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AP Government Units 1 & 2 Study Guide

Units 1 and 2 correspond with chapter 1 through 5 of your textbook/notes. Questions are sorted by chapter, answer them on your own paper. Recommended readings/documents to know are also sorted by chapter.

Chapter 1:

1. How is politics different from government?
2. List and describe the purposes of government.
3. Which theory of government applies to the US?
4. Compare the ideas of Locke and Hobbes.
5. Explain the relationship between political socialization and political culture.
6. List and describe America’s political values.
7. Compare the types of government.
8. List and describe the characteristics of democracy.
9. Compare the theories on American democracy.

Readings: Locke, Hobbes

Chapter 2:

1. Explain the significance of the following documents to American government.
   1. Mayflower Compact
   2. Magna Carta
   3. English Bill of Rights
2. What was the purpose of the Declaration of Independence?
3. Does the Declaration of Independence create equality? Explain.
4. What is a conservative revolution?
5. List and describe the characteristics of a constitution.
6. Identify whether the document is a constitution, explaining your answer.
   1. Declaration of Independence
   2. Articles of Confederation
7. Why did the Articles of Confederation fail?
8. How did the writers of the Constitution feel about factions?
9. Explain the agreement of the writers of the Constitution on the nature of government.
10. List and describe the compromises that went in to the creation of the US Constitution.
11. Explain Madison’s ideas regarding
    1. Separation of Powers
    2. Checks and Balances
    3. Limiting majority control
12. Create a thesis on whether or not Madison’s idea to limit the majority and avoid direct democracy are successful today.
13. Compare the systems of government.
14. Explain the purpose of the federalist “filter system”.
15. Explain the significance of the following clauses of the US Constitution and where each is located. If there is a related Supreme Court case, it would nice of you to include it.
    1. Commerce Clause
    2. “Necessary and Proper” Clause
    3. Emoluments Clause
    4. “Full Faith and Credit” Clause
    5. Extradition Clause
    6. Supremacy Clause
16. Why is it important that the US Constitution is able to be amended?
17. How can the US Constitution change informally? Explain.
18. Compare loose constructionism and strict constructionism.

Readings: The Declaration of Independence, The Articles of Confederation, The US Constitution and Amendments, Federalist 51 (Publius), Anti-Federalist 1 (Brutus), Federalist 10

Chapter 3:

1. Compare vertical and horizontal federalism.
2. Why was federalism the best choice for the US?
3. Are there any negatives to federalism? Explain.
4. How does the case of *US v. Darby* relate to federalism?
5. List and describe the five types of powers within the Constitution.
6. Explain the constitutional principles set forth by *McCulloch v. Maryland*.
7. Compare dual federalism and cooperative federalism.
8. List and describe the ways cooperative federalism has changed state programs and projects.
9. What is decentralization? Why is it important to federalism?
10. What is the role of fiscal federalism in the US?
11. List and describe each type of grant, providing an example of how each one could be used.

Readings: *McCulloch v. Maryland*, *Gibbons v. Ogden*, Britannica’s piece of fiscal federalism.

Chapter 4:

1. What are civil liberties?
2. Explain the significance of the following clauses of the US Constitution and where each is located. If there is a related Supreme Court case, it would nice of you to include it.
   1. Establishment Clause
   2. Free Exercise Clause
   3. Due process Clause
   4. Double Jeopardy Clause
3. What types of speech are NOT protected?
4. What is prior restraint?
5. What restrictions exist on freedom of the press?
6. What does the FCC do?
7. List and describe the amendments that protect the rights of the accused. If there is a related Supreme Court case, it would be nice of you to mention it.
8. What is due process?

Readings: *West Virginia v. Barnette*, *Mapp v. Ohio*, *Miranda v. Arizona*, *Gideon v. Wainwright*, *Schenck v. US*, *Engle v. Vitale*, *New York Times v. US*.

Chapter 5:

1. What are civil rights?
2. Describe how civil rights have been limited in the past.
3. Tell me the story of *Plessy v. Ferguson* and the “separate but equal” doctrine.
4. Well that was scary. Tell me the story of how “separate but equal” went away, including the court case responsible.
5. Define *de facto* and *de jure* segregation.
6. List the major civil rights movements that have occurred in the US.
7. Create a thesis detailing which civil rights movement has been the most successful and why.
8. Explain FIVE pieces of civil rights legislation (of your choice).

Readings: *Scott v. Sanford*, *Plessy v. Ferguson, Brown v. Board*, The Gilder Lehrman Institute “The Civil Rights Movement: Major Events and Legacies”, Lyndon B. Johnson “Forgotten Americans” Speech (1964).