

Words	Description
absolute monarchy	A form of government where the ruler has complete authority to rule with no restrictions, and the right to govern is usually inherited
alliance	An agreement between countries made to advance common goals and to secure common interests EX: countries bound by an alliance would fight together in a war
anti-trust law	Law intended to promote free competition in the marketplace by outlawing monopolies
artifact	An object shaped or made by a person that serves as a clue about the history or culture of the people living at that time
big business	Significant economic and political power wielded by large, powerful corporations
capital goods	Materials that are used in the production of other materials rather than being sold to consumers EX: computers and machines used in an assembly line
cause and effect	An action (cause) that brings about a result (effect); history can be viewed as a series of cause-and-effect events
censorship	Holding something back from the public because it is considered offensive or threatening to security
centralization	More people living close to each other; opposite of dispersion
checks and balances	A system of shared power established by the Constitution that allows each branch of government to do its work but not become too powerful EX: Congress can pass bills but the President has to sign them into law; Congress can declare war and approve spending for it but the President is the Commander-in-Chief in charge of the troops; the President appoints new Supreme Court justices but the Senate has to confirm them
command economic system	Also known as a planned economic system; the government largely determines what is produced and in what amount
common good	The overall best interest of the people EX: Protecting minority rights is in the best interest of all U.S. citizens, because any of us could find ourselves in the minority on a particular issue at some point and each of us would want that protection; protecting minority rights, then, protects the common good
competition	Doing something with the goal of outperforming others or winning something EX: campaigning to win an election
compromise	An agreement to settle differences in which each side agrees to give up part of its demands
conflict	Opposition or disagreement
conflict resolution	Solving a problem through discussion and mutual agreement
constituent	Person who is represented by an elected official EX: citizens of Kentucky are the constituents of their elected representatives in the General Assembly; citizens of the United States are the constituents of their elected Senators and Representatives
consumerism	The attitude that values being able to spend money and buy possessions
consumption	Purchasing and using goods and services
cooperative	An enterprise or organization owned by and operated for the benefit of those using its services
corporation	A company recognized by law as a single body with its own powers and liabilities separate from those of the individuals who work for it

cultural diversity	Variety of people from different backgrounds
data	Facts, statistics, or items of information
deforestation	Clearing forests of trees
demand	The willingness of consumers to purchase goods or services
democracy	A form of government in which every person has the free and equal right to participate; often practiced by electing representatives of the people, by the people
desegregation	To open a school or workplace, for example, to members of all races or ethnic groups; especially by force of law as in the 1960s Civil Rights movement
dictatorship	A form of government in which the ruler is an absolute authority (not restricted by a constitution or laws or opposition)
discount	A reduction in the usual price of something
discrimination	Unfair treatment of one person or group, usually because of prejudice about race, ethnic group, age group, religion, or gender
dispersion	More people being scattered over a large area; opposite of centralization
distribution	Getting goods (objects that people want and need) and services (actions that people want and need) from the producer to the consumer; distribution includes marketing, merchandising, transporting, and selling
duties	Tasks that you are obliged to do EX: As a citizen, your duties include serving as jurors, paying taxes, complying with laws, and possibly serving in the military
economic prosperity	A period of time in which a person or society has ready access to material comforts and financial well-being
economic sanctions	Economic penalties applied by one country on another for economic or political reasons EX: imposing tariffs on imports from a particular country to strengthen the sale of similar products produced in the U.S.; refusing to import products from a country that encourages terrorism
efficiency	Achieving the result without wasting time, energy, or effort
entrepreneur	A person who organizes, operates, and assumes the risks of a business enterprise in order to make a profit
equity	Justice and fairness for all
ethnic group	A group of people sharing a common and distinctive culture, religion, and language
federalism	A political system in which states give certain powers to a central authority and hold onto limited powers of self-government EX: Kentucky and other states give the power of national defense to the U.S. government, but the states still maintain governments that oversee public education
free enterprise	An economic system based on private ownership, individual initiative, profit and competition
free trade	A market model in which trade of goods and services flows unhindered by government restrictions
genocide	Deliberate, systematic killing of a national, racial, political, or cultural group
globalization	Increasing connectedness of economics and ways of life around the world
growth	Increase in the value of goods and services produced by an economy
homeland security	Federal department that administers matters relating to safety within the country's borders

