Essential Guiding Questions

1. Describe the ideas behind the American Revolution and their role in shaping the Constitution
2. Analyze how the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation led to its failure
3. Describe the delegates to the Constitutional Convention and the core ideas they shared
4. Categorize the issues at the Constitutional Convention and outline the resolutions
5. Analyze the Madisonian system and how it addressed majority rule and protection of minority interests
6. Compare and Contrast the Federalists and the Anti Federalists
7. Explain how the Constitution can be formally amended and how it changes informally

Key Vocabulary

Constitution	Limited Government	Factions
Consent of the Governed	U.S. Constitution	Connecticut Plan
Shays' Rebellion	New Jersey Plan	Checks and Balances
Virginia Plan	Separation of Powers	Federalist Papers
Writ of Habeas Corpus	Anti-Federalists	Marbury v Madison (1803)
Federalists	Natural Rights	Judicial Review
Declaration of Independence	Articles of Confederation	
Bill of Rights	Equal Rights Amendment	

Chapter 3 (Federalism)

Essential Guiding Questions

1. Define federalism and contrast it with alternative ways of organizing a nation
2. Outline the constitutional basis for the division of power between national and state governments
3. Describe the shift from dual to cooperative federalism and the role of fiscal federalism
4. Explain the consequences of federalism for diversity in public policies among the states
5. Assess the impact of federalism on democratic government and the scope of government

Key Vocabulary

Federalism	Unitary governments	Supremacy Clause
Tenth Amendment	<i>McCulloch v Maryland (1819)</i>	Enumerated Powers
Implied Powers	Elastic Clause	<i>Gibbons v Ogden (1824)</i>
Full Faith and Credit	Extradition	Privileges and Immunities
Dual Federalism	Cooperative Federalism	Devolution
Fiscal Federalism	Categorical Grants	Project Grants
Formula Grants	Block Grants	

Unit Review and Enduring Understandings

- A balance between government power and individual rights has been a hallmark of American political development
- The Constitution emerged from a debate about the weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation as a blueprint for limited government
- The Constitution created a competitive policy making process to ensure that people's will is represented and that freedom is preserved
- Federalism reflects the dynamic distribution of power between national and state government