

Unit #1: AMSCO Guided Reading

Foundations of American Democracy

Chapter 1: Founding Principles (Topics 1.1 - 1.3)

Chapter 2: The Constitution (Topics 1.4 - 1.6)

Chapter 3: Federalism (Topics 1.7 - 1.9)

Topic 1.1: Ideals of Democracy

Pages 3 - 9

When you come across terms/phrases you do not understand, look up their definitions. The AP US Government & Politics Exam contains complex language that can create confusion for students - even those students who have a strong understanding of course material. Improving your vocabulary will improve your ability to read and decipher passages, scenarios, questions, etc.

Example: The Enlightenment = A European movement of the 18th century that stressed the belief that science and logic give people more knowledge and understanding than tradition and religion.

1. Complete the chart below that contains information about the Enlightenment principles adopted by leading revolutionaries in the colonies.

Idea from Enlightenment Philosopher(s)	Description
Natural Rights (John Locke)	
Social Contract (Thomas Hobbes & Jean-Jacques Rousseau)	
Popular Sovereignty (Jean-Jacques Rousseau)	
Republicanism (Baron de Montesquieu)	

2. Think as a Political Scientist: Define limited government.

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3. Why did the American colonists want to break away from King George III & Great Britain? Provide 2+ reasons.

4. Foundational Documents: What was the intended purpose of the Dclaration of Independence (July 4,1776)?

5. The first official government in the United States was called the _____.

6. The framers of the US Constitution wanted the citizen representation of a democracy, but on a national level, so they created a _____, a collection of sovereign states gathered for the national interest, national needs, and national defense.

7. In your opinion, which of the five principles of our government is MOST important? Why?
(Options: Natural rights, popular sovereignty, social contract, limited government, republicanism)

Topic 1.2: Types of Democracy

Pages 10 - 15

1. Complete the chart below that contains information about the forms of Representative Democracies.

Type of Democracy	Definition	Pros	Cons	Example(s)
Participatory Democracy				
Pluralist Democracy				

Elite Democracy				
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2. Which of the three types of democracy are most similar? Can you think of an example of democracy being both of them at the same time?

3. How is each type of democracy represented in the U.S. Constitution?

Participatory	Pluralism	Elitism

4. In your opinion, which form of democracy is most *effective* at the creation of public policy? *Why?*
(Options: Participatory, pluralist, elite)

5. Those who supported the proposed structure of the US Constitution, a strong federal government, and supported full ratification (approval) of the proposed Constitution became known as _____.

6. How did the Federalists encourage the states to ratify the US Constitution?

7. Those who opposed ratification of the proposed US Constitution because of its consolidation of the states under a federal government, became known as the _____.

8. Why type of democracy does Federalist #10 support? **Circle one** (Options: Participatory, Pluralist, Elite)
9. Which type of democracy does Brutus 1 support? **Circle one** (Options: Participatory, Pluralist, Elite)

Topic 1.3: Government Power & Individual Rights

Pages 16 - 21

1. Under the Articles of Confederation, political power belonged largely to _____ governments.
2. According to *Federalist #10*, what main points are the “Federalists” trying to make?

3. According to *Brutus 1*, what main points are the “Anti-Federalists” trying to make?

4. Complete the chart below that contains information on the Federalists and Anti-Federalists.

	Believed Power Should Lie with the	Views Regarding the Proposed U.S. Constitution	Fears
Federalists			
Anti- Federalists			

5. In your opinion, were the Anti-Federalists fears justified? Why or why not?

Chapter 1 Checkpoint:

Answer	Answer	Justification for your Answer - Questions 4-6
1.	4.	
2.	5.	
3.	6.	

Topic 1.4: Challenges of the Articles of Confederation

Pages 27 - 31

1. The Articles of Confederation redefined the former colonies as states and _____ them as a confederation (or alliance) under one governing authority.

2. True or False: Under the Articles of Confederation, all states had an equal vote within the legislature. **Circle one - correct below if false.**

3. Within the Confederation Congress, _____ votes were required to create national legislation, and _____ votes were required to amend the Articles.

4. Why did the framers of the Articles of Confederation make the federal government so weak in comparison to the states?

5. List 3+ powers of Congress under the Articles of Confederation.

6. Provide 3+ weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation.

7. What branch(es) did the federal government have under the Articles of Confederation?

8. In 1787, what event highlighted the fact that the federal government was TOO weak under the Articles of Confederation?

9. Why was the federal government unable to solve the problem identified in the above question?

Topic 1.5: Ratification of the US Constitution

Pages 32 - 44

1. Complete the chart below that contains information about the Constitutional Compromises.

Plan	Who Would Benefit	Description	Compromise Name & Description
Virginia Plan			
New Jersey Plan			

2.

3/5 Compromise		
The North wanted...	The South wanted...	Compromise

3. How did the North and South compromise regarding the continuation of the slave trade?

4. Some of the representatives at the Constitutional Convention wanted a direct election of the Chief Executive, some wanted the states to elect the Chief Executive, while others wanted the House of Representatives to elect the Chief Executive. How was this issue resolved?

5. The Commerce Compromise allows the federal government to impose tariffs on imports, but not exports. His compromise gave the federal government the ability to _____, a power it lacked under the Articles.

