

## AP Government Scope & Sequence

Grading Period	Unit Title or Big Idea	AP Standards	Learning Targets	Assessment Evidence
<b>Throughout the Semester</b>				
<b>1st / 3rd Grading Period</b>	Unit 1 Introduction to Government in America	<p>Compare how models of representative democracy are visible in major institutions, policies, events, or debates in the U.S.</p> <p>Compare how models of representative democracy are visible in major institutions, policies, events, or debates in the U.S.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I can explain how divided government has contributed to the decline in trust and confidence in government.</li> <li>I can explain how the increased cost of election campaigns has contributed to the decline in trust and confidence in government.</li> <li>I can explain two specific consequences of the decline in trust and confidence in government for individual political behavior.</li> <li>I can explain how linkage institutions affect the policy agenda.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading &amp; vocab quiz (W)</li> <li>Students share the policymaking system with each other (O)</li> <li>Exam (multiple choice and FRQ) (W)</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I can explain two ways linkage institutions connect citizens to government.</li> <li>• I can explain how one current government electoral requirement decreases voter turnout.</li> <li>• I can explain how, in the policymaking system, the policymaking institutions are accountable to the people.</li> <li>• I can explain the effect of politics and partisanship on the role and scope of government.</li> </ul>	
	<p>Unit 2 Constitutional Foundations</p>	<p>Compare and interpret Federalist and Anti-Federalist views on central government and democracy as reflected in U.S. foundational Documents</p> <p>Explain the relationship between key provisions of the Articles of Confederation and the debate over granting the federal government greater power formerly reserved to the states.</p> <p>Describe the impact of political negotiation and compromise at the Constitutional Convention on the development of the constitutional system.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I can explain the founding fathers views on human nature, political conflict, and the purpose of government.</li> <li>• I can explain the components of the Madisonian model and the justification for each principle of the Constitution.</li> <li>• I can explain the designated powers each branch of government has to check the powers of the other branches.</li> <li>• I can argue both sides of the Federalist/Anti-Federalist debate.</li> <li>• I can explain federal supremacy and cite Supreme Court cases</li> <li>• I can explain the significance of the 10<sup>th</sup> amendment</li> <li>• I can explain how industrialization has increased the role of the national government.</li> </ul>	

		<p>Explain how the issues raised in the ratification debate continue to be expressed today in ongoing philosophical disagreements about democracy and governmental power.</p> <p>Describe the constitutional principles of separation of powers and "checks and balances."</p> <p>Explain the implications of separation of powers and "checks and balances" for the U.S. political system.</p> <p>Describe how the distribution of powers among three federal branches and between national and state governments impacts policy making.</p> <p>Explain how the appropriate balance of power between national and state governments has been interpreted differently over time.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I can explain why a state or locality might not want to receive federal aid.</li> </ul>	
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	<p>Unit 3 Legislative Branch</p>	<p>Describe the powers and functions of Congress.</p> <p>Compare the Senate and House of Representatives in terms of how constituencies, lawmaking authority, and chamber rules and roles affect the policy-making process</p> <p>Explain how congressional behavior is influenced by election processes, partisanship, and divided government.</p> <p>Explain how Congress uses its oversight power in its relationship with the executive branch.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● I can connect established congressional powers to Articles/sections of the U.S Constitution.</li> <li>● I can explain how Supreme Court cases have affirmed established congressional powers.</li> <li>● I can explain how casework and pork barrel provide an advantage for incumbents against their respective challengers.</li> <li>● I can provide examples of major pieces of legislation.</li> <li>● I can explain why parties fight so hard to obtain and remain in the majority.</li> <li>● I can argue for/against term limits for members of Congress.</li> <li>● I can identify and describe various ways groups attempt to influence members of Congress.</li> <li>● I can explain how checks and balances are used by the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government.</li> </ul>	
	<p>Unit 4 Executive Branch &amp; Bureaucracy</p>	<p>Explain how presidential powers or functions can promote a policy agenda.</p> <p>Explain how the president's agenda can create tension and frequent confrontations with Congress.</p> <p>Explain how presidents have interpreted and justified</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● I can distinguish between the President's formal and informal powers when it comes to foreign and domestic policy.</li> <li>● I can argue the President's advantage over Congress in conducting both foreign and domestic policy.</li> <li>● I can argue how constitutional powers empower the Congress over the President.</li> </ul>	

		<p>their use of formal and informal powers.</p> <p>Explain how communication technology has changed the president's relationship with the national constituency and the other branches.</p> <p>Explain how the president ensures that executive branch agencies and departments carry out their responsibilities in concert with the goals of the administration.</p> <p>Explain the extent to which governmental branches can hold the bureaucracy accountable given the competing interests of Congress, the president, and the federal courts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● I can describe the War Powers Resolution and explain the Constitution conflict between the President and Congress when it comes to war.</li> <li>● I can argue for increases as well as decreases in revenue.</li> <li>● I can describe several factors that contribute to deficit spending and describe several ways to reduce the debt and deficit.</li> <li>● I can discuss the controversy over entitlements.</li> <li>● I can discuss various ways the bureaucracy is effective and/or ineffective.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>2nd / 4th Grading Period</b></p>	<p>Unit 5 Judicial Branch</p>	<p>Explain the principle of judicial review and how it checks the power of other institutions and state governments.</p> <p>Explain how the exercise of judicial review in conjunction with life tenure can lead to controversy about the legitimacy of the Supreme Court's power.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● I can describe the job of the judicial branch of government.</li> <li>● I can identify the 9 members of the U.S Supreme Court.</li> <li>● I can describe the difference between a civil and criminal case.</li> <li>● I can describe the parties involved in a civil and criminal case.</li> <li>● I can identify the Chief Justice of the U.S Supreme Court.</li> <li>● I can describe how members of the court are selected.</li> </ul>	

