

# AP GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS: 2020 Review

**Exam Date: Online (keep eye on Website the info below is void for the test format)**

Congratulations! You've made it through your AP U.S. Government course and are now ready to prepare for the AP Exam. These tips and strategies should help you in the final days or weeks before taking the exam. Remember that preparing for the Exam is a bit like training for a marathon--you won't do as well if you wait and cram a lot of training into the day before the Exam. Working at a reasonable pace from now until test day will pay off in the end.

**The Format of the Exam:** Let's begin by looking at a breakdown of how the AP US Government Exam is structured:

<u>Questions</u>	<u>Time allowed</u>	<u>Percentage of grade</u>
55 multiple choice	1 hour & 20 minutes	50%
3 free response and Argumentative Essay	1 hour & 40 minutes	50%

The questions on the test will cover topics from the whole course. However, in the multiple-choice section, you'll find that certain subjects come up more often:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Percentage of the Test</u>
<b>Government Institutions</b> (Congress, presidency, courts, bureaucracy)	35 to 40%
<b>Political Behavior of Individuals</b> (political culture, public opinion, voting)	10 to 20%
<b>Political Behavior of Groups</b> (political parties, elections, interest groups, PACs, and mass media)	10 to 20%
<b>Constitutional Foundations</b> (federalism, checks & balances, separation of powers, theories of democracy)	5 to 15%
<b>Civil Liberties and Civil Rights</b>	5 to 15%

## **There are 15 Required Supreme Court Cases:**

Marbury v. Madison	NY Times Co. v. US
McCulloch v. Maryland	Wisconsin v. Yoder
Schenck v. US	Roe v. Wade
Brown v. Board of Ed (1954)	Shaw v. Reno
Baker v. Carr	US. v. Lopez
Engel v. Vitale	McDonald v. Chicago
Gideon v. Wainright	Citizens United v. FEC
Tinker v. DesMoines	

## **Required Documents:**

The Declaration of Independence	Federalist #70
The Articles of Confederation	Federalist # 78
The Constitution of the United States	Letter from a Birmingham Jail
Federalist #10	
Brutus #1	
Federalist #51	

## Unit 1: Foundations of American Democracy

The U.S. Constitution arose out of important historical and philosophical ideas and preferences regarding popular sovereignty and limited government. To address competing states' visions for the allocation of governmental authority, compromises were made during the Constitutional Convention and ratification debates, and these compromises have frequently been the source of debate and negotiation in U.S. politics over the proper balance between federal and state power and between liberty and social order.

A balance between governmental power and individual rights has been a hallmark of American political development.

**Explain** how democratic ideals are reflected in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

The U.S. government is based on ideas of limited government, including natural rights, popular sovereignty, republicanism, and social contract.

The Declaration of Independence, drafted by Jefferson with help from Adams and Franklin, provides a foundation for popular sovereignty, while the U.S. Constitution drafted at the Philadelphia Convention and led by George Washington, with important contributions from Madison, Hamilton, and members of the "Grand Committee," provides the blueprint for a unique form of political democracy in the U.S.

**Define:**  
natural rights

popular sovereignty

republicanism

social contract

**Explain** how models of representative democracy are visible in major institutions, policies, or debates in the U.S.

Representative democracies can take several forms along this scale:

**Define:**

Participatory democracy

Pluralist democracy

Elite democracy

**Discuss** the five Madisonian Principles of a representative democracy that continue to be reflected in contemporary institutions and political behavior.

**Define and provide an example:**

Federalism

Popular Sovereignty

Checks and Balances

Separation of Powers

Limited Government

**The Constitution emerged from the debate about weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation as a blueprint for limited government.**

**Explain** how Federalist and Anti-Federalist views on central government and democracy are reflected in U.S. foundational documents.

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.

