

Study Guide-American Government

Unit 1: Foundations

What is government?

The institution through which society makes and enforces its public policies (laws and ideas)

List and describe the 4 theories of gov't

The Force Theory

- one person or a small group claimed control over an area
- forced all within to submit to their rule

The Evolutionary Theory

- developed naturally out of the early family.
- over time family developed into a network or clan
- clan eventually became a tribe

The Divine Right Theory

- Divine Right stated that God created the state
- God had given those of royal birth a "divine right" to rule

The Social Contract Theory

- people decided to form a government so that they could all be safe
- all people living in the given area of the state gave up the same amount of freedoms
- in return received protection
- the state exists only to serve the people

What does it mean that the gov't needs consent of the governed"

- a government's purpose of its political power is to **serve the people over the society it governs**
- requires the people's consent to govern**
- if not, it fails its purpose of serving if it operates against their will

Six purposes of our government

Form a more perfect union
Establish justice
Insure domestic tranquility
Provide for the common defense
Promote the general welfare
Secure the blessings of liberty

Philosophical differences between dictatorship and democracy

Dictatorship – oldest form of government
Those who rule are not responsible to the will of the people.

Autocracy – 1 person (Hitler)
Oligarchy – small group (ancient Sparta)
Highest – Autocracy – obey
Bottom group - We will obey!

Representative Democracy

Those who rule ARE responsible to the will of the people
U.S. the people = Representatives/governors/mayors - elected officials (run for election) (equal in power)

Communism vs. fascism

Communism: revolutionary struggle
Absence of classes
Common ownership
Centralized government
Control over economy and society
Fascism: totalitarian dictatorship
Obedience to leader
Stringent socio-economic controls through terror and censorship
Belligerent nationalism and racism

Three things we use to classify governments	<p>Confederacy – Alliance of independent states, shared defense, currency</p> <p>Federal – powers divided between central, state, and local government which work together. Central government has final say.</p> <p>Unitary – All powers belong in once central place. Other units will exist only if central government want them to.</p>
Direct democracy	Political system where the citizens participate in the personally instead of relying on elected representatives.
Problem with direct democracy	<p>Direct: Takes so much time</p> <p>In a large country, communication/voting could be hard</p> <p>People only make decisions selfishly, and will not think of the whole</p>
Direct democracy compared to a Representative democracy	<p>Republic - citizens elect representatives who make decisions for everyone – allows people to save time by having to be involved in every issue</p> <p>Works well in a larger geographical area with a large population</p> <p>Many people don't care, but representatives will</p>
<u>Coming of the Constitution</u>	
Magna Carta History	<p>written in 1215</p> <p>King was very oppressive (England) – taxes</p> <p>King had all the power</p> <p>Limited power of king- gave some rights to the right people (Barons)</p> <p>Trial by jury</p> <p>Due process (rights of the accused)</p> <p>Life, liberty, property cannot be taken from the people for any reason)</p>
Important clauses	
Gov't in colonies/British treatment of the colonies	<p>Petition of Right - 1628, a statement of civil liberties sent by the English Parliament to Charles I.</p> <p>No taxation without representation</p> <p>King has to give a fair trial</p> <p>No sheltering of troops without homeowners consent</p> <p>Challenged the divine right-kings must follow laws too</p> <p>Innocent until proven guilty</p>
Albany Plan	<p>written in 1754</p> <p>Grand Council – could deal with all problems of the colonies, Ben Franklin, RI, MA, CT</p> <p>Raise military-defense from other regions (Europe)</p> <p>Regulate a trade tax between colonies</p> <p>Figure out how to deal with the Native Americans (fight or hug?)</p>
Stamp Act	<p>written is 1765</p> <p>Passed by British Parliament</p> <p>Required use of tax stamps of all legal docs in the colonies ...colonists did not get a say!</p> <p>Boycotted it – refused it!</p> <p>Led to Boston Tea Party</p> <p>“No taxation without representation”</p>
First Continental Congress/ Second Continental Congress	<p>written in 1776</p> <p>Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin, John Adams</p> <p>5 major parts to the Declaration ... list of “grievances” ticked</p> <p>Break-up letter ... things the king did wrong=tears=revolutionary war</p>

