

AP US Government and Politics - SS5187		Scope and Sequence
Unit	Lesson	Objectives
Foundations of American Democracy		
	Introduction to AP US Government	
	Introduction to Unit 1	
	Introduction to Government	
		Describe the purposes and functions of government.
		Identify different structures of government.
		Explain the roles and responsibilities of citizenship.
	Reading Lesson – Chapter 1 (The Study of American Government)	
	The Enlightenment	
		Describe the goals of the Enlightenment.
		Identify Enlightenment ideas that created a new understanding of the role of government and the rights of citizens.
	The Need for a Constitution	
		Identify the reasons for the creation of the Articles of Confederation.
		Explain the powers granted by the Articles of the Confederation to the states and to the federal government.
		Analyze the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation and its role in leading to the drafting of the US Constitution.
	Reading Lesson – Chapter 2 (The Constitution)	
	Drafting the Constitution	
		Describe the key differences between states that led to debate during the Constitutional Convention.
		Explain how the Great Compromise negotiated a plan for representation in Congress.
		Analyze the effects of the Three-Fifths Compromise in ending the ratification debates over slavery.

Unit Lesson**Objectives**

Principles and the Preamble

Analyze the purposes and functions of the government as stated in the Preamble.

Explain what the Constitution specifies about the role and structure of government.

Reading Lesson – Chapter 3 (Federalism)

Federalism in the Constitution

Define the role and purpose of federalism.

Differentiate between types of state and federal powers.

Reading Lesson – Balance of Power

AP Writing Lesson: Free-Response Questions

Unit Test

Describe how the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution reflect democratic ideals.

Describe how models of representative democracy are evident in major institutions, policies, or debates in the US.

Describe the link between the main provisions of the Articles of Confederation and the argument for a more powerful central government.

Describe the constitutional principles of separation of powers and checks and balances.

Describe how political negotiation and compromise at the Constitutional Convention has affected the development of the constitutional system.

Describe how U.S. foundational documents convey Federalist and Anti-Federalist viewpoints on government and democracy.

Describe how the suitable balance of power between national and state governments has been interpreted diversely over time.

Describe how the separation of powers and the concept of checks and balances influence the U.S. political system.

Describe how societal needs affect the constitutional appropriation of power between the federal and state governments.

Unit Lesson**Objectives**

Describe how the distribution of powers among three federal branches and between national and state governments influences policy-making.

Interactions among Branches of Government

Introduction to Unit 2

Article I: Congress

Describe the structure of Congress as organized by Article I of the Constitution.

Identify the expressed powers of Congress.

Analyze the role of the Necessary and Proper Clause in establishing implied powers for Congress.

Reading Lesson – Chapter 13 (Congress)

The House of Representatives

Describe the structure of the House of Representatives.

Explain the function of the House of Representatives and what its members do.

List the powers granted to the House of Representatives and the limits to those powers.

The Senate

Describe the structure of the Senate.

Explain the function of the Senate and what its members do.

List the powers granted to the Senate and the limits to those powers.

Reading Lesson – Influences on Congressional Behavior

Article II: The Presidency

Describe the structure of the executive branch as outlined by Article II of the Constitution.

Analyze the powers and duties of the President.

Reading Lesson – Chapter 14 (The Presidency)

Unit Lesson

Objectives

The Presidency and Its Powers

Identify the structure and purpose of the office of president.

Describe the president's duties and roles.

Discuss the president's powers and how they have been challenged or changed over time.

Reading Lesson – Chapter 15 (The Bureaucracy)

The Federal Bureaucracy

Identify the role of the cabinet in leading the executive bureaucracy.

Explain the functions and duties of executive departments.

Describe the role of independent agencies in the executive branch.

Reading Lesson – Chapter 16 (The Judiciary)

Article III: The Courts

Identify the structure of the judicial branch created by Article III of the Constitution.

Analyze the powers given to the judicial branch.

The Judicial Branch

Explain the basics of the legal process.

Describe the organization of the federal and state court systems.

Free-Response Question: Interactions among Branches of Government

Unit 2 Free-Response Questions: Prompt 2

Unit 2 Free-Response Questions: Prompt 3

Unit Lesson

Objectives

Unit 2 Free-Response Questions: Prompt 4

Unit Test

Explain the various structures, powers, and functions of each house of Congress.

Describe how the president ensures responsibilities of the executive branch and its agencies in accordance with the goals of the administration.

Describe the principle of judicial review and how it regulates the power of state governments and other institutions.

Describe how Congress employs oversight power in its work with the executive branch.

Describe how the structure, powers, and functions of both houses of Congress affect policy-making.

Describe how the election process, partisanship, and a divided government influence congressional behavior.