**What is a faction?**

**What is the source of factions?**

	<p><b>How are factions controlled?</b></p>
<p>Anti-Federalist writings, including <b>Brutus No. 1</b>, 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.</p>	<p><b>Why were the Anti-Federalists reluctant to sign the new Constitution?</b></p>
<p><b>Explain</b> 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.</p> <p><b>In other words, identify the problems in the Articles of Confederation and how they were corrected in the Constitution.</b></p>	
<p>Compromises deemed necessary for adoption and ratification of the Constitution are represented by the:</p> <p><b>Great (Connecticut) Compromise</b></p> <p><b>Electoral College</b></p> <p><b>Three-Fifths Compromise</b></p> <p><b>Compromise on the importation of slaves</b></p>	

**The Constitutional Basis of Federalism:** Although the term federalism is not found in the Constitution, it is clearly defined in the enumerated, concurrent and reserved powers of the national and state governments.

**Interstate relations:** Describe the general obligations that each state has to every other state under the Constitution.

**Enumerated powers**

**Implied powers**

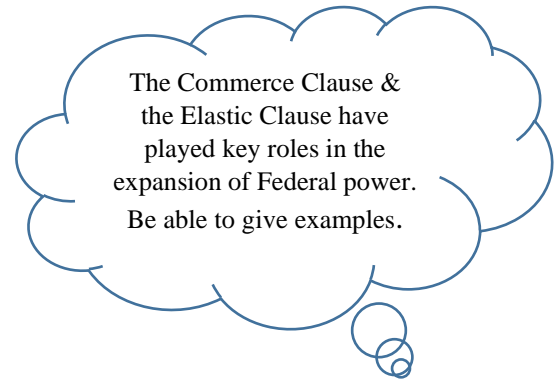
**Inherent powers**

**Reserved powers**

**Full Faith and Credit Clause**

**Privileges and Immunities Clause**

**Extradition**



**The Constitution creates a complex competitive policy-making process to ensure the people's will is represented and that freedom is preserved.**

**Explain** the ideas represented in **Federalist No. 51**

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**Explain** the implications of separation of powers and “checks and balances” for the U.S. political system.

**Federalism reflects the dynamic distribution of power between the national and state governments.**

**Explain** how societal needs affect the constitutional allocation of power between the national and state governments.  
**10<sup>th</sup> Amendment v. 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment**

The distribution of power between federal and state governments to meet the needs of society changes, as reflected by grants, incentives, and aid programs, including federal revenue sharing, mandates, categorical grants, and block grants.

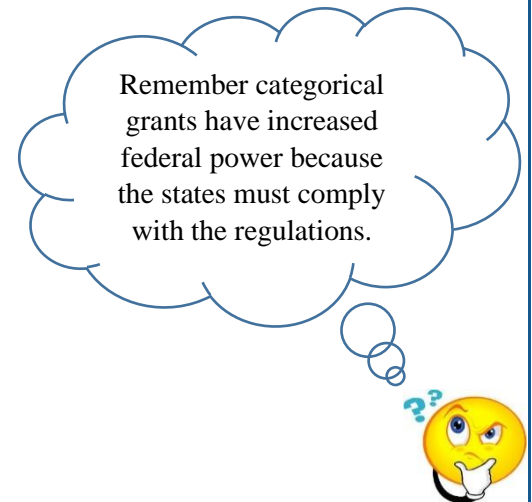
**Fiscal Federalism: Define and provide an example for each.**

Grants-in-aid

Categorical Grants

Block Grants

Mandates



**Explain** how the appropriate balance of power between national and state governments has been interpreted differently over time.

Dual Federalism

Cooperative Federalism

The interpretation of the 10th and 14th Amendments, the commerce clause, the necessary and proper clause, and other enumerated and implied powers is at the heart of the debate over the balance of power between the national and state governments.

**Commerce clause**

## **The necessary and proper clause**

The balance of power between the national and state governments has changed over time based on U.S. Supreme Court interpretation of such cases as:

**McCulloch v. Maryland**

**United States v. Lopez**

## **Key Federalism Legislation:**

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

National Voter Registration Act (Motor Voter Act)

Clean Air Act

Americans with Disabilities Act

Brady Bill

No Child Left Behind Act

## Unit 2: Interactions Among Branches of government

Because power is widely distributed and checks prevent one branch from usurping powers from the others, institutional actors are in the position where they must both compete and cooperate in order to govern.