Declaration of Independence Purpose	explain the Americans' view of the purpose of government to announce the colonies separation from England
What it contains	social contract/consent of the governed limited government - <u>just powers</u> from the consent of the governed (Constitution limits government also)
Revolutionary War (who, what, where, and why)	when: 1775–1783 What: also known as the American War of Independence Who: between the Kingdom of Great Britain and thirteen British colonies on the North American continent Where: in all of the 13 colonies Why: culmination of the political American Revolution, whereby the colonists overthrew British rule.
Articles of Confederation	<u>Weaknesses</u> One vote for each state, regardless of size Congress powerless to regulate foreign & interstate trade Congress to lay and collect taxes or duties No executive to enforce acts of Congress No national court system Amendment only with consent of all states Strengths Common defense and liberty Made compromises and through these the Constitution was written Firm league of friendship Congress that could: Make treaties Make war and peace Borrow money Set up a money system Raise an army by asking states for troops Settle disputes between states
Constitutional Convention	
Virginia Plan	avored three branches, a bicameral legislature, with representation based on population
New Jersey Plan	retained the unicameral (one house) system the Article had and each state was represented equally
Connecticut Compromise/ Compromise	we will have two house Representatives, depends on Great population – Senate will not be based on population – New Jersey and Virginia plans – legislative branch
What was the conflict of the Great Compromise	representation in Congress
3/5 Compromise	3/5 of “all other persons” besides free persons were counted in a States’ population
Commerce and Slave Trade Compromise	The South was afraid the North would try to tax their exports and outlaw the slave trade. Remained a point of tension between the North and the South that led to the Civil War

Anti-federalists vs. Federalists

Federalists – favored ratification of the Constitution
They were in favor of a strong central government
Anti-federalists – favored voting against ratification of the Constitution. They were against a central government and did not like that it did not mention God and that it did not let states print money.

Ratification of the Constitution

After compromises, Constitution was written
9 of 13 states had to ratify it to make it legal
9 states did vote but they waited for Virginia and New York because without them the agreement wouldn't matter

The Constitution and Federalism

Preamble: purpose of government

form a more perfect union
establish Justice
insure domestic tranquility
provide for the common defense
promote the general welfare
and secure the blessings of liberty

How has it changed over time

gained more power
Terrorists
Amendments
Elastic clause
Implied Powers

Examples of federalism

Gay marriage
Hurricane Katrina
Marijuana use
schools

What is the Constitution? What six Principles are in it?

1. **Popular Sovereignty** – the people are sovereign. They are the only source of government power.
2. **Limited Government** – the government power is limited and people have rights that cannot be taken away p civil liberties are not absolute
3. **Separation of Powers** – the legislative/executive/judicial branches are all separate powers, but co-equal
4. **Checks & Balances** – a system of overlapping the powers of all 3 branches to permit each branch to check the actions of the others
5. **Judicial Review** – the power of a court to determine the constitutionality of a governmental action ex
6. **Federalism** – the division of power among a central and several regional governments

Important Amendments

13th – no more slavery

Checks and Balances

- ~keep the three branches from being completely independent of each other.
- ~each of the three branches of government can limit the powers of the others
- ~No one branch becomes too powerful
- ~each branch “checks” the power of the other branches to make sure that the power is balanced between them
- ~each branch has certain powers to check the operations of the other two.

Legislative/Executive/Judicial Branches
Checks and Balances

Legislative Branch for the Executive Branch

May reject appointments, treaties
May withhold funding for presidential initiatives
May impeach president
May override a veto

Executive Branch for the Legislative Branch

May adjourn Congress in certain situations
May veto bills

Legislative Branch for the Judicial Branch

May propose constitutional amendments to overrule judicial decisions
May impeach Supreme Court justices
May reject appointments to the Supreme Court

Judicial Court for the Legislative Branch

May declare laws unconstitutional

Judicial Branch for the Executive Branch

May declare executive actions unconstitutional

Executive for the Judicial Branch

Appoints judges

How is the Constitution structured?

The Constitution is composed of a:

- Preamble (an introduction)
- the main body (which consists of seven articles)
- and amendments (additions to the Constitution made after the Constitution was created).

What powers does it give the national Government (enumerated powers)?

Power to: Tax
Borrow Money
Regulate interstate and foreign trade
Coin and regulate currency
Create bankruptcy laws
Foreign Relations
War/national defense
Establish naturalization rules
Establish post offices
Copyrights and Patents
Standardize weights and measures
Regulate territories and federal areas
Create Federal Courts below Superior Court

Contrast enumerated, implied, concurrent, reserved powers

Concurrent powers - Shared Powers between the states and the central governments including, the right to tax, borrow money, establish courts, and make and enforce laws

Reserved powers - Powers of the State Government - The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people

Enumerated powers - Powers of the Federal Gov't

Implied powers - to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying out the enumerated powers

What is the Necessary and Proper Clause/ clause?