Describe how the president can implement a policy agenda.

Describe how the president's agenda can cause tension and conflict with Congress.

Describe how presidents have interpreted and defended their use of formal and informal powers.

Describe how the bureaucracy carries out the responsibilities of the federal government.

Describe how the federal bureaucracy uses delegated discretionary authority to implement, administer, and regulate laws passed by Congress.

Describe how the use of judicial review and life tenure can incite debate over the legitimacy of the Supreme Court's power.

Describe how the executive and legislative branches of government can restrict the Supreme Court's power.

Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Introduction to Unit 3

Reading Lesson – Chapter 5 (Civil Liberties)

The Bill of Rights

Unit Lesson

Objectives

Explain how the Bill of Rights establishes civil liberties.

Describe the purpose of each of the ten amendments in the Bill of Rights.

Your Rights: Freedom of Religion

Describe the purpose and language of the First Amendment.

Analyze Supreme Court decisions concerning the First Amendment’s Establishment Clause and Free-Exercise Clause.

Your Rights: Freedom of Expression

Define the political rights of freedom of speech, press, and assembly.

Explain the limits placed on First Amendment rights and the reasons why these limits are in place.

Reading Lesson – Freedom of Speech

Your Rights: Due Process

Describe the rights of the accused as found in the Fourth and Fifth Amendments.

Analyze Supreme Court interpretations of the Fourth and Fifth Amendments.

Reading Lesson – Due Process

Your Rights: Trials and Punishments

Identify the rights of the accused as defined by the Sixth and Eighth Amendments.

Analyze how Supreme Court decisions created new interpretations of the Sixth and Eighth Amendments.

Reading Lesson – The Fourth and Eighth Amendments

Your Rights: Personal Privacy

Define an individual's right to privacy and the limits to that right.

Explain how the Ninth Amendment guarantees the unenumerated rights of the people.

Analyze the effects of major Supreme Court cases related to privacy rights.

Unit	Lesson	Objectives
	Reading Lesson – Chapter 6 (Civil Rights)	
	Nonviolent Protest	Describe the impact of the violent resistance faced by protestors in Birmingham.
		Examine the resistance to federal desegregation and integration of universities in the South.
		Explain the challenges faced by voter registration campaigns in the southern United States.
	Extending Voting Rights	
		Explain how the Fifteenth Amendment extended voting rights to African Americans.
		Examine the effects of the Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Act of the 1960s.
		Summarize the contents of the Nineteenth and Twenty-Sixth Amendments.
	Reading Lesson – The Second and 14th Amendments	
	The Fourteenth Amendment	Describe the civil rights protections created by the Fourteenth Amendment.
		Analyze the importance of the Fourteenth Amendment in incorporating the Bill of Rights.
	The Supreme Court and Civil Rights	
		Describe major Supreme Court cases involving Fourteenth Amendment Rights.
		Explain how the Supreme Court has reinterpreted civil rights over time.
		Analyze the ways the Constitution protects and limits the rights and powers of both government and individuals.
	Free-Response Questions: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights	
	Unit 3 Free-Response Questions: Prompt 2	
	Unit 3 Free-Response Questions: Prompt 3	
	Unit 3 Free-Response Questions: Prompt 4	

Unit Lesson

Objectives

Unit Test

Describe how individual liberties and rights are protected by the US Constitution.

Explain the rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.

Describe the extent to which the Supreme Court's interpretation of the First and Second Amendments demonstrates a commitment to individual liberty.

Describe how the Supreme Court has worked to balance claims of individual freedom with laws and procedures that promote public order and safety.

Describe the degree to which the due process clause limits states from infringing upon the rights of individuals.

Describe how social movements are motivated and supported by constitutional provisions.

Describe how the government has reacted to social movements.

Describe how the Supreme Court has at times allowed the restriction of the civil rights of minority groups and at other times has protected those rights.

Describe the ramifications of the doctrine of selective incorporation.

American Political Ideologies and Beliefs

Introduction to Unit 4

Political Perspectives

Identify major political ideologies.

Analyze the factors that influence a person's political beliefs.

Reading Lesson – Chapter 7 (Public Opinion)

Creating Public Policy

Define public policy.

Identify the ways public policy is made.

Describe influences on the creation of public policy.

Unit Lesson**Objectives**

Economic Policy

Describe the economic goals of governments.

Explain how policies are formed and created.

Identify the types of economic policies that are created by governments.

Economic Policy: Influential Theories

Explain the contributions of Adam Smith to classical economic theory.

Describe the fundamental policy principles of Keynesian economics.

Examine the theories of Friedrich Hayek and Milton Friedman.

Social Policy

Identify the government's role in establishing education policy.

Analyze the issues facing social security programs.

