

UNIT 1 STUDY GUIDE

How To Use This Study Guide:

Over the course of the semester, we will cover 5 units discussing our foundations, the three branches, interactions among the levels of government, rights and responsibilities of citizens and political participation through linkage institutions. This guide should be used in conjunction with your in class notes, reading and/or video notes. No content will be tested that is not included in the study guides.

*underlined terms are required documents/ SCOTUS cases for AP exam.

Foundations of American Democracy

Topic 1.1: Ideals of Democracy- Explain how democratic ideals are reflected in the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.

I. The U.S. government is based on the following democratic ideals:

- A. Natural rights (all people have certain rights that cannot be taken away)
- B. A social contract (an implicit agreement among the people in a society to give up some freedoms to maintain social order)
- C. Popular sovereignty (all government power comes from the consent of its people)
- D. Limited government (a government's power cannot be absolute)

II. The ideal of limited government is ensured by the interaction of these principles:

- A. Separation of powers
- B. Checks and balances
- C. Federalism
- D. Republicanism

III. The Declaration of Independence, drafted by Thomas Jefferson (with help from Adams and Franklin), restates the philosophy of natural rights, and provides a foundation for popular sovereignty. The U.S. Constitution, drafted by James Madison at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia that was led by George Washington (with important contributions from Hamilton and members of the "Grand Committee"), is an example of a social contract and establishes a system of limited government. The Constitution provides the blueprint for a unique form of democratic government in the United States.

Key Terms, Ideas and Foundational Documents

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|
| social contract | Federalism | The Mayflower Compact |
| natural rights | Republicanism | Magna Carta |
| popular sovereignty | Unitary | English Bill of Rights |
| limited government | Confederal | <u>Declaration of Independence</u> |
| separation of powers | Thomas Hobbes | Bill of Rights |
| checks and balances | John Locke | |

Topic 1.2: Types of Democracy- Explain how models of representative democracy are visible in major institutions, policies, events, or debates in the U.S.

I. Representative democracies can take several forms including the following models:

- A. Participatory democracy, which emphasizes broad participation in politics and civil society
- B. Pluralist democracy, which emphasizes group-based activism by nongovernmental interests striving for impact on political decision making
- C. Elite democracy, which emphasizes limited participation in politics and civil society

II. Different aspects of the U.S. Constitution as well as the debate between Federalist No. 10 and Brutus No. 1 reflect the tension between the broad participatory model and the more filtered participation of the pluralist and elite models of representative democracy.

III. The three models of representative democracy continue to be reflected in contemporary institutions and political behavior.

Key Terms, Ideas and Foundational Documents

Participatory Model
Pluralist Model
Elitist Model

Federalist #10
Brutus #1
Linkage institutions

Interest groups
Political Parties

Topic 1.3: Government Power and Individual Rights- Explain Federalist and AntiFederalist views on central government and democracy.

I. Federalists supported ratification of the Constitution and a strong central government. Madison's arguments in Federalist No. 10 focused on the superiority of a large republic in controlling the "mischiefs of faction," delegating authority to elected representatives and dispersing power between the states and national government.

II. Anti-Federalists opposed the ratification of the Constitution and wanted more power reserved to state governments rather than a strong central government. Anti-Federalist writings, including Brutus No. 1, adhered to popular democratic theory that emphasized the benefits of a small, decentralized republic while warning of the dangers to personal liberty from a large, centralized government.

Key Terms, Ideas and Foundational Documents

Federalist
Anti-Federalist
Brutus #1

Federalist #10
Federal negative
James Maddison

Alexander Hamilton

Topic 1.4: Challenges of the Articles of Confederation(AOC)- 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.

I. Specific incidents and legal challenges that highlighted key weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation are represented by the:

- A. Lack of centralized military power to address Shays' Rebellion
- B. Lack of an executive branch to enforce laws, including taxation
- C. Lack of a national court system
- D. Lack of power to regulate interstate commerce
- E. Lack of power to coin money

Key Terms, Ideas and Foundational Documents

Articles of Confederation
Shay's Rebellion

Topic 1.5: Ratification of the U.S. Constitution- Explain the impact of political negotiation and compromise at the Constitutional Convention on the development of the constitutional system.

I. Compromises deemed necessary for ratification of the Constitution included the following:

- A. Great (Connecticut) Compromise, which created a dual (bicameral) system of congressional representation with the House of Representatives based on each state's population and the Senate representing each state equally
- B. Electoral College, which created a system for electing the president by electors from each state rather than by popular vote or by congressional vote
- C. Three-Fifths Compromise, which provided a formula for calculating a state's enslaved population for purposes of representation in the House and for taxation
- D. Postponing until 1808 a decision whether to ban the importation of enslaved persons

E. Agreement to add a Bill of Rights to address concerns of the Anti-Federalists

II. Debates about self-government during the drafting of the Constitution necessitated the drafting of an amendment process in Article V that entailed either a two-thirds vote in both houses or a proposal from two-thirds of the state legislatures, with final ratification determined by three-fourths of the states.