It gives Congress the power to make all laws that are elastic necessary and proper for carrying out the duties of the legislative branch. It is also known as the "elastic clause" because it stretches the power of Congress.

Marbury v. Madison

Established the Supreme Courts power of judicial review. It gave its power to determine the constitutionality of a governmental action.

McCulloch v. Maryland

Using the "Necessary and Proper Clause", the Supreme Court granted congress implied powers based on its expressed powers directly found in the Constitution. They could now do whatever was necessary and proper to complete its expressed power.

Gibbons v. Ogden

Supreme Court read the Commerce Clause broadly. It strengthened power of the U.S. to regulate any interstate business relationship. It includes the broadcasting industry, oil pipelines & banking.

What are the Bill of Rights? How do they limit the government?

The Bill of Rights are the first 10 amendments to the Constitution. They guarantee personal freedom. They guarantee freedom of belief and expression, freedom and security of the person, and of fair and equal treatment before the law.

What does it mean to say that the Constitution is a living document? How is it interpreted differently by Different people? (originalist v liberalist)

It means "can it adapt as the country changes"?

Originalists

Follow the Constitution strictly word, as framers intended
Don't read too much (public education)
State's rights
Republican

Liberalists

Make changes, if needed, make it more modern
Without changes, many groups would be excluded
Stronger national government
Democrat

What are some specific things state can do?

States have all powers not granted to the federal governments by the Constitution. (The Tenth Amendment)

■ These powers have taken many different forms. States must take responsibility for areas such as:

- ownership of property
- education of inhabitants
- implementation of welfare and other benefits programs and distribution of aid
- protecting people from local threats
- maintaining a justice system
- setting up local governments such as counties and municipalities
- maintaining state highways and setting up the means of administrating local roads
- regulation of industry
- raising funds to support their activities

Legislative Branch

Senate Length of term

How many are elected
How old must be
Citizen for how long
Residence
How were they originally elected
Why the change to direct election
How are they chosen
Leader is:

Leader of the minority party:
Constitutional powers

6 years
2 per state, regardless of population
30 years old
9 years
of state for which they represent
by the state legislatures
more responsive to the people they represent
1/3 is chosen every 2 years, continuous body
Vice President (only votes if there is a tie) and if he/she is not there, is led by the President Pro Tempore
Senate Minority Leader
Approve declaration of wars
Impeach
Approve presidential appointments
Can put President on Trial
Ratify Treaties

House of Representatives

Length of term
How are they chosen
How Old must be
Citizen for how long
Residence
House Majority Whip

Constitutional powers

Process through which we decide how
how many reps each state gets
How district lines are drawn and

How we choose reps for each district

Off year elections

Majority Leader

Speaker

Minority Leader

2 years
elected by the people in the district they serve,
25 years old
7 years
of state for which they represent
exerts pressure
Has limits on debate because very large
the power to initiate revenue bills
impeach officials
elect the president in electoral college deadlocks
based on population each representative represents decide
about 600,000 constituents
Reapportionment:
-Distributing the HR seats among the 50 states.
-Completed every 10 years based on the
information gathered by the US CENSUS.
-States could gain or lose seats based on
population shifts within the United States
After the reapportionment is complete, the states
have to redraw the district lines within their states.
District lines are re-drawn every ten years because the
number of individuals a member of the House represents
changes, and the population has shifted within the state.

single member districts, at large voting, winner take all

in the U.S., an election that occurs in a year other than
those years during which a President is elected

is a partisan position in a legislative body. The majority
leader is the floor leader of the majority party

Individual chosen by members of the House of
Representatives to preside over its sessions

