

AP Government Unit Vocabulary

Unit 1: Foundations of American Democracy

- Limited government
- Natural rights
- John Locke
- Social contract
- Popular sovereignty
- The "Grand Committee"
- Declaration of Independence
- Articles of Confederation
- Preamble
- U.S. Constitution
- Representative democracy
- Participatory democracy
- Pluralist democracy
- Elite democracy
- Federalist #10
- Brutus #1
- Federalists
- Anti-Federalists
- Central government
- Reserved powers
- Republic
- Factions
- Shay's Rebellion
- Virginia Plan
- New Jersey Plan
- Great (Connecticut) Compromise
- Three-Fifths Compromise
- Slave Trade Compromise
- Ex post facto law
- Bill of attainder
- Electoral College
- Article IV
- Full Faith and Credit Clause
- Privileges and Immunities Clause
- Amendment process
- Article V
- Article VI
- Supremacy Clause
- Article VII
- Ratification
- Checks and balances
- Separation of powers
- Federalist #51
- Tyranny of the majority
- Multiple policy access points
- Impeachment
- Exclusive powers
- Concurrent powers
- Federal balance of power
- Dual federalism
- “Layer Cake” federalism
- Cooperative federalism
- “Marble Cake” federalism
- Fiscal federalism
- Grants
- Incentives
- Conditions-of-aid
- Revenue sharing
- Mandates
- Clean Air Act (1970)
- Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)
- Categorical grants
- Block grants
- Tenth Amendment
- Commerce Clause
- Necessary and Proper Clause
- Enumerated powers
- Implied powers
- Inherent powers
- State sovereignty
- Supreme Court of the United States
- Statute
- McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)*
- United States vs. Lopez (1995)*

Unit 2: American Political Ideologies and Beliefs

- Demographics
- Political culture
- Political socialization
- Core values
- Individualism
- Equality of opportunity
- Free enterprise
- Rule of law
- Globalization
- Scientific polling
- Public opinion polls
- Opinion polls
- Benchmark polls
- Tracking polls
- Entrance polls
- Exit polls
- Push polls
- Polling universe
- Random sample
- Representative sample
- Mass survey
- Focus group
- Sampling error
- Reliability of data
- Veracity of data
- Political ideologies
- Political spectrum
- Liberal ideology
- Conservative ideology
- Moderate
- Political polarization
- Democratic Party
- Republican Party
- Regulation of the marketplace
- Libertarian ideology
- Property rights
- Voluntary trade
- Keynesian economic policies
- Supply-side economic policies
- Monetary policy
- Fiscal policy
- Federal Reserve Board
- Social equality
- Economic equality

Unit 3: Interactions Among Branches of Government

- Institutions of Government
- Article I
- Bicameral
- Constituency
- Coalition-building
- Revenue
- Congressional committee
- Standing committee
- Select committee
- Conference committee
- Joint committee
- Speaker of the House
- President of the Senate
- President Pro Tempore
- Majority Leader
- Minority Leader
- Majority Whip
- Minority Whip
- Committee chairperson
- Filibuster
- Cloture
- Quorum
- Hold
- Unanimous consent
- Rules Committee
- Committee of the Whole
- Discharge petition
- Treaty ratification
- Discretionary spending
- Mandatory spending
- Entitlements
- Social Security
- Medicare
- Medicaid
- Budget deficit
- Pork barrel legislation
- Earmarks
- Riders
- Omnibus bill
- Logrolling
- Franking privilege
- Partisanship
- Divided government
- Ideological division
- Gridlock
- Gerrymandering
- Packing
- Cracking
- Reapportionment
- Census
- Redistricting
- Safe seat
- Marginal seat
- Baker v. Carr (1961)*
- “One person, one vote”
- Racial gerrymandering
- Shaw v. Reno (1993)*
- Article II
- “Lame-duck” president
- “Trustee” role
- “Delegate” role
- “Partisan” role
- “Politico” role
- Policy agenda
- Formal presidential powers
- Informal presidential powers
- Veto
- Congressional override
- Pocket veto
- Commander-in-Chief
- Executive agreement
- Executive order
- Executive privilege
- Signing statements
- The Cabinet
- Ambassadors
- White House Staff
- “Advice and Consent” power
- “Good Behavior” clause
- Article III
- Federalist #70
- “Lame duck” period
- Twentieth Amendment
- Twenty-Second Amendment
- Twenty-Fifth Amendment
- State of the Union address
- Honeymoon period
- Bully pulpit
- Judicial review
- Federalist #78
- Marbury v. Madison (1803)*
- Precedent
- Stare decisis
- Judicial activism
- Judicial restraint
- Strict constructionism
- Loose constructionism
- Jurisdiction
- Original jurisdiction
- Appellate jurisdiction
- Concurrent jurisdiction
- Federal bureaucracy
- Departments
- Agencies
- Commissions
- Government corporations
- Regulations
- “Iron triangles”
- Issue networks
- Patronage
- Spoils system
- Political machine
- Civil service system
- Merit system
- Pendleton Civil Service Act (1883)
- Hatch Act (1939)
- Office of Personnel Management (OPM)
- Discretionary authority
- Rule-making
- Red tape
- Bureaucratic implementation
- Department of State
- Department of the Treasury
- Department of Defense
- Department of Justice
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- Department of Homeland Security
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Department of Education
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Federal Elections Commission (FEC)
- Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
- AMTRAK
- U.S. Postal Service
- NASA
- National Security Council (NSC)
- Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
- Congressional Budget Office (CBO)
- White House Chief of Staff
- White House Press Secretary
- White House Office
- Congressional oversight
- Committee hearings
- Power of the purse
- Congressional appropriation
- Congressional authorization
- Compliance monitoring
- War Powers Act (1973)
- Imperial presidency

