

AP American Government and Politics: Semester 1 and 2

UNIT TITLE	THEMATIC QUESTIONS	TEXTS/MATERIALS
Unit 1: Foundations of American Democracy <u>Summer Assignment</u>	<u>Chapter 1: The Constitution</u> --How did the relationship with Great Britain and the inaction of the Articles of Confederation lead to the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution? --How can the Constitution be considered a “living” document? <u>Chapter 2: Federalism</u> --How have the federal government and individual state governments interacted with each other over time?	Text: https://www.perfectionlearning.com/advanced-placement-united-states-government-politics-3rd-edition-t3202-g.html (AMSCO Review Text) Audio/Visual
Unit 2: Interactions among Branches of Government Semester 1	<u>Chapter 3: Legislative Branch</u> --How does the Constitution create and strengthen the multiple powers that the Legislative branch has? --How does the Legislative Branch check the other branches of government? --How has the power of the Legislative branch grown over time? <u>Chapter 4: Executive Branch and the Presidency</u> --How does the Constitution create and strengthen the multiple powers that the Executive branch has? --How does the Executive Branch check the other branches of government?	Text Audio/Visual

	--How has the power of the Executive branch grown over time? <u>Chapter 5: The Executive Bureaucracy</u> --How has the Executive Bureaucracy expanded in power over time? --How does the Executive bureaucracy check the other branches of government? <u>Chapter 6: Judicial Branch</u> --How does the Constitution create and strengthen the multiple powers that the Judicial branch has? --How does the Judicial Branch check the other branches of government? --How has the power of the Judicial branch grown over time?	
Unit 3: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights Semester 1	<u>Chapter 7: Individual Liberties</u> --How have civil liberties, specifically those listed in the 1st Amendment, been incorporated to the states over time? --Which of these civil liberties have been the most contentious and why? <u>Chapter 8: Due Process and the Rights of the Accused</u> --How have due process liberties, specifically procedural and substantive rights, been incorporated to the states over time? --What is the difference between procedural due process and substantive due process?	Text Audio/Visual

	--Which of these due process clauses continues to be the focal point of debate to this day? How so? <u>Chapter 9: Civil Rights</u> --How have civil rights movements throughout history affected all three branches of government? --How have different movements encapsulated the environment of the era that they were prominent within? --How do the methods of protest and ideological spread differ from movements in the past to similar movements today?	
Unit 4: American Political Ideologies and Beliefs Semester 2	<u>Chapter 10: Political Ideologies, Beliefs, and Polling</u> --What is political socialization and how do the multitude of factors affect you throughout your life? --How do each of the generations (Millennials, Boomers, etc.) interact with each other in a political manner? How are they similar? How do they differ? --How does polling and the different methods of polling assist us in understanding key policies and issues at hand? <u>Chapter 11: Political Ideologies and Policy</u> --How do each of the primary political parties differ on economic policy? --How do each of the primary political parties differ on social policy?	Text Audio/Visual

	--How do each of the primary political parties differ on military policy? --How do each of the primary political parties differ on domestic policy? --How do each of the primary political parties differ on foreign policy?	
Unit 5: Political Participation Semester 2	<u>Chapter 12: Voting and Voting Behavior</u> --What are some of the common demographic factors when determining voter turnout and voter decision-making? --How have events in history shifted voter turnout and the demographic groups that vote? --How has the growth of different media outlets changed how individuals interact with politics? Has it created a more divisive nation of voters? <u>Chapter 13: Political Parties</u> --How have each of the primary political parties realigned ideologically over time? --Why does the U.S. rely on a strong two-party system instead of promoting third party participation? --How have political parties become more divisive since the turn of the millennium? <u>Chapter 14: Elections and Campaigns</u> --What is the difference between Political Action Committees (PACs) and Super-PACs? --How does campaign fundraising benefit the U.S.'s two-party system?	Text Audio/Visual

	--How does campaign fundraising deny third-parties from being influential within elections? --How has media benefitted, but also harmed, campaigns throughout the past 50 years? <u>Chapter 15: Interest Groups</u> --How do interest groups interact with all three branches of government when it comes to influencing decisions? --How do interest groups work within Iron Triangles and Issue Networks to create change within their own field of influence? <u>Chapter 16: The Media</u> --How do different avenues of media affect different generations of voters? --How has media become more partisan over time?	
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