Floor Leader of the second-largest party in a
legislative body

Party Whips	duties are to make sure that members are in the chamber during crucial votes; to forecast how members will vote; to persuade members to support the party leadership
President Pro-Tempore	A senior member of the senate that conducts senate business in the absence of the vice president.
Committees	Committee on Rules Committee on Appropriations Committee on Ways and Means Other Standing Committees
Vetoes	The power held by chief of executives (e.g. the president, governors) to reject acts of the legislature. A presidential version of this can be overridden by a 2/3s majority vote of both houses of Congress
President of the Senate	The Vice President of the United States is designated by the Constitution as the President of the Senate. The Vice President holds a tie breaking vote in the Senate and does not usually preside over the Senate.
Proportional representation	representation of parties in an elective body in proportion to the votes they win
Single member districts each electoral district	having only one member (as of a legislature) selected from
At-large voting	voting system for electing several representatives from a single multimember electoral district
Winner-take all	single member district and at large election systems that award seats to the highest vote getters without ensuring fair representation for minor parties
Senate as a "continuous body"	1/3 is chosen every 2 years, continuous body
How a bill becomes Law	<p>Before a bill can become a law, both houses of Congress must pass identical versions of the bill.</p> <p>Once a bill is introduced in either house, it goes through almost the same process. Each bill is first assigned to a committee for review. The bill is tabled, or set aside, if the committee decides the bill is not worthy. The bill is sent to the entire house for debate if the committee decides the bill is worthy of further action.</p> <p>If the bill passes, it is sent to the other house. A joint committee works out any differences the two houses of Congress have concerning a bill. When both houses agree on a bill, the Speaker of the House and the vice president sign it. The bill must be signed before being sent to the president.</p>

Executive Branch

Requirements to be President

35 years old
Natural born citizen
Live here for 14 years old

Compensation

\$400,000 a year, to be paid monthly, and in addition an expenses relating to or resulting from the discharge of his official duties – article 1, section 6 and 7

Presidential Powers

Judicial: Reprieve, amnesty, pardon, clemency, commutation
Ordinance: Issue executive orders (like laws)
Executive: enforces, administers and carries out law
Legislative: writes laws, creates an agenda, veto, sign, ignore (no line item!!)
Commander in Chief: power over the military
Appointment: chooses loyal subordinates, appoints with Senate approval
Recognition: Acknowledges other countries
Treaties: formal agreement, need Senate consent
Executive Agreement: Like a treaty, no senate approval
Removal: Remove anyone he appoints except for judges

How do the presidential powers illustrate concept of checks and balances

That the three branches of government were created and the power is shared between them. At the same time, the powers of one branch can be challenged by another branch. This is what the system of checks and balances is all about. The powers that the Executive Branch illustrates that the President can have effect on the other branches by using checks and balances. It continues to not allow one branch to become more powerful than any of the others.

Has the presidential power changed over time?
Specifically: Lincoln

During the Civil War, Lincoln **appropriated powers no previous President had wielded:** he used his war powers to proclaim a blockade, suspended the writ of habeas corpus, spent money before Congress appropriated it, and imprisoned between 15,000 and 18,000 suspected Confederate sympathizers without trial.

Wilson

When America was introduced to the War State (World War I) in 1917 under Wilson, it was introduced also to what would later be known as the totalitarian, state." During the war he asserted a new-found "presidential power" to arm the ships on his own motion

FDR (Supreme Court)

The Supreme Court opposed the proposed New Deal legislation that FDR wanted passed. Roosevelt suggested that the age was a major problem as six of the judges were over 70 and that he was going to ask Congress to pass a bill enabling the president to expand the Supreme Court by adding one new judge, up to a maximum of six, for every current judge over the age of 70. Some of the Supreme Court Justices resigned.

Lyndon Johnson (War Powers Act)

After President Harry Truman bypassed Congress to go to war in Korea, presidents have paid almost no attention to the constitutional requirements (congressional declaration). President Lyndon Johnson went to war in Vietnam without a congressional declaration

Nixon (Watergate)	political scandal in the U.S. 1970s. Effects of the scandal led to the resignation of Richard Nixon, President of the U.S. He also accepted very large election donations (\$2million from one person). He eventually resigned from office.
What is foreign policy?	A group of policies made up of all the stands and actions that a nation takes in every aspect of its relationship with other countries ... everything a national government says and does in world affairs: -usually defined by a President -purpose is to protect the security of the United States
What is the President's role in policy?	Power has increased over time. Each new war brings foreign new power and responsibility which has caused other nations to look at us for aid, guidance and leadership.
Cold War	World Community to protect the peace strategy of maintaining the military might of the US at so great a level that its very strength will deter (keep away) any attack Harry Truman Support free people who are resisting communism
NAFTA	The North American Free Trade Agreement
UN	United Nations – created to bring peace to the world
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization (created to fight communism)
UN and NATO	bring peace Unity cooperation
Security v. Sovereignty	freedom vs. security
What is federal Bureaucracy?	Group of people who put into action the president's plans 2.5 million people
9/11 security vs. civil liberties	security vs. freedoms
What does the Federal Reserve Board do?	Regulates the nation's money supply, sets interest rates Head of Board is Ben Bernanke