humanism	A system of thought that centers on humans and their values, capacities, and worth
humanitarian	Related to the well-being of humans EX: working to end poverty is a humanitarian effort
imperialism	Countries taking political and economic control of other countries, especially non-industrialized nations and colonies
industrial capitalism	Economic system in which the means of production are privately owned and operated according to industrial standards (assembly line, specialization of labor); this system created great wealth for the owners during the Progressive Movement
interaction	Activity or communication between different people or groups, with each having an effect on the other
interdependence	Depending upon one another EX: countries can be interdependent; technology and economics can be interdependent
investment	Spending money on something in hope of a future profit or benefit
isolationism	A policy of refusing to become generally involved in world affairs
labor movement	The development of unions of working people to campaign in their own interest for better treatment
labor union	Association of wage earners joined together for the purpose of maintaining or improving conditions of employment
libel	A false and malicious published statement that damages somebody's reputation
liberties	Freedoms
limited government	Government that is limited by a written Constitution adopted by the people as their basic law--never changing in its meaning, except subject to change by the people only by amendments at any time and to any extent they may see fit. All governments in America are thus limited by written constitutions--by the United States Constitution as the "supreme Law of the Land" and, as to each State government, by that States' Constitution.
majority rule	A majority in a community decides policy for the whole community; this is balanced by the protection of minority rights in the U.S.
mandates	Requirements EX: anti-trust legislation and tariff policy are government economic mandates
market economic system	The private-sector businesses and consumers decide what they will produce and purchase with little government intervention
mechanized farming	Farming which uses machines to accomplish the work EX: using a tractor or threshing machine
mental map	The mental image a person has of an area including knowledge of features and spatial relationships
militarism	View that a society is being best served (or most efficient) when it is governed by the military, with a heavy emphasis on discipline
minority rights	Minorities--whether as a result of ethnic background, religious belief, geographic location, income level, or simply as the losers in elections or political debate--enjoy guaranteed basic human rights that no government, and no majority, elected or not, should remove
mixed economic system	Both market forces and government decisions determine which goods and services are produced and how they are distributed
modifications	Changes EX: deforestation, mining

monarchy	A form of government in which supreme power is held by a single person who usually inherits authority for a lifetime
nationalism	A sense of national pride valuing one nation above all others and promoting its culture and interests as opposed to those of other nations
natural disaster	Large-scale damage created by a natural event EX: earthquakes, tsunamis, floods
natural resources	Materials provided by nature that can be used to produce goods or to provide services EX: oil, wood
need	Something that is a requirement; food, clothing, shelter, personal safety
opportunity cost	What is lost in giving up one thing in order to have something else EX: Buying a car carries the opportunity cost of not being able to buy something else with that money
partnership	A company set up by two or more people who put money into the business and who share the financial risks and profits
perception	Understanding based on what is thought and observed
perspective	Point of view based on your experience and beliefs
political corruption	Misuse by government officials of their powers for selfish private gain
prejudice	A preformed opinion, usually an unfavorable one, based on incomplete knowledge or inaccurate stereotypes; means "to judge before"
price control	Restriction of the maximum price that is established and maintained by the government, often to control inflation
privacy	Right of an individual to be free from intrusion into his/her personal life
production	The process of manufacturing, making, or creating a product for sale
pull factor	A feature or event that attracts a person to move to another area EX: climate, economic opportunities
push factor	A feature or event that pushes a person away from his/her current residence EX: famine, military conflict
ration	To allow each person only a certain portion of a scarce resource EX: During WWII, gasoline was rationed
reform	To change something by improving what is wrong
republic	A form of government created by a constitution in which people elect representatives to exercise power for them
resources	Materials, equipment, and people used in the production of goods and services
responsibilities	Actions you should take for the good of the country EX: voting
revenue	Earnings from the sale of goods or services
rights	Freedoms allowed by law
rule of law	Principle of limited government; the government rules over the people according to the law, not according to the personal whim of the person in charge and government officials are also held to the standard of the law
sales promotion	Method of creating public interest in a product
scarcity	The lack of needed resources
search and seizure	Examination of a person's property by law officials investigating a crime and taking items as potential evidence
security	Feeling protected and safe; being assured that something of value will not be taken away

separation of powers	Each branch of the government has separate and independent powers and areas of responsibility; the Executive, the Legislative, and the Judicial (The system of checks and balances ensures that these separate branches are interdependent.)
slander	A false and malicious statement that damages somebody's reputation
social institutions	Structures that involve people working together to meet some human need EX: family, education, government
stereotype	Ideas held about members of particular groups, simply because they belong to that group; stereotypes may be positive or negative, but are rarely completely accurate EX: people who live in rural areas are poor
stock market	Organization where brokers meet to buy and sell shares of ownership in companies
strategy	A plan of action designed to achieve a particular goal
subsidies	Money given by the government to people or organizations to help them continue to function and produce
suburban	Relating to the area where people live on the outskirts of a city or large town
suffrage	Reform movement aimed at giving women the right to vote; from the Latin "suffragium", meaning "vote"
superpower	A country with a leading position in the world and the ability to influence events and project power on a worldwide scale
supply and demand	The amount of goods and services available (supply) is dependent on the willingness of consumers to purchase goods or services (demand)
tariffs	Fees charged by the government on imported goods; also called duties EX: a tariff on imported (foreign-made) cars would make the prices on those cars higher, so citizens would be encouraged to buy cars made in their own country
totalitarian	Centralized governance, without opposition, over political, economic, social, and cultural life
traditional economic system	Resources are allocated by inheritance; strongly connected to subsistence farming and based on primitive methods and tools; found today mainly in underdeveloped, agricultural parts of South America, Asia, and Africa
trend	General movement or direction; fashion EX: companies today follow the trend of allowing on-line ordering of their products
urban	Relating to a city
urbanization	The increase over time in the number of people living and working in cities as compared to the number of people living and working in smaller communities
want	Something desired but not necessary