The republican ideal in the U.S. is manifested in the structure and operation of the legislative branch.

<p><b>Describe</b> the different structures, powers, and functions of each house of Congress.</p>	<b>Senate</b>	<b>House of Representatives</b>
<p>The Senate is designed to represent states equally, while the House is designed to represent the population.</p>	<b>How is representation decided in the Constitution?</b>	
<p>Different chamber sizes and constituencies influence formality of debate.</p>	<b>Senate</b>	<b>House of Representatives</b>

**Did you know:** The enumerated and implied powers in the Constitution allow the creation of public policy by Congress, which includes:

- **Passing a federal budget, raising revenue, and coining money**
- **Declaring war and maintaining the armed forces**
- **Enacting legislation that addresses a wide range of economic, environmental, and social issues based on the Necessary and Proper Clause**



<p><b>Explain</b> how the structure, powers, and functions of both houses of Congress affect the policy making process.</p>	
<p>Though both chambers rely on committees to conduct hearings and debate bills under consideration, different constitutional responsibilities of the House and Senate affect the policy-making process.</p>	<p><b>Identify and explain the four types of congressional committees:</b></p>
<p><i>Chamber-specific procedures, rules, and roles that impact the policy making include: (Make sure you understand these procedures and their impact Define where necessary).</i></p> <p>Number of chamber and debate rules that set the bar high for building majority support:</p> <p>Roles of Speaker of the House, party leadership, and committee leadership in both chambers:</p> <p>Filibuster</p> <p>Cloture</p> <p>Role of Rules Committee, Committee of the Whole, and discharge petitions in the House</p> <p>Treaty ratification and confirmation role of the U.S. Senate</p>	

<p>Congress must generate a budget that addresses both discretionary and mandatory spending, and as entitlement costs grow, discretionary spending opportunities will decrease unless tax revenues increase or the budget deficit increases.</p>	<p><b>Define and provide an example:</b></p> <p><b>Discretionary spending</b></p> <p><b>Mandatory spending</b></p>
<p>Pork barrel legislation and logrolling affect lawmaking in both chambers.</p>	<p><b>Define and explain:</b></p> <p><b>Pork barrel legislation</b></p> <p><b>Logrolling</b></p>
<p><b>Explain</b> how congressional behavior is influenced by election processes, partisanship, and divided government.</p> <p>Congressional behavior and governing effectiveness are influenced by:  <b>(Define and Explain)</b></p> <p>Ideological divisions within Congress</p> <p>Gerrymandering</p> <p>Redistricting</p> <p>Reapportionment</p> <p>Elections that have led to a “divided government”</p>	

Congressional refusal to confirm appointments of “lame duck” presidents of the opposite party

**Different role conceptions of ... as related to constituent accountability in each chamber:**

Trustee model

Delegate model

**These issue are partially addressed by such Court decisions:**

Baker v. Carr

Shaw v. Reno

**The presidency has been enhanced beyond its expressed constitutional powers.**

**Explain** how the president can implement a policy agenda.

Presidents use powers and functions of the office to accomplish a policy agenda. **Discuss** the formal and informal powers of the president represented by:

**Informal Powers**

**Formal Powers**

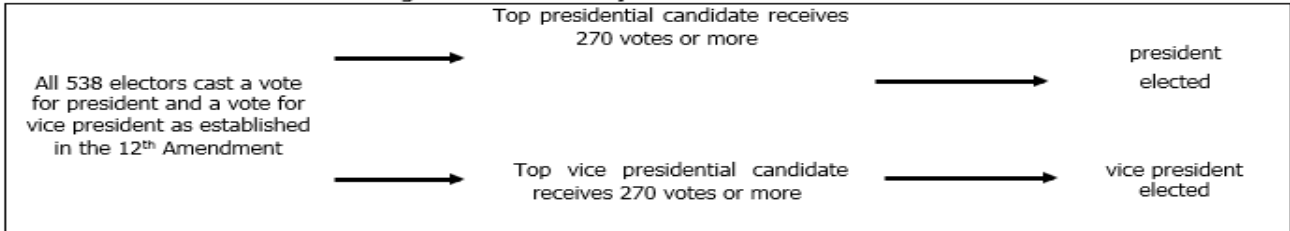
<p><b>Explain</b> how the president’s agenda can create tension and frequent confrontations with Congress.</p>	
<p><b>Discuss</b> the how the potential for conflict with the Senate depends upon executive appointments including:</p>	<p>Cabinet Ambassadors White House Staff</p>
<p>Senate confirmation is an important check on appointment powers, but the president’s longest lasting influence lies in life-tenured judicial appointments.</p>	<p><b>Explain this statement:</b></p>
<p><b>Summarize Federalist No. 70</b></p>	
<p>Term-of-office and constitutional-power restrictions, including the passage of the 22nd Amendment, demonstrate changing presidential roles.</p>	<p><b>22<sup>nd</sup> Amendment</b></p>
<p><b>Discuss</b> how the communication impact of the presidency can be demonstrated through such factors as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Modern technology, social media, and rapid response to political issues</li>   <li>2. Nationally broadcast State of the Union messages and the president’s bully pulpit used as tools for agenda setting</li> </ol>	

# HOW THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT ARE ELECTED

## The Electoral College Timeline



## The Electoral College as established by the Constitution and the 12<sup>th</sup> Amendment



**What happens if the top presidential and vice presidential candidates receive fewer than 270 electoral votes?**  
The decisions are made in the House and the Senate based on the 12<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the U.S. Constitution

**The federal bureaucracy is a powerful institution implementing federal policies with sometimes questionable accountability.**

**Explain** how the bureaucracy carries out the responsibilities of the federal government.

Tasks performed by departments, agencies, commissions, and government corporations are represented by:

**Explain how the bureaucracy interacts with the president and congress by:**

- Writing and enforcing regulations
- Issuing fines
- Testifying before Congress
- iron triangles

**Define and explain** how political patronage, civil service, and merit system reforms all impact the effectiveness of the bureaucracy by promoting professionalism, specialization, and neutrality.

civil service

merit

Pendleton Act

<p><b>Explain</b> how the federal bureaucracy uses delegated discretionary authority for rule making and implementation.</p>			
<p>Discretionary and rule-making authority to implement policy are given to bureaucratic agencies such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Homeland Security Department of Transportation</li> <li>• Department of Veterans Affairs Department of Education</li> <li>• Environmental Protection Agency</li> <li>• Federal Elections Commission (FEC)</li> <li>• Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Independent Executive Agency</b></p> <p><b>Define:</b></p> <p><b>Example:</b></p>	<p><b>Independent Regulatory Commission</b></p> <p><b>Define:</b></p> <p><b>Example:</b></p>	<p><b>Government Corporation</b></p> <p><b>Define:</b></p> <p><b>Example:</b></p>
<p><b>Explain</b> how Congress uses its oversight power in its relationship with the executive branch. Oversight and methods used by Congress to ensure that legislation is implemented as intended are represented by:</p> <p>Committee hearings</p> <p>Power of the purse</p>			
<p><b>Discuss:</b> As a means to curtail the use of presidential power, “congressional oversight” serves as a check of executive authorization and appropriation.</p>			
<p><b>Explain</b> how the president ensures that executive branch agencies and departments carry out their responsibilities in concert with the goals of the administration.</p>			

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<p><b>Explain</b> the extent to which governmental branches can hold the bureaucracy accountable given the competing interests of Congress, the president, and the federal courts.</p>	
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**Judicial Branch:** The design of the judicial branch protects the court’s independence as a branch of government, and the emergence and use of judicial review remains a powerful judicial practice.