Judicial Branch

How are SC justices nominated?	The President, but he/she must be confirmed by the Senate.
How many justices are on the court?	9
How does the Supreme Court divide its time?	Interprets the Constitution Reads petitions Hears oral arguments Discusses cases Writes opinions Hears cases from appellate jurisdiction
Exclusive vs. Concurrent jurisdiction	Exclusive Jurisdiction – Can only be heard in federal courts (involving an official of a foreign government)
Concurrent Jurisdiction (shared)	can be tried in federal or state court (disputes involving citizens of different states: MI vs. OH)

Types of courts	
Original Jurisdiction	A court in which a case is 1 st heard -> before appealed
Appellate Jurisdiction (Appeal Court)	A court that hears a case from lower court - the higher appellate court may overrule or change decision.
Supreme Court has original and exclusive jurisdiction	all controversies involving two or more states All cases brought against ambassadors or other public ministers.
Federal or State Issue	<u>Federal Issue</u> A citizen of one state suing a citizen of another state A state suing a resident of another state A state suing another state Something about the constitution or the government State Criminal – someone breaks the law, is accused, must prove beyond reasonable doubt Civil - Addresses harms against people and economic (\$) award might help remedy the problem. Examples: divorce, property,
Plessy v. Ferguson	Supreme Court decision in 1896 – separate but equal accommodations for blacks and whites(schools) – overturned in 1954 by Brown vs. Board of Education
Roe v. Wade (amendment)	established a zone of personal autonomy concerning a woman’s reproductive rights
Brown v. Board of Education	overturned the idea of “separate but equal”, integrating schools
Civil Rights Laws (years and what they did)	Civil Rights Act of 1963 – helped African Americans and women gain rights Civil Rights Act of 1964 -- Title VII prohibits employment discrimination based on race, sex, national origin, or religion.. 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act -- Title I prohibits disability discrimination by employers Civil Rights Act of 1991 -- adds provisions to Title VII protections, including right to jury trial.
Dredd Scott v. Sanford	said African Americans were not citizens and had no rights in federal courts
Civil liberties – who is guaranteed rights	African Americans Women Minors Elderly
1 st Amendent rights and controversies	
Free Exercises Clause	Are free to exercise their own beliefs
Why isn’t is covered	the Supreme Court refuses to involve themselves with religious matters
Establishment Clause	The gov’t cannot establish a national church
Assembly	prohibits government from abridging "the right of the people peaceably to assemble.
Petition	petitioning embraces a range of expressive activities designed to influence public officials through legal, nonviolent means.
Press	Open-minded society, Ideas exchanged
Types of speech not protected	Slander: verbal lies is very difficult to prove ... has to be done on purpose

Due Process amendments

- 4 – search and seizure
- 5 – self incrimination
- 6 – right to a speedy trial
- 7 – right to a trial jury in a civil case
- 8 – no cruel and inhumane punishment
- Habeas Corpus - prisoner be brought before the court to determine whether the government has the right to continue detaining them.

Exclusionary Rule

evidence collected in violation of the defendants constitutional rights is inadmissible in court

13th Amendment

abolishing slavery

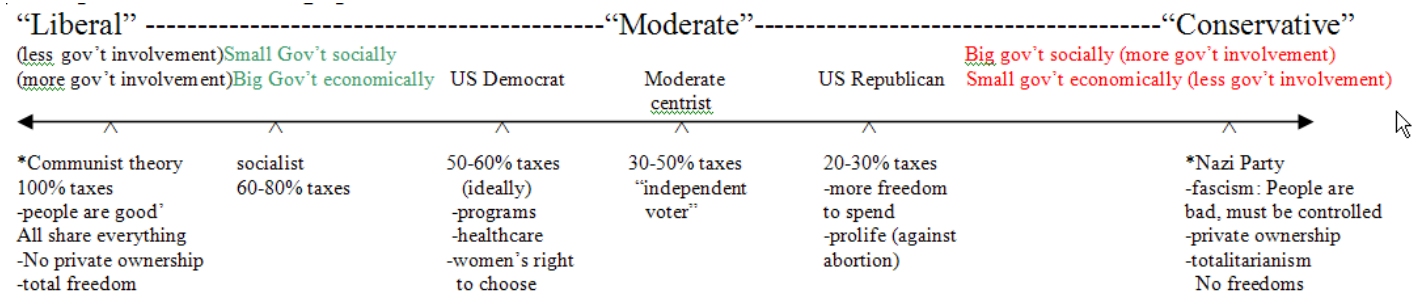
14th amendment

All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside.