III: The compromises necessary to secure ratification of the Constitution left some matters unresolved that continue to generate discussion and debate today.

IV. The debate over the role of the national government, the powers of state governments, and the rights of individuals remains at the heart of present-day constitutional issues about democracy and governmental power, as represented by:

- A. Debates about government surveillance resulting from the federal government's response to the 9/11 attacks
- B. Debates about the role of government in public school education

Key Terms, Ideas and Foundational Documents

Great Compromise

3/5th Compromise

Articles of the Constitution (ALL)

Amendment Process

State Power v. Federal Power

Topic 1.6(A): Principles of American Government- Explain the constitutional principles of separation of powers and checks and balances.

I. The specific and separate powers delegated to Congress, the president, and the courts allow each branch to check and balance the power of the other branches, ensuring no one branch becomes too powerful.

II. Federalist No. 51 explains how constitutional provisions of separation of powers and checks and balances control potential abuses by majorities.

Topic 1.6(B): Principles of American Government- Explain the effects of separation of powers and checks and balances for the U.S. political system.

I. Separation of powers and checks and balances creates multiple access points for stakeholders and institutions to influence public policy.

II. Checks and balances and separation of powers allow legal actions to be taken against public officials deemed to have abused their power. Those legal actions include the process of impeachment (the House formally charges an official with abuse of power or misconduct) and removal (if the official is convicted in a Senate impeachment trial).

Key Terms, Ideas and Foundational Documents

Linkage institutions

Federalist #51

Federalist #47

Checks and Balances

Topic 1.7: Relationship Between the States and National Government- Explain how the constitutional allocation of power between the national and state governments affects society.

I. Federalism is the system of government in the United States in which power is shared between the national and state governments. The exclusive and concurrent powers of the national and state governments help explain the ongoing debate over the balance of power between the two levels.

II. Exclusive power is held by only one level of government and includes enumerated powers that are written in the Constitution, and implied powers that are not specifically written in the Constitution but are inferred from the Necessary and Proper Clause.

III. Reserved powers are those not delegated or enumerated to the national government but are reserved to the states, as stated in the Tenth Amendment.

IV. Concurrent powers are shared between both levels of government such as the power to collect taxes, the power to make and enforce laws and the power to build roads.

V. The distribution of power between national and state governments is demonstrated by:

- A. Revenue sharing (national funding with almost no restrictions to the states on its use and is the least used form of funding)
- B. Block grants (national funding with minimal restrictions to the states on its use and is preferred by the states)
- C. Categorical grants (national funding that is restricted to specific categories of expenditures, is preferred by the national government, and is the most commonly used form of funding)
- D. Mandates (requirements by the national government of the states)

Key Terms, Ideas and Foundational Documents

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|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Block Grants | Fiscal Federalism | Denied Powers |
| Categorical Grants | Reserved Powers | Full Faith and Credit |
| Mandates | Concurrent Powers | 10th Amendment |
| Necessary and Proper Clause | Enumerated Powers | |
| * (elastic clause) | Implied Powers | |

Topic 1.8: Constitutional Interpretation of Federalism - Explain how the balance of power between national and state governments has changed over time based on interpretations of the Supreme Court of the United States.

I. The Due Process and Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment give the national government the power to enforce protection for any person against the states, but Supreme Court interpretations can influence the extent of those protections

II. The Commerce Clause gives the national government the power to regulate interstate commerce, but Supreme Court interpretations can influence the extent of this power.

III. The Necessary and Proper Clause gives Congress the power to make laws related to carrying out its enumerated powers, but Supreme Court interpretations can influence the extent of these powers.

IV. The Supremacy Clause gives the national government and its laws general precedence over states' laws, but Supreme Court interpretations may affect when specific actions exceed this constitutional power.

Key Terms, Ideas and Foundational Documents

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|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| <u>US v. Lopez</u> | Supremacy Clause | 11th Amendment |
| Commerce Clause | <u>McCulloch v. Maryland</u> | |
| Necessary and Proper Clause | <u>Marbury v. Madison</u> | |
| *(Elastic Clause) | 10th Amendment | |

Topic 1.9: Federalism in Action - Explain how the distribution of powers between national and state governments impacts policymaking.

I. The allocation of powers between national and state governments creates multiple access points for stakeholders and institutions to influence public policy.

II. National policy making is constrained by the sharing of concurrent powers with state governments.

Key Terms, Ideas and Foundational Documents

Federalism has had different characteristics and different dynamics from its inception to present day.

Dual Federalism (1789-1932)
Cooperative Federalism (1932-1964)
Creative Federalism (1964-1968)-Civil Rights

New Federalism (1968-1992)
Fiscal Federalism (1968-present)
Devolution (1994-present)