Examine the factors that influence public assistance programs.

Reading Lesson – Chapter 9 (Political Parties)

Political Parties

Explain how political parties are organized.

Analyze how political parties govern.

Describe the rise and transformation of political parties.

Free-Response Question: American Political Ideologies and Beliefs

Unit 4 Free-Response Questions: Prompt 2

Unit 4 Free-Response Questions: Prompt 3

Unit 4 Free-Response Questions: Prompt 4

Unit Test

Unit Lesson

Objectives

Describe the link between attitudes about the role of government and core beliefs of US citizens.

Explain various forms of governance and political organization.

Describe how policy debates are shaped by the ideologies of the two major parties.

Explain diverse political ideologies concerning the role of government in regulating the marketplace.

Describe the impact of different ideologies on policy regarding social issues.

Describe how political ideologies differ on the role of the government in addressing social issues.

Explain the essential features of a scientific poll.

Describe the value and veracity of claims based on public opinion statistics.

Describe how US political culture, such as values, attitudes, and beliefs, affects the development, goals, and implementation of public policy over time.

Political Participation

Introduction to Unit 5

Reading Lesson – Chapter 4 (American Political Culture)

Reading Lesson – Chapter 8 (Political Participation)

Voting

Describe the process of voting.

Explain issues surrounding the creation of voting districts.

Analyze voter turnout trends.

Reading Lesson – Chapter 10 (Elections and Campaigns)

Campaigns and Elections

Unit Lesson

Objectives

Describe how campaigns are structured, held, and funded.

Explain the primary and election process.

Reading Lesson – Chapter 11 (Interest Groups)

Interest Groups and Lobbying

Describe the purpose and influence of interest groups and public action committees.

Examine the function and influence of lobbyists.

Reading Lesson - Chapter 12 (The Media)

The Media and Politics

Describe the ways media sources influence elections and the creation of policy.

Examine the ways politicians use the media to communicate a message.

Free-Response Question: Political Participation

Unit 5 Free-Response Questions: Prompt 2

Unit 5 Free-Response Questions: Prompt 3

Unit 5 Free-Response Questions: Prompt 4

Unit Test

Explain the voting rights protections in the US Constitution and in legislation.

Explain the various models of voting behavior.

Describe the roles that individual choice and state laws play on voter turnout in elections.

Describe the function of political parties and the impact they have on the electorate and the government.

Unit Lesson**Objectives**

Describe why and how political parties evolve and adapt.

Explain linkage institutions.

Describe the impact of structural barriers on third-party and independent candidates' success.

Describe the impact of campaign organizations and strategies on the election process.

Describe the impact of national political campaigns (e.g., organization, finance, and strategies) on the election process.

Describe how the various processes work in a US presidential election.

Describe how the various processes work in US congressional elections.

Describe how the Electoral College impacts democratic participation.

Describe the advantages and disadvantages of interest groups' influence on elections and policy-making.

Describe how differences in types and resources of interest groups affect their ability to influence elections and policy-making

Describe how different political players impact public policy outcomes.

Describe the role of the media as a linkage institution.

Describe the impact increasingly diversified media and communication outlets have on political institutions and behavior.

Review

Exam Strategies

Unit 1 Review

Unit 2 Review

Unit 3 Review

Unit 4 Review

Unit 5 Review

Unit Lesson**Objectives**

Practice Exam I

Describe how models of representative democracy are evident in major institutions, policies, or debates in the US.

Describe how political negotiation and compromise at the Constitutional Convention has affected the development of the constitutional system.

Describe how the separation of powers and the concept of checks and balances influence the US political system.

Describe how societal needs affect the constitutional appropriation of power between the federal and state governments.

Describe how the distribution of powers among three federal branches and between national and state governments influences policy-making.

Explain the various structures, powers, and functions of each house of Congress.

Describe how the president ensures responsibilities of the executive branch and its agencies in accordance with the goals of the administration.

Describe how the election process, partisanship, and a divided government influence congressional behavior.

Describe how the president's agenda can cause tension and conflict with Congress.

Describe how the executive and legislative branches of government can restrict the Supreme Court's power.

Describe how individual liberties and rights are protected by the US Constitution.

Describe how the Supreme Court has worked to balance individual freedom with laws and procedures that promote public order and safety.

Describe how social movements are motivated and supported by constitutional provisions.

Describe the ramifications of the doctrine of selective incorporation.

Explain various forms of governance and political organization.

Explain diverse political ideologies concerning the role of government in regulating the marketplace.

Unit Lesson

Objectives

Explain the essential features of a scientific poll.

Describe how US political culture, such as values, attitudes, and beliefs, impacts the development, goals, and implementation of public policy over time.

Explain the various models of voting behavior.