Equal process clause
No State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Incorporation doctrine
gradually incorporated the provisions of the Bill of Rights into the 14th Amendment's "due process" clause by declaring that each of the rights was "fundamental" to the conception of due process of law.

Electoral Process



What is a political party

A group who seeks political office. They want to win elections to serve their ideas (ideologies).

What do political parties do?

- Inform the public about political issues
- Mobilize voters (get them to the polls)
- Organize the diverse interests of society into public policies
- Create the "rules" for elections
- Act as watchdog-make sure both parties are acting ethically

Why do we have a two party system?

- People can choose between ideas
- Two parties have managed to make themselves dominant, and children often adopt the party of their parents (which is usually Democratic or Republican)
- Tradition, first we had the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists – eventually they became the Democrats and the Republicans on a national level

Types of Third parties

- Ideological parties
- Single-Issue parties
- Economic protest parties

Splinter parties

Why we have third parties

Spoiler role a minor party many times can pull votes away from a major party (For example: Ross Perot and Ralph Nader). Unlike major parties, minor parties are ready to take a clean-cut stance on a controversial issue. Voters like this.

Why is money necessary for campaigns

You have to spend enormous money just to win the nomination to win the primary. Those running have to raise and spend huge amounts of money so the more you have the more you can spend. You then have to spend more money to run the main election

What are the four FEC Requirements

DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS
LIMITS ON CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS
LIMITS ON CAMPAIGN SPENDING (EXPENDITURES)
PROVIDE PUBLIC FUNDING (TAX DOLLARS) FOR PARTS OF THE ELECTION PROCESS

What did the Reform Act of 2002 do?

Bans soft money contribution
The law also limits issue advertising within 60 days of a general election or 30 days within a primary election.

Who can make campaign contributions?

Individuals can't give more than \$100 in cash for a presidential election or over \$2000 to a primary. No one can give more than \$5000 to a PAC. Individuals can't give more than \$25,000 to party committee.

Businesses or labor unions (NEA) can't give money to a candidate running for federal office. They can give to PACs though (NEAPAC), who then give it to candidates. PACS can't give more than \$5000 to any one candidate. PACS can give \$15,000 a year to a party

Who is a private donor? Public donor?

Private donors

Small contributors
Wealthy individuals (fat cats)
PACs
Fund raisers
Temporary Fundraisers

Public donors

Government gives money

What are the pros and cons of interest groups

con – do not necessarily reflect society's principles (can be extreme)

Pro – stimulate interest in politics

How are interest groups related to PACs and Lobbyists?

-An Interest group can give money to a PAC
-A person acting on their own or with corporate backing to achieve the goals of an interest group or PAC is called a lobbyist
-Lobbyists talk to politicians about their goals
-They give money to the candidate that support their issues but sometimes money is filtered in from other sources and is unaccounted for

What are examples of soft money?

funds given to party organizations
for such party building activities as
candidate recruitment voter registration
drives, etc
ILLEGAL TO USE - because it is not **recorded**

Why do we have polls?	Opinion polls are usually designed to represent the complex collection of the opinions of different people to represent to views of a certain population (attitudes held by a significant number of people on matters of government and politics)
What are the dangers in reading poll data?	Margins of error Hard to measure the validity of opinions
How are people socialized politically?	TV, newspaper, radio, magazines, internet
What role does media play in government?	Public Agenda Focus public's attention on specific issues by emphasizing some things and ignoring others
How do different media sources portray the same	TV – prime time focused on entertainment Radio and TV – skims the news 60-90 second time slots TV sound bites 30-40 seconds long Newspapers and magazines – mostly non-political
How do we use presidential debates?	It is the conclusion for the result of who's nominated for President. It unifies the political party (bringing the party together) behind the official nominee. The presidential candidate officially announces his/her candidacy. The party's electors are selected (Electoral College). Candidates are giving a speech and discussing their platform
Basic arguments for gun control	guns kill people/right to protect oneself
Affirmative action	equality for races/not fair because those not as qualified get the jobs
Healthcare	too expensive/need for reform
What voters are impacted by debates the most?	undecided' voters
Why do we have the electoral college?	The Electoral College process is part of the original design of the U.S. Constitution. It would be necessary to pass a Constitutional amendment to change this system.
How does the electoral college work?	A body of electors is chosen to elect the President and Vice President. It makes recounts easier, less incentive for election fraud.
How many votes are in the electoral college?	538
How are they calculated?	100 senators + 435 Representatives + 3 votes for DC
How many votes for MI	17 (15 Representatives, 2 Senators)