6. Complete the chart below by providing information about each Article of the US Constitution.

The Original US Constitution	
Article I The Legislative Branch	
Article II The Executive Branch	
Article III The Judiciary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supreme Court of the United States<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Appointed by POTUS and confirmed by the Senate◦ Life terms "under good behavior"• Empowers Congress to make inferior courts• Federal courts have power over<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Federal law, disputes between states, concerns involving government officials
Article IV Relations Among States	
Article V Amendment Process	**Include both methods
Article VI National Supremacy	
Article VII Ratification Process	

7. Define federalism.

8. The Constitution's _____ gave the federal government the flexibility to face unforeseen circumstances.

9. True or False: The states have equal representation in the electoral process. **Circle one - correct below if false.**

10. Why did James Madison oppose adding a Bill of Rights to the US Constitution?

11. How did the Federalists & Anti-Federalists compromise to ensure the ratification of the U.S. Constitution?

12. The Bill of Rights does not “give” U.S. citizens personal liberties. Instead it protects the personal liberties of citizens against the... _____.

13. Complete the chart below by providing information about each of the Amendments in the Bill of Rights.

The Original US Constitution	
1st Amendment	
2nd Amendment	
3rd Amendment	
4th Amendment	
5th Amendment	
6th Amendment	
7th Amendment	
8th Amendment	

9th Amendment	
10th Amendment	

Topic 1.6: Principles of American Government

Pages 45 - 50

1. Complete the chart below that contains examples of how individual citizens can influence public policy within each branch of the federal government.

Legislative Branch	Executive Branch	Judicial Branch

2. Describe separation of powers.

3. What basic role does each branch play in the policymaking process?

4. Which branch is the most representative branch of the federal government? **Circle one.**
(Options: Legislative, Executive, Judicial)
5. *Federalist #51* supports the idea of separation of powers and checks and balances. What are the main points of the document?

6. Describe checks and balances.

7. Complete the chart below by writing examples of how each branch of government can check another branch of government.

	2+ Examples
Legislative Branch checking another branch	
Executive Branch checking another branch	
Judicial Branch checking another branch	

8. Why did the framers believe that separation of powers and checks and balances were so important?

Chapter 2 Checkpoint:

Answer	Answer	Justification for your Answer - Questions 4-6
1.	4.	
2.	5.	
3.	6.	

Topic 1.7: Relationship Between the States and the Federal Government Pages 57 - 65

1. Define federalism.

2. Complete the chart below that contains information about the different types of powers included within the US Constitution.

	Definition	2+ Examples
Delegated/ Exclusive Powers		
Reserved Powers		

Concurrent Powers		
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3. Describe fiscal federalism.

4. Complete the chart below that contains information about the different types of Federal Grants-in-aid.

Fiscal Federalism		
Type of Federal Grant	Definition	Example
Categorical Grant		
Block Grant		
Funded/Unfunded Mandate		

5. **Critical Thinking:** Which type of grant would Congress prefer to give? Why? (Options: Categorical grant, black grant, unfunded mandate)

6. **Critical Thinking:** Which type of grant would states prefer to receive? Why? (Options: Categorical grant, black grant, unfunded mandate)

7. Define devolution.

8. Federal grants can be both *helpful* and *harmful* to states. Explain why federal grants both help and hurt the power of the states.

9. **Critical Thinking:** If the federal government has the power to create funded/unfunded mandates, why doesn't it create those more often?

10. Use Google: Define dual federalism. Why is it also called “layer cake” federalism?

11. Use Google: Define cooperative federalism. Why is it also called “marble cake” federalism?

Topic 1.8: Constitutional Interpretation of Federalism

Pages 66 - 74

1. The _____ guided the framers' decision in creating the system of federalism.
2. What are “Enumerated Powers”? Provide an example.

3. Describe the following clauses of the U.S. Constitution.

Necessary & Proper (Elastic) Clause	
Supremacy Clause	
Commerce Clause	

4. What are “Implied Powers”? Provide an example.

5. The US Constitution includes Prohibited Powers, which are denied either to the national government, state governments, or both (Article I, Section 9.) Provide at least one example of a Prohibited Power.

6. In your opinion, which of the above clauses gives the federal government the most power? Explain.
(Options: Necessary & Proper, Supremacy, or Commerce Clause)

7. Describe the 10th Amendment.

8. **Critical Thinking:** How does the 10th Amendment impact federalism?

9. Describe the 14th Amendment.

10. **Critical Thinking:** How does the 14th Amendment impact federalism?

11. Must-Know Supreme Court Cases: Complete the chart below.

Required SCOTUS Case	Holding (Ruling made by the Court and their reasoning)	Precedent (New standard set by the ruling)
<i>McCulloch v. Maryland</i>		
<i>U.S. v. Lopez</i>		

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Topic 1.9: Federalism in Action

Pages 75 - 81

1. True or False: Federalism slows the policy making process. **Circle one - correct below if false.**
2. Does the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lend more power to the federal government or state governments? **Circle one**
3. **Critical Thinking:** List 2+ advantages of federalism.

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4. **Critical Thinking:** List 2+ disadvantages of federalism.

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5. **Critical Thinking:** Why is federalism said to reflect a dynamic relationship?

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Chapter 3 Checkpoint:

Answer	Answer	Justification for your Answer - Questions 4-6
1.	4.	
2.	5.	
3.	6.	

#2: Quantitative Analysis	
(A)	
(B)	
(C)	
(D)	

Unit 1 Review:

Answer	Answer	Justification for your Answer - Questions 7-12
1.	7.	
2.	8.	
3.	9.	
4.	10.	
5.	11.	
6.	12.	