

2023 AP Government Summer Assignment

Welcome Politicos to AP GOV!

This Advanced Placement United States Government and politics course provides a college-level, nonpartisan introduction to key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, court cases and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States.



Students enrolled in AP United States Government and Politics will complete the questions below as your summer assignment. This is an important first quarter test grade. There are five parts of this summer assignment. Each part is worth 20 points. Time management, resourcefulness, and self-motivation are essential for the success of the summer assignment. You may see me for a textbook or use the online links provided. The assignment should be submitted by **Monday, September 11, 2023**. It may be typed or handwritten on separate piece of paper.

The purpose of the assignment is twofold:

- Introduces students to a theme(s) of United States government and politics.
- Gives students the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding on some foundational documents which are located in the course framework.

Important Statement on equity and access:

College Board and Mr. Twomey strongly encourages that equitable access to this class should be a guiding principle. Any willing and academically prepared student has the opportunity to participate. New Bedford High School teachers strongly encourage the elimination of barriers that restrict access to AP for students from ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic groups that have been traditionally underserved.

Now Here is the summer assignment...

The first major idea of this course is the following: “A balance between governmental power and individual rights has been a hallmark of American political development.”

The United States Government is based on ideals of Limited government, natural rights, popular sovereignty, republicanism and social contract. What do these mean in real talk? We need to have a firm understanding of these ideas -abstract as they are!

Part 1: *It is very important to understand the “ideals of our democracy” These are vital abstract concepts that you will need to understand.* On a separate word document or piece of paper explain the ideals of democracy in your own words. You may need to do some research on the history and definition of democracy. Please remember what these ideals mean because we will have quiz in September!

Here are the ideals of democracy. Please answer the questions in your own words:

1. **Limited government:** What does this mean in your own words? What is an example of this in the modern political age?
2. **Natural Rights:** What does this mean in your own words? What is an example of this in the modern political age?
3. **Popular Sovereignty:** What does this mean in your own words? What is an example of this in the modern political age?
4. **Republicanism:** What does this mean in your own words? What is an example of this in the modern political age?
5. **Social Contract** What does this mean in your own words? What is an example of this in the modern political age?

Part 2 – the Theories (or models) of representative Democracy:

“Not everyone agrees about how POWER and INFLUENCE are distributed in American Democracy. Some theorists believe that political participation drives our system, others think that groups have the most influence, and some believe that power is held by the elite.” (page 13 American Government textbook)

Here is a Khan academy link if you do not have a textbook. There are also some AP gov youtube videos on theories of democracy online.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-government-and-civics/us-gov-foundations/us-gov-types-of-democracy/a/types-of-democracy-lesson-overview>

- a. What is the theory of Participatory democracy in your own words?
- b. What is an example that supports the theory of participatory democracy?
- c. What are civil society groups?
- d. What is the theory of Pluralist democracy?
- e. What is an example that supports the theory of pluralist democracy?
- f. What is the theory of Elite democracy?
- g. What is an example that supports the theory of an elite democracy?

- h. Anthony is concerned by his state government's efforts to decrease regulations on pesticides that could hurt the bee population. He decides to join the League of Conservation Voters to help them lobby against deregulating pesticides. This is an example of which of the following models of democracy?
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- i. The National Rifle Association (NRA) testifies in front of Congress to advocate for several laws, including one that would protect gun manufacturers from lawsuits concerning violence committed with weapons they made. This is an example of which of the following models of democracy?
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- j. "The influence of factious leaders may kindle a flame within their particular states, but will be unable to spread a general conflagration through the other states: a religious sect may degenerate into a political faction in a part of the confederacy; but the variety of sects dispersed over the entire face of it, must secure the national councils against any danger from that source: a rage for paper money, for an abolition of debts, for an equal division of property, or for any other improper or wicked project, will be less apt to pervade the whole body of the union."
-Publius (James Madison), *Federalist No. 10*, 1787

Which of the following models of representative democracy is most consistent with the passage?

Part 3:

1. There are 9 foundational documents that we need to deeply understand. The first is Declaration of Independence drafted by Thomas Jefferson with help from Adams and Franklin. This document provides a foundation for popular sovereignty and natural rights.
2. DEFINE CONSTITUTIONAL REPUBLIC in your own words:
3. What is a clause (line of text) in the Declaration that aligns or connects with the ideal of popular sovereignty? How does it align?
4. What is a clause (line of text) in the Declaration that aligns or connects with the ideal of natural rights? How does it align?

Locate a copy of the Declaration of Independence. Here is a link

https://www.constitutionfacts.com/content/declaration/files/Declaration_ReadTheDeclaration.pdf

5. Summarize the first 2 parts of Declaration IN YOUR OWN WORDS:
 - a. The PREAMBLE is...
 - b. The statement of HUMAN RIGHTS is ...

Part 4 FREE RESPONSE QUESTION

In 2014, a deadly strain of Ebola virus killed a large number of people in West Africa, mainly in countries of Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea. Many American doctors and nurses traveled to those countries to assist the victims of that virus. Shortly afterwards, some governors in the United States issued orders that anyone who visited those three countries must be quarantined in their homes for 21 days on returning to the United States. Then governor of Maine, Paul LePage, justified his quarantine order by saying, “ While we certainly respect the rights of one individual, we must be vigilant in protecting 1.3 million Mainers, as well as anyone who visits our great state.” In response, American nurse Kaci Hickox refused to follow that quarantine order, saying, “So many states have started enacting these policies that I think are just completely NOT evidence based. They don’t do a good job of balancing the risks and benefits when thinking about taking away an individual’s rights.”

Answer the following:

- a. Describe natural rights philosophy
- b. Describe one way in which the scenario relates to the concept of natural rights:
- c. Explain one way in which the quarantine illustrates the government’s role of balancing individual liberty with social order.

Part 5: The Articles of Confederation

Here is link to Khan Academy if you do not have the textbook:

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-government-and-civics/us-gov-foundations/us-gov-challenges-of-the-articles-of-confederation/a/challenges-of-the-articles-of-confederation-article>

Please watch the videos and answer the practice questions.

In addition, answer the following:

1. Name three major problems of the Articles of Confederation, and explain the implications of those problems.
2. In what ways was the governmental system established in the Articles of Confederation similar to US government today? In what ways was it different?

3. What were some positives or strength of the Articles of Confederation?

Good luck! Its not time off... Its GAME ON! You may write out your answers or type on a word document.

Please note we have a field trip scheduled for Friday, October 27 to Boston. More information coming soon!

If you have any questions please email jtwomey@newbedfordschools.org