Describe why and how political parties evolve and adapt.

Describe the impact of campaign organizations and strategies on the election process.

Describe how the various processes work in a US presidential election.

Describe the advantages and disadvantages of interest groups' influence on elections and policy-making.

Describe the role of the media as a linkage institution.

Describe how the bureaucracy carries out the responsibilities of the federal government.

Practice Exam II

Describe how the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution reflect democratic ideals.

Describe the link between the main provisions of the Articles of Confederation and the argument for a more powerful central government.

Describe the constitutional principles of separation of powers and checks and balances.

Describe how US foundational documents convey Federalist and Anti-Federalist viewpoints on government and democracy.

Describe how the suitable balance of power between national and state governments has been interpreted diversely over time.

Describe how societal needs affect the constitutional appropriation of power between the federal and state governments.

Describe how the president ensures responsibilities of the executive branch and its agencies in accordance with the goals of the administration.

Describe the principle of judicial review and how it regulates the power of state governments and other institutions.

Unit Lesson

Objectives

Describe how Congress employs oversight power in its work with the executive branch.

Describe how the structure, powers, and functions of both houses of Congress impact policymaking.

Describe how presidents have interpreted and defended their use of formal and informal powers.

Describe how the federal bureaucracy uses delegated discretionary authority to implement, administer, and regulate laws passed by Congress.

Describe how the use of judicial review and life tenure can incite debate over the legitimacy of the Supreme Court's power.

Describe how the president can implement a policy agenda.

Specify the rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.

Describe how the Supreme Court's interpretation of the First and Second Amendments demonstrate a commitment to individual liberty.

Describe the degree to which the due process clause limits states from infringing upon the rights of individuals.

Describe how the Supreme Court has at times restricted and at times protected the civil rights of minority groups.

Describe how policy debates are shaped by the ideologies of the two major parties.

Describe the impact of different ideologies on policy regarding social issues.

Describe how political ideologies differ on the role of the government in addressing social issues.

Describe the value and veracity of claims based on public opinion statistics.

Explain the voting rights protections in the US Constitution and in legislation.

Describe the roles that individual choice and state laws play on voter turnout in elections.

Describe the function of political parties and the impact they have on the electorate and the government.

Explain linkage institutions.

Describe the impact of national political campaigns (e.g., organization, finance, and strategies) on the election process.

Unit Lesson

Objectives

Describe how the various processes work in US congressional elections.

Describe how the Electoral College impacts democratic participation.

Describe how differences in types and resources of interest groups affect their ability to influence elections and policy-making.

Describe how different political players impact public policy outcomes.

Describe the impact increasingly diversified media and communication outlets have on political institutions and behavior.

Cumulative Exam

Describe how models of representative democracy are evident in major institutions, policies, or debates in the US.

Describe how political negotiation and compromise at the Constitutional Convention has affected the development of the constitutional system.

Describe how the separation of powers and the concept of checks and balances influence the US political system.

Describe how societal needs affect the constitutional appropriation of power between the federal and state governments.

Describe how the distribution of powers among three federal branches and between national and state governments influences policy-making.

Describe how the president ensures responsibilities of the executive branch and its agencies in accordance with the goals of the administration.

Describe the principle of judicial review and how it regulates the power of state governments and other institutions.

Describe how the structure, powers, and functions of both houses of Congress affect policy-making.

Describe how the election process, partisanship, and a divided government influence congressional behavior.

Describe how the executive and legislative branches of government can restrict the Supreme Court's power.

Unit Lesson

Objectives

Describe how the president can implement a policy agenda.

Describe how the bureaucracy carries out the responsibilities of the federal government safety.

Describe how individual liberties and rights are protected by the US Constitution.

Specify the rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.

Describe how the Supreme Court has worked to balance individual freedom with laws and procedures that promote public order and safety.

Describe the degree to which the due process clause limits states from infringing upon the rights of individuals.

Describe the ramifications of the doctrine of selective incorporation.

Explain various forms of governance and political organization.

Describe how policy debates are shaped by the ideologies of the two major parties.

Describe the impact of different ideologies on policy regarding social issues.

Explain the essential features of a scientific poll.

Describe how US political culture, such as values, attitudes, and beliefs, impacts the development, goals, and implementation of public policy over time.

Explain the voting rights protections in the US Constitution and in legislation.

Explain the various models of voting behavior.

Describe why and how political parties evolve and adapt.

Explain linkage institutions.

Describe the impact of campaign organizations and strategies on the election process.

Describe how the various processes work in a US presidential election.

Describe how the various processes work in US congressional elections.

Describe the advantages and disadvantages of interest-group influence on elections and policy making.

Unit Lesson

Objectives

Describe the role of the media as a linkage institution.