Pros and Cons for electoral College	Pros -Easier recount, less incentive for fraud, Cons – Possibility that the winner of the popular vote will not win the presidency Electors are not required to vote in accordance with the popular vote The election could potentially be decided in the House of Representatives
Campaign strategies to win electoral votes	campaigning is needed in densely populated areas or the candidate could lose the electoral vote, so one strategy is to make sure to campaign in the smaller towns and non urban areas.
Possible reforms	District: electors would be chosen in the same way as members of Congress District plan would do away with the “winner take all” problem, because electors would vote like their district It would make the electoral vote a more accurate reflection of the popular returns Proportional Plan Each presidential candidate would receive the same share of a State’s electoral vote as he or she received in the State’s popular vote If won 40% in state with 20 electoral votes, would get 8 electoral votes Would align more with popular vote Direct Popular Election The most popular reform is to do away with the electoral college system and allow direct popular election Each vote would count equally Winner would always be the majority
What are the requirements to vote	18 years old at the time of the election Live in state where you want to vote Register 25 days before the election Citizen of the United States
Differences between a natural born and naturalized citizen	naturalized citizen has to take a test and be sworn in before a judge to become a citizen, a natural born citizen it born in the United States
How had voting been limited in the past	Poll tax Literacy test
Why do some American not vote?	Apathy Don’t know the issues or candidates

State and Local Government

How does Michigan receive most of its revenue	Taxes
How would a state use Referendum	citizens can place issues on the ballot
Recall	procedure that allows citizens to remove and replace a public official before the end of a term of office.
Initiative	originating of a law or constitutional amendment by popular petition

Definitions

Affirmative Action	policies that take race, ethnicity, or sex into consideration in an attempt to promote equal opportunity
Civil Liberties	the rights you have that the government can not take away – they are not absolute (ex. you break the law)
Confederacy	An alliance of independent states Shared defense, currency
Unitary	all powers belong in one central place Create other units but only exist if central government wants them to exist
Gerrymandering	the illegal practice of manipulating legislative districts to benefit a political party, influence the outcome of elections for one of the political parties.
Legitimacy	
Party whip	exerts pressure on party members to vote with the party and is responsible for getting party's program enacted into law
Enumerated powers	Powers of the Federal Gov't
Reserved powers	Powers of the State Government - The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people
Judicial review	power to decide the constitutionality of an act of government whether executive, legislative, or judicial - the supreme court has final say on the meaning of the constitution.
Appellate jurisdiction	Appeal Court - A court that hears a case from lower court - the higher appellate court may overrule or change decision.
Concurrent jurisdiction	(shared) – can be tried in federal or state court (disputes involving citizens of different states: MI vs. OH)
Civil cases	Addresses harms against people and economic (\$) award might help remedy the problem.
Libel	a written lie that is not protected by the first amendment
Majority opinion	the court has made a decision it announces the decision and gives the reasoning behind the decision.
Dissenting opinion	may be written by those justices who do not agree with the decision
Minority opinion	those who do not agree with the Court's majority opinion
Judicial review	The Supreme Court gets the final say on whether on act of Congress is constitutional or not
Concurrent opinions	may be written to add further points to the majority opinion that wasn't written

Precedents	examples to be followed in similar cases as they arise in the lower courts or reach the Supreme Courts
Slander	A spoken lie that is not directly protected by the first amendment
Writ of certiorari	The Supreme Court issues this to call up a case from a lower court
Commutation	the power to reduce (commute) the length of a sentence or fine for a crime
Matching funds	
Reprieve	an official postponement of the execution of a sentence
Pardon	legal forgiveness
Clemency	Mercy or leniency granted to an offender by a chief executive
Bureaucracy	a group of people that puts a plans into actions ex. 25 million people put the president's plans into action
Convention	It is the conclusion for the result of who's nominated for President. It unifies the political party (bringing the party together) behind the official nominee. The presidential candidate officially announces his/her candidacy. The party's electors are selected (Electoral College). Candidates are giving a speech and discussing their platform.
Primary	practice election
Single member district	electoral district from which one person is chosen by the voters for each elected office
At large voting	election of an officeholder by the voters
Proportional representation	
"winner take all"	single member district and at large election systems that award seats to the highest vote getters without ensuring fair representation for minor parties
Liberal	wants more government Involvement in the economy (higher taxes, more social programs)
Conservative	wants less government Involvement in the economy (less taxes, less social programs)
Federalism	divided power between national, state and local governments
Direct democracy	citizens can make direct decisions without going through elected officials
PAC	PAC can spend \$... PAC-political action committee. Financial arms of interest groups

