AP GoPo: High-Frequency Terms Worksheet

## Delegate / Trustee / Politico Models

* **Definition**: Models of representation describing how legislators vote: Delegate follows constituents, Trustee uses own judgment, Politico does both.
* **Practice Question**:
  + A representative votes against their district's wishes, believing it's best for the country. Which model is this?  
    A) Delegate  
    B) Trustee  
    C) Politico  
    D) Partisan

## Selective Incorporation

* **Definition**: Process where the Supreme Court applies Bill of Rights protections to the states using the 14th Amendment.
* **Practice Question**:
  + Which case incorporated the 2nd Amendment right to bear arms to the states?  
    A) Roe v. Wade  
    B) McDonald v. Chicago  
    C) Marbury v. Madison  
    D) Engel v. Vitale

## Electoral College

* **Definition**: A body of electors from each state that formally elects the president. Criticized for not always
* **Practice Question**:
  + Which criticism of the Electoral College is most accurate?  
    A) It increases voter turnout  
    B) Small states dominate elections  
    C) A candidate can win without the popular vote  
    D) It favors Congress too heavily

## Checks and Balances

* **Definition**: System where each branch of government can limit the powers of the other branches.
* **Practice Question**:
  + Which is an example of a legislative check on the executive?  
    A) Declaring laws unconstitutional  
    B) Vetoing a bill  
    C) Confirming cabinet appointments  
    D) Issuing executive orders

## Commerce Clause

* **Definition**: Grants Congress the power to regulate trade between states and with foreign nations. Source of expanded federal power.
* **Practice Question**:
  + Which case limited Congress's use of the commerce clause?  
    A) United States v. Lopez  
    B) Gibbons v. Ogden  
    C) Marbury v. Madison  
    D) Baker v. Carr

## Equal Protection Clause

* **Definition**: Part of the 14th Amendment stating that no state shall deny any person equal protection under the law.
* **Practice Question**:
  + Which constitutional clause was used in Brown v. Board of Education to strike down segregation?  
    A) Supremacy Clause  
    B) Necessary and Proper Clause  
    C) Equal Protection Clause  
    D) Full Faith and Credit Clause

## Gerrymandering & Redistricting

* **Definition**: Drawing district lines to favor one party or group. Redistricting happens every 10 years after the census.
* **Practice Question**:
  + Which case addressed racial gerrymandering?  
    A) Shaw v. Reno  
    B) McDonald v. Chicago  
    C) Citizens United v. FEC  
    D) Engel v. Vitale

## Judicial Review

* **Definition**: The power of the courts to declare laws or executive actions unconstitutional. Established in Marbury v. Madison.
* **Practice Question:**
  + Which case established judicial review?  
    A) United States v. Lopez  
    B) Marbury v. Madison  
    C) McCulloch v. Maryland  
    D) Gideon v. Wainwright

## Iron Triangles

* **Definition**: The relationship between bureaucratic agencies, congressional committees, and interest groups that influence policy.
* **Practice Question**:
  + What best describes an iron triangle?  
    A) The alliance of the president, the courts, and Congress  
    B) The cooperation of state, local, and federal law enforcement  
    C) The policy-making relationship among agencies, committees, and interest groups  
    D) The struggle between branches of government

## Grants (Block vs. Categorical)

* **Definition**: Federal money given to states. Categorical grants have strict rules; block grants allow more flexibility.
* **Practice Question**:
  + Which type of grant allows states more discretion in spending?  
    A) Formula Grant  
    B) Project Grant  
    C) Block Grant  
    D) Categorical Grant

## Margin of Error

* **Definition**: Polls measure public opinion. Margin of error shows uncertainty in results; a smaller margin is more reliable.
* **Practice Question**:
  + A poll shows 52% support with a margin of error of ±4%. What’s the range of possible support?  
    A) 50–54%  
    B) 48–56%  
    C) 51–55%  
    D) 46–58%

Teacher Tips: “If you review nothing else, make sure you understand these areas really well.”

* **Required Supreme Court Cases**  
  Know not just the rulings, but how each case connects to constitutional principles (e.g., *selective incorporation*, *equal protection*, *commerce clause*).
* **Civil Liberties & Civil Rights**  
  Focus on due process, equal protection, and the 1st and 14th Amendments. Be ready to apply these to scenarios.
* **Federalism & Grants**  
  Understand the **difference between block and categorical grants**, and be able to explain **how power is shared/conflicted** between states and the federal government.
* **Elections, Voting, and Electoral College**  
  Know how the **Electoral College works**, what **retrospective voting** means, and how **gerrymandering** and **voter turnout** affect outcomes.
* **Models of Representation (Delegate, Trustee, Politico)**  
  These come up in multiple-choice *and* FRQs. Be able to apply each model to a real-world scenario.

**📊 2. Watch for Skill-Based Traps**

The exam doesn't just test what you know—it tests how you apply it. Prepare for:

* **Data analysis** (graphs, tables, polling results, margin of error)
* **Source analysis** (foundational documents and excerpts)
* **Scenario-based logic** (e.g., “Which clause applies?” “What model is this?”)

**🧠 3. Memorize Key Constitutional Clauses**

These show up *a lot*:

* **Commerce Clause** (limits and uses)
* **Equal Protection Clause**
* **Establishment and Free Exercise Clauses**
* **Supremacy Clause**
* **Necessary and Proper Clause (Elastic Clause)**

“If you can name and explain these clauses in real-world situations, you're going to do great.”

**🧩 4. Understand the Logic of the Court**

Don’t just memorize case outcomes—**understand the reasoning**:

* Why did the Court side with the student in *Tinker*?
* Why did they limit Congress in *Lopez*?
* How does *Gideon* reflect selective incorporation?

**📘 5. Be Ready for the Linkage Institutions Question**

Even though students tend to overlook this, **interest groups**, **media**, **political parties**, and **elections** are central. Especially:

* **Iron triangles**
* **PACs/Super PACs**
* **Horse race journalism**
* **Polarization and realignment**

AP GoPo: Final Review Checklist

✅ Use this checklist to track your understanding of the most frequently tested topics and terms on the AP Gov exam. Aim to check off each item before test day!

**1. Required Supreme Court Cases (Know the facts, clause, and significance)**

☐ Marbury v. Madison – Judicial Review

☐ McCulloch v. Maryland – Necessary and Proper Clause, Supremacy Clause

☐ United States v. Lopez – Commerce Clause limits

☐ Gideon v. Wainwright – Right to counsel, Selective Incorporation

☐ Tinker v. Des Moines – Symbolic speech in schools

☐ Roe v. Wade – Right to privacy (Due Process)

☐ McDonald v. Chicago – Selective Incorporation of 2nd Amendment

☐ Brown v. Board of Education – Equal Protection Clause

☐ Engel v. Vitale – Establishment Clause

☐ Wisconsin v. Yoder – Free Exercise Clause

☐ Shaw v. Reno – Racial Gerrymandering

☐ Citizens United v. FEC – Campaign finance, 1st Amendment

☐ Baker v. Carr – Redistricting justiciable

**2. Foundational Documents (Know purpose, argument, and modern connection)**

☐ Federalist No. 10 – Factions and large republic

☐ Brutus No. 1 – Anti-federalist concerns

☐ Federalist No. 51 – Checks and balances, separation of powers

☐ Federalist No. 70 – Energy in a single executive

☐ Federalist No. 78 – Independent judiciary

☐ Declaration of Independence – Natural rights, social contract

☐ Articles of Confederation – Weak national government

☐ U.S. Constitution – Structures, powers, rights

☐ Letter from Birmingham Jail – Civil disobedience, Equal Protection

**3. Most Tested Concepts and Terms (Know definitions and examples)**

☐ Selective Incorporation

☐ Equal Protection Clause

☐ Commerce Clause

☐ Supremacy Clause

☐ Checks and Balances

☐ Separation of Powers

☐ Iron Triangles

☐ Judicial Review

☐ Electoral College

☐ Margin of Error and Polling Terms

☐ Block vs. Categorical Grants

☐ Political Socialization

☐ Delegate, Trustee, Politico Models

☐ Retrospective, Prospective, Rational Choice Voting

**4. Institutions and Processes (Understand roles and real examples)**

☐ Congressional Committees and Oversight

☐ Presidential Powers – Formal vs. Informal

☐ SCOTUS Decision Logic and Precedent Use

☐ Bureaucratic Rulemaking and Implementation

☐ Budget Process and Fiscal Policy

☐ Redistricting and Gerrymandering

**5. Linkage Institutions (Know function and impact)**

☐ Interest Groups – Lobbying, Iron Triangles

☐ Political Parties – Roles, Realignment

☐ Elections – Types, Turnout, Electoral College

☐ Media – Watchdog, Agenda Setting, Horse Race Journalism

**6. Practice Skills (Know how to apply content)**

☐ Identify correct clauses in real-world scenarios

☐ Analyze data: graphs, tables, polls

☐ Match documents and cases to their arguments

☐ Use evidence in FRQs (especially SCOTUS & docs)

☐ Explain institutional interactions (checks & balances)