Unit 4: Political Participation

- Political participation
- Suffrage
- Political efficacy
- Fifteenth Amendment
- Seventeenth Amendment
- Nineteenth Amendment
- Twenty-Fourth Amendment
- Twenty-Sixth Amendment
- Rational-choice voting
- Retrospective voting
- Prospective voting
- Party-line voting
- Voter turnout
- Structural barriers to voting
- Grandfather clause
- Literacy test
- Poll tax
- White primary
- Voter registration laws
- Mid-term (congressional) elections
- Presidential elections
- Referendum
- Recall
- Initiative
- Precinct
- Civic engagement
- Ideological orientation
- Contemporary political issues
- Religious affiliation
- Political parties
- Interest groups
- Linkage institutions
- Electorate
- Voter mobilization
- Invisible primary
- Iowa Caucuses
- New Hampshire Primary
- Swing states
- Plurality
- Majority
- Front-loading
- Retail politics
- Party platforms
- Party chairperson
- Delegate
- Superdelegate
- Coattail effect
- Candidate recruitment
- Campaign management
- Media strategy
- Critical elections
- Realignment
- Dealignment
- Third-party candidate
- Independent candidate
- “Spoiler” role
- Faithless elector
- Proportional voting system
- Single-member district
- Winner-take-all voting system
- Drafting of legislation
- Mobilization of membership
- “Free rider” problem
- Political actors
- Single-issue groups
- Public interest groups
- Lobbying
- Grassroots lobbying
- Amicus curiae briefs
- Revolving door
- Professional organizations
- Incumbency advantage
- Open primaries
- Closed primaries
- Caucuses
- Party conventions
- National popular vote
- Professional campaign consultants
- Election cycle
- Case law
- War chest
- Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002
- Soft money
- Hard money
- Dark money
- Attack ads
- Issue ads
- Independent expenditures
- “Stand by Your Ad” provision
- Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (2010)*
- Political Action Committees (PACs)
- SuperPACs
- 527 groups
- 501(c)3s
- 501(c)4s
- Horse race journalism
- Gatekeeper
- Scorekeeper
- Watchdog
- Media bias
- Ideologically oriented programming
- Consumer-driven media outlets
- News source and information credibility
- Sound bite
- Adversarial press

Unit 5: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

- Bill of Rights
- Civil liberties
- Civil rights
- Arbitrary
- First Amendment
- Second Amendment
- Individual liberty
- Establishment Clause
- Free Exercise Clause
- Wall of Separation
- Secular
- Majoritarian
- Engel v. Vitale (1962)*
- Wisconsin v. Yoder (1972)*
- Tinker v. Des Moines (1969)*
- Symbolic speech
- Social order
- Time, place, and manner regulations
- Defamation
- Libel
- Slander
- Obscenity
- Hate speech
- Schenck v. United States (1919)*
- “Clear and Present Danger” test
- New York Times Co. v. United States (1971)*
- Prior restraint
- National security
- Eighth Amendment
- Cruel and unusual punishment
- Death penalty
- Fourth Amendment
- Telecommunication metadata
- Selective incorporation
- Fourteenth Amendment
- Infringement
- McDonald v. Chicago (2010)*
- Right to keep and bear arms
- Miranda rule
- Fifth Amendment
- Sixth Amendment
- Due process rights
- Writ of habeas corpus
- Public safety exception
- Unwarned interrogation
- Unreasonable search and seizure
- Right to counsel
- Speedy and public trial
- Impartial jury
- Search warrant
- Patriot Act
- USA Freedom Act
- Due Process Clause
- Equal Protection Clause
- Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)*
- Exclusionary rule
- Right to privacy
- Roe v. Wade (1973)*
- Compelling state interest
- Constitutional provision
- Social movement
- “Letter from a Birmingham Jail”
- Civil Rights Movement
- Women’s Rights Movement
- National Organization for Women (NOW)
- Pro-life movement
- Pro-choice movement
- Citizen-state interactions
- Brown v. Board of Education (1954)*
- The Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972
- The Voting Rights Act of 1965
- Supreme Court holding
- “Separate but equal” doctrine
- Majority-minority districting
- Affirmative action
- Racial classification