		<p>Describe ways other branches of government can limit the Supreme Court's power.</p> <p>Explain how the bureaucracy carries out the responsibilities of the federal government.</p> <p>Explain how the federal bureaucracy uses delegated discretionary authority for rule making and implementation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I can describe the length of a term a member serves on the court.</li> <li>• I can distinguish between a majority opinion, concurring opinion, and a dissenting opinion.</li> <li>• I can describe how cases reach the U.S Supreme Court.</li> <li>• I can describe how the concept of judicial review relates to the principle of checks and balances.</li> <li>• I can distinguish between original and appellate jurisdiction.</li> <li>• In a 5-4 decision, I can explain what the 5 represents.</li> <li>• I can identify the 1<sup>st</sup> female Justice who served on the court.</li> <li>• I can explain the significance of a precedent setting case and provide examples of such cases.</li> <li>• I can explain what it means for a law to be declared unconstitutional.</li> <li>• I can describe the process of voir dire.</li> </ul>	
	Unit 6 Civil Liberties & Civil Rights	<p>Explain the extent to which the Supreme Court's interpretation of the First and Second Amendments reflects a commitment to individual liberty.</p> <p>Explain how the Supreme Court has attempted to balance claims of individual freedom with laws and enforcement procedures that promote public order and safety.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I can describe two ways in which the United States Supreme Court is insulated from public opinion.</li> <li>• I can explain how U.S Supreme Court cases support civil liberties provided for in the Bill of Rights.</li> <li>• I can explain how U.S Supreme Court cases support civil rights provided for in the Constitution.</li> <li>• I can explain two factors that work to keep the United States Supreme Court from deviating too far from public opinion.</li> </ul>	

		<p>Explain the extent to which states are limited by the due process clause from infringing upon individual rights.</p> <p>Explain the implications of the doctrine of selective incorporation.</p> <p>Explain how constitutional provisions have supported and motivated social movements and policy responses.</p> <p>Explain how the Court has at times allowed the restriction of the civil rights of minority groups and at other times has protected those rights.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I can explain how lower court judges, the President, Congress, interest groups, and private citizens each play a significant role in the implementation or impact of a US Supreme Court decision.</li> </ul>	
	<p>Unit 7 People &amp; Linkage Institutions</p>	<p>Describe the relationship between core beliefs of U.S. citizens and attitudes about the role of government.</p> <p>Explain how cultural factors influence political attitudes and socialization.</p> <p>Explain how U.S. political culture (e.g., values, attitudes, and beliefs) influences</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I can argue advantages and disadvantages to taking polls and measuring public opinion.</li> <li>I can explain the role and influence of PAC's on the electoral process.</li> <li>I can explain the difference between the role of interest groups and the role of PAC's.</li> <li>I can explain the important role political parties play in electing a President.</li> </ul>	

		<p>the formation, goals, and implementation of public policy over time.</p> <p>Compare how political ideologies vary on the role of government in regulating the marketplace</p> <p>Compare how political ideologies vary with regard to the government's role in addressing social issues.</p> <p>Describe the elements of a scientific poll</p> <p>Explain how public opinion polling and polling results impact elections, political behavior, and policy process</p> <p>Evaluate the quality and credibility of claims based on public opinion data.</p> <p>Explain why and how political parties change and adapt</p> <p>Explain how structural barriers impact third-party and independent-candidate success.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I can describe the components of an Iron Triangle and explain how the components are inter-related.</li> <li>• I can describe how the influence of the public can transform an Iron Triangle into an Issue Network</li> </ul>	
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		<p>Describe the benefits and potential problems of interest-group influence on elections and policy making.</p> <p>Explain how various political actors influence public policy outcomes.</p> <p>Describe the voting rights protections in the Constitution and in legislation.</p> <p>Describe the linkage functions of political parties and explain how parties impact the electorate and the government.</p>		
	<p>Unit 8 Campaigns, Elections and Media</p>	<p>Describe the media's role as a linkage institution.</p> <p>Explain how increasingly diverse choices of media and communication outlets influence political institutions and behavior.</p> <p>Describe the roles that individual choice and state laws play in voter turnout in elections.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● I can argue advantages and disadvantages to the caucus and primary systems.</li> <li>● I can explain the purpose of Campaign Finance laws on the political process.</li> <li>● I can argue the advantages and disadvantages to the Electoral College system.</li> </ul>	

		<p>Describe factors that influence voter choices.</p> <p>Describe different models of voting behavior.</p> <p>Explain how the different processes work in a U.S. federal election.</p> <p>Explain how campaign organizations and strategies affect the election process</p> <p>Evaluate the extent to which the Electoral College facilitates or impedes democracy.</p>		
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**Key Legend**

O - Oral

W - Written