<p><b>Explain</b> the principle of judicial review and how it checks the power of other institutions and state governments.</p>	
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The foundation for powers of the judicial branch and how its independence checks the power of other institutions and state governments are set forth in:

**Article III of the Constitution**

**Federalist No. 78**

**Marbury v. Madison (1803)**

The Supreme Court is insulated from public opinion

<p><b>Explain</b> how the exercise of judicial review in conjunction with life tenure can lead to controversy about the legitimacy of the Supreme Court’s power.</p>	
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Precedents and stare decisis play an important role in judicial decision making.	<p><b>Define:</b></p> <p><b>Stare Decisis</b></p> <p><b>Precedent</b></p>
<b>Discuss</b> how ideological changes in the composition of the Supreme Court due to presidential appointments have led to the Court's establishing new or rejecting existing precedents.	

<p>Controversial or unpopular court decisions can lead to challenges of the court's legitimacy and power which Congress and the president. <b>Discuss</b> how the President and Congress can change unpopular decisions...</p> <p>future appointments</p> <p>legislation changing the Court's jurisdiction refusing to implement decisions</p> <p>Constitutional Amendment</p>		
Political discussion about the Supreme Court's power is illustrated by the ongoing debate over judicial activism versus judicial restraint.	<p><b>Define and provide an example:</b></p> <p><b>Judicial Activism</b></p>	<p><b>Define and provide an example:</b></p> <p><b>Judicial Restraint</b></p>



**Explain** how other branches in the government can limit the Supreme Court's power.

What are the functions of *amicus curiae* briefs?

**What is the difference between:**

majority opinion

dissenting opinion

concurring opinion

**Define:**

Writ of Certiorari

Rule of Four

COURT	NUMBER OF COURTS	NUMBER OF JUDGES	JURISDICTION	POLICY IMPLICATIONS
District Court				
Courts of Appeal				
Supreme Court				

## Top 10 Acts of Congress

1. Civil Rights Act of 1964
2. The Voting Rights Act of 1965
3. The Clean Air Act (1970)
4. The War Powers Resolution (1973)
5. The Budget & Impoundment Control Act of 1974
6. The Federal Election Campaign Act (1974)
7. Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)
8. Welfare Reform Act (1976)
9. No Child Left Behind Act (2001)
10. USA Patriot Act (2001)

## **This Versus That**

1. Nomination vs. General Election
2. Primary vs. Caucus
3. Closed Primary vs. Open Primary
4. Liberal vs. Conservative
5. Democrat vs. Republican
6. Major Party vs. Third Party (not the same as Independent)
7. Realignment vs. Dealignment
8. Reapportionment vs. Redistricting
9. Political Parties vs. Interest Groups
10. Judicial Restraint vs. Judicial Activism
11. Original Intent vs. “Living” Constitution
12. District Courts vs. Supreme Court
13. Appellate Jurisdiction vs. Original Jurisdiction
14. National Government vs. States’ Rights
15. Dual Federalism vs. Cooperative Federalism

16. Block Grants vs. Categorical Grants
17. Full Faith & Credit vs. Privileges & Immunities
18. Writ of Certiorari vs. Writ of Habeas Corpus
19. Civil Liberties vs. Civil Rights
20. Equal Protection Clause vs. Due Process Clause
21. Establishment Clause vs. Free Exercise Clause
22. Separation of Powers vs. Checks and Balances
23. Nomination vs. Confirmation
24. Impeachment vs. Conviction (Removal)
25. Formal Amendment vs. Informal Amendment
26. Proposing an Amendment vs. Ratification of an Amendment
27. Necessary & Proper Clause vs. Commerce Clause
28. Delegated Powers vs. Reserved Powers
29. Delegated Powers vs. Implied Powers
30. Enumerated Powers vs. Inherent Powers

31. Formal Powers vs. Informal Powers
32. Executive Agreement vs. Executive Order
33. Office of Management and Budget vs. Congressional Budget Office
34. White House Staff vs. Executive Office of POTUS
35. Congressional Caucus vs. Nominating Caucus
36. Congressional Caucus vs. Congressional Committee
37. Majority Leader vs. Majority Whip
38. President of Senate vs. Senate President Pro Tem
39. Casework vs. Pork Barrel
40. Standing Committee vs. Conference Committee