

Name:

Date:

American Government Common Exam review guide

Part I: 75 multiple-choice questions about the following topics:

Introductions to gov (types and theories)

Purpose of government
Theories of government
Sovereignty
Fascism
Communism
Rule of Law
Representative Democracy v. Direct Democracy

History of American Gov

Enlightenment
Declaration of Independence (structure and purpose)
Articles of Confederation
Constitutional Convention
3/5 Compromise
New Jersey plan and Virginia plan-Great Compromise
Federalists and Anti-federalists-arguments for each
Bill of Rights (purpose and key amendments like 1, 2,4,5,6,10, 13,14,15,17,19,22,26)

Constitution

Preamble (what it is, purpose)
Habeas corpus-instances where it might be suspended
Checks and balances (definition and examples)
Strict/Originalist interpretations vs. Liberal/activist interpretations
Amendments to know: 10, 13, 14 (Incorporation doctrine), 15, 17, 19 (others listed in civil liberties section)

Federalism

Define: federalism
Why do we have a federal system?
Powers to define: Enumerated, Concurrent, implied, reserved
Specific state powers:
Specific federal powers:
Examples of direct democracy:
Recall
Referendum
Initiative

Three branches

House:

Chosen by:
Requirements:
Number:
Length of terms:
Special powers: (formal and informal)

Senate:

Chosen by: (Include current and past ways)
Requirements:
Number:
Length of terms:
Special powers: (formal and informal)
Analyze how a bill becomes a law

Executive Branch:

Requirements

Formal powers (Enumerated or Expressed, think about “JOEL CARTER” acronym)

Informal powers (implied, like executive orders)

Limitations on the president’s power

Specific presidential actions to grow the power of the office:

Lincoln

Wilson

FDR

Nixon

Bush

Policy

Framers perspective on foreign policy (think Washington)

Major turning points leading up to the Cold War

Turning points of the Cold War

Development of NATO

Korea

Cuban Missile Crisis

Vietnam

War Powers Act

Berlin Wall

Role of the United Nations

Role of NAFTA-North American Free Trade Agreement

Impact of 9/11 on US policy

Bureaucracy

Define/explain bureaucracy

Federal Reserve System

President’s cabinet

Judicial Branch

Judicial Review-Marbury v. Madison

How are judges chosen? What are the factors leading up to appointment and confirmation by the Senate?

Jurisdiction (exclusive, concurrent, original, appellate)

Supreme Court

Federal Courts

State courts

1st amendment: parts, Establishment clause, Free Exercise clause

How does a case reach the Supreme Court?

How is the Supreme Court insulated from politics and public opinion? Why?

Civil Rights:

Civil Rights Acts

19th amendment

Literacy tests

Grandfather clause

Affirmative Action

Civil Liberties:

Citizenship issues (naturalized vs. natural born, immigration)

Liberty vs. Security

Exclusionary Rule (based on 4th amendment)

Due process amendments:

4th amendment

5th amendment

6th amendment

8th amendment

Electoral process

Draw and label the political spectrum

Political parties (why a 2-party system)

Primaries (purpose, criticisms)

Conventions (purpose, what happens)

Third/minor parties (types, impact on elections)

Interest groups (what they are, examples, what they do, development of Political Action Committees)

Campaign finance (limits/laws, controversy, development of PACs)

Media (how public opinion is shaped, bias, impact of on campaigns)

Electoral College: How it works

Part II Writing:

- A. You will receive a Document Based Question (DBQ) assignment, just like the ones we have done in class all semester. Your job will be to interpret the various documents, and specifically answer questions about each document, citing specific passages. This DBQ will be about the expansion of democracy in the United States. You will not write an essay.
- B. You will write three free response questions about the institutions of our government (legislative, executive, and judicial). The topics covered are found within the MC study section above.