Sovereignty	complete control over a territory
Bicameral	having two houses
Straight ticket voting	voting for candidates of the same party for multiple positions
Incumbent	a politician that is currently in office
Electorate	the total body of qualified voters
Power	limited power – can be seen in the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights and the Constitution
Bias	An unfair act or policy stemming from prejudice
Legitimacy	what's widely accepted as the rule of law
Limited government	created so the power of the government never gets too strong. An example of limited government is checks and balances or separation of powers
Filibuster	efforts to hold the Senate floor in order to prevent action on a bill
Republic	a representative government
Soft money	Soft money is illegal. it is unrecorded so it is harmful because it corrupts the system
Hard money	money that is hard to raise. It is recorded by the FEC (Federal Election Commission), there are limits to what can be donated
McCain-Feingold bill	bans soft money contributions Limits issue advertising within 60 days of a general election or 30 days within a primary election
Bipartisan	supported by members of both parties
FEC	A group of people that oversee all campaign spending
Interest group	private organization that tries to persuade people to respond to the shared attitudes of its members
Suffrage	Allows you to vote (19 th amendment)
Wars that were not really wars (not formally Declared war by congress)	Vietnam Korean Persian Gulf War (1991)

Writing Portion

1. A short answer concerning the Electoral College:

Timeline:

- State Primaries are held
Choose party nominees (Jan – Aug of election year)
- Party Conventions are held
To officially pick candidates and to unify the party (Aug – Sept of election year)
- General Election Campaigning: (Aug – the November election)
Candidates raise money, tell the public about their platforms, debate, create & follow polls, and campaign on TV
The citizenry (everyone else) join parties, join interest groups and create PAC's, support candidates by making posters, etc., participate in polls, make commercials for candidates, and watch debates
 - Campaign Finance – what did the group spend money on or who did they get to spend the money on them?
 - Debates – between candidates, questions from
 - Polling and Media – polls, questions, debate techniques
- The Election: (1st Tuesday after the 1st Monday in November, thanks Constitution) register to vote, and VOTE
- Electoral College – then casts its votes for President in December

2. Essay concerning powers of the three branches

Legislative/Executive/Judicial Branches

Checks and Balances

How their powers interact

Legislative Branch for the Executive Branch

May reject appointments, treaties

May withhold funding for presidential initiatives

May impeach president

May override a veto

Executive Branch for the Legislative Branch

May adjourn Congress in certain situations

May veto bills

Legislative Branch for the Judicial Branch

May propose constitutional amendments to
overrule judicial decisions

May impeach Supreme Court justices

May reject appointments to the Supreme Court

Judicial Court for the Legislative Branch

May declare laws unconstitutional

Judicial Branch for the Executive Branch

May declare executive actions unconstitutional

Executive for the Judicial Branch

Appoints judges

Primary duty of Congress is to write, debate,
and pass bills,

The Constitution grants Congress "all legislative powers"
in the national government.

Congressional powers include:

- Coining money.
- Maintaining a military.
- Declaring war on other countries.
- Regulating interstate and foreign commerce.
- federal taxing and spending policies

What Legislative powers are:

What Judicial powers are:

reviewing laws

Judicial Review (implied)

Interpreting the Constitution

deciding cases involving states' rights.

Judicial: Reprieve, amnesty, pardon, clemency, commutation

Ordinance: Issue executive orders (like laws)

Executive: enforces, administers and carries out law

Legislative: writes laws, creates an agenda, veto, sign, ignore
(no line item!!)

Commander in Chief: power over the military

Appointment: chooses loyal subordinates, appoints with
Senate approval

Recognition: Acknowledges other countries

Treaties: formal agreement, need Senate consent

Executive Agreement: Like a treaty, no senate approval

Removal: Remove anyone he appoints except for judges

Executive powers: