



AP US Government & Politics Summer Assignment

In order to prepare for AP US Government & Politics, you have two pre-course assignments:

1. Supreme Court Cases

You must know each of the required Supreme Court cases below. Click on the link for each of the videos (YouTube Carey LaManna videos for each) and take notes on the information given. A copy of your notes for these cases will be due on the first day of class in January. There will also be a matching test on this information on the first day of school, Tuesday, January 10th.

2. Federalist Papers and Amendments

You must know each of the required Federalist Papers (10, 51, 70, 78) below, as well as the Amendments listed. There will be a short answer test on this information the second day of class in the spring, Wednesday, January 11th.

I expect to see quality work turned in and for you to be well prepared for the entrance examinations. If you fail any portion of the entrance examinations, I will ask that you transfer to a regular offering of the course.

You are free to email questions to afurtado@tka.net, but the response may not be timely over the break.

AP United States Government & Politics

Unit 1 Supreme Court Cases

Click on the case name to watch a video that on that case and take notes in the space provided.

<u>McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)</u>	
Facts	
Holding	Constitutional Principle
Notes	

Video help: <https://youtu.be/Eb0Zr11bAm0>

<u>United States v. Lopez (1995)</u>	
Facts—	
Holding	Constitutional Principle
Notes	

Video help: https://youtu.be/S8Ttom_XN74

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Unit 2 Supreme Court Cases

<u><i>Baker v. Carr (1962)</i></u>	
Facts	
Holding	Constitutional Principle
Notes	

Video help: <https://youtu.be/ay3Gmn1KsBk>

<u><i>Shaw v. Reno (1993)</i></u>	
Facts	
Holding	Constitutional Principle
Notes	

Video help: <https://youtu.be/BXDTQOHAT2E>

<u><i>Marbury v. Madison (1803)</i></u>	
Facts	
Holding	Constitutional Principle

Notes	

Video help: <https://youtu.be/Rbh2FCxefPM>

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Unit 3 Supreme Court Cases

<u><i>Engel v. Vitale (1962)</i></u>	
Facts	
Holding	Constitutional Principle
Notes	

Video help: <https://youtu.be/mJif3UoT3Nw>

<u><i>Wisconsin v. Yoder (1972)</i></u>	
Facts	
Holding	Constitutional Principle
Notes	

Video help: <https://youtu.be/O4voJK1jpYw>

<u><i>Tinker v. Des Moines (1969)</i></u>	
Facts	
Holding	Constitutional Principle

Notes	

Video help: <https://youtu.be/Tr5yQFO5HyQ>

AP United States Government & Politics

Unit 3 Supreme Court Cases

<u><i>Schenck v. United States (1919)</i></u>	
Facts	
Holding	Constitutional Principle
Notes	

Video help: <https://youtu.be/MK5F8v5YJDM>

<u><i>New York Times v. United States (1971)</i></u>	
Facts	
Holding	Constitutional Principle
Notes	

Video help: <https://youtu.be/orjm90A1MtM>

<u><i>Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)</i></u>	
Facts	

Holding	Constitutional Principle
Notes	

Video help: <https://youtu.be/OGIHQGwEkaM>

AP United States Government & Politics

Unit 3 Supreme Court Cases

<u>McDonald v. Chicago (2010)</u>	
Facts	
Holding	Constitutional Principle
Notes	

Video help: <https://youtu.be/DxfcCKC2y-4>

<u>Roe v. Wade (1973)</u>	
Facts	
Holding	Constitutional Principle
Notes	

Video help: https://youtu.be/d_Y0hIvvTGE

<u>Brown v. Board of Education (1954)</u>	
Facts	

Holding	Constitutional Principle
Notes	

Video help: <https://youtu.be/5LqnTuPH5K0>

AP United States Government & Politics

Unit 5 Supreme Court Case

<u>Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (2010)</u>	
Facts	
Holding	Constitutional Principle
Notes	

Video help: <https://youtu.be/G5s2qn24Gzg>

Federalist Papers

Federalist #10

- The great thing about a strong Union is that it's really good at cutting down the influence of factions.
- Factions are bad news to a just government. They end up causing instability, injustice, and confusion.
- Lots of governments have fallen to one group gaining too much power over the whole.
- Sadly, America also has factions. Try not to panic.
- People are worried that the common good is being ignored in favor of the conflicts between rival factions.
- Not only that, but also the rights of the minor party are getting steamrolled by the power of the majority.
- But what are factions, anyways?
- They're a group of citizens, however big or small, who are united by a specific interest that puts them against another group of citizens and their specific interests.
- There are two ways to stop factions: Remove its causes or control its effects.
- The downside to the first thing is that factions are a by-product of having opinions in general and the freedom to express them.
- You can't go into someone's brain and get rid of their opinions and getting rid of people's freedom of expression kind of flies in the face of the whole democracy thing.
- Fire can't burn without that pesky oxygen (pesky freedom, in this analogy).
- So, that's a no-go on cause-preventing. But luckily, we can cut down on the worst effects of factions by governing.
- By changing the US to a Representative Democracy, big potentially dangerous ideas get filtered down.
- But does a large Republic work better than a tiny one?
- Actually, the bigger the United States are, the better – more people mean more opinions, and thus the powers of faction are kept at bay.
- Faction leaders may be able to start a spark in tehri necks of the woods, but the proverbial fire won't spread to the rest of the government thanks to our representative system.

Federalist #51

- Now that there are 3 branches how are we going to balance power?
- We're going to set them up so that they keep each other in line.
- If we're going to have a government with separate, independent branches, then each branch should have a will of its own.
- The Constitution should prevent any one branch from taking too much power, and to prevent any one person from doing the same.
- People like power. The government's run by people.
- If people were perfect, we wouldn't need government. If the people running the government were perfect, we wouldn't have to worry about it abusing its power.
- Therefore, you gotta build a system that regulates itself, and splitting the power-share does that pretty well.
- However, you can't split power three ways evenly down the middle.
- The legislative branch in a republic is usually the most powerful since they get to make the laws.

- The Constitution totally has an answer for that, and that's to split the legislative branch in half, forming the Senate and the House of Representatives.
- The Executive branch is, naturally, kind of weak. No strong rulers and all, we learned that lesson the last time.
- So, it gets the power to veto the legislative branch, which gives it some power and takes some more power away from the legislative branch.
- Long story short, breaking the government down into branches, then breaking those further down, gives you governments that will control each other while they get to control themselves at the same time.

Federalist #70

Many people think that a vigorous and strong president is incompatible with a republican form of government. Hamilton, however, does not agree. National defense, sound administration of the law, and the protection of property rights all depend upon the vitality of the Presidency.

An energetic executive branch must be characterized by unity, sufficient powers, and a certain degree of secrecy. For these reasons, one chief executive is better than two or more. Two people, granted equal power and authority, are bound to differ. Personal ambition can never be totally subdued, and a dual presidency would be marked by dissension, weakened authority, and the growth of conflicting factions. It is unnecessary and unwise to establish an executive branch that would make this form of divisiveness possible and likely. Conflict and argument are dangerous in the executive branch where decisions must be prompt. Furthermore, in case of war, when so much depends upon a strong presidency, divisiveness could destroy the national security.

This essay concerning the powers of the executive department is one of the most referenced federalist papers concerning the presidency. Hamilton writes, "energy in the executive" is one of the most important parts of the executive department of the country, as defined in the Constitution. This "energy" is one of the most written about components and excuses for expansion of presidential power, especially in the 20th century.

Federalist #78

This paper discusses the importance of an independent judicial branch and the meaning of judicial review. The Constitution proposes the federal judges hold their office for life, subject to good behavior (not breaking a law themselves). Permanency in office frees judges from political pressures (they don't have to worry about getting voted out if someone does not like their decisions).

The framers believed that the judicial branch of government is by far the weakest branch. The judicial branch possesses only the power to judge, not to act, and even its judgements or decisions depend upon the executive branch to carry them out.

Hamilton cites one other important reason for judges to have life tenure. In a free government there are bound to be many laws, some of these complex and contradictory. It takes many years to fully understand the meaning of these laws and a short term of office would discourage able and honest men from seeking an appointment to the courts; they would be reluctant to give up lucrative law practices to accept a temporary judicial appointment. Life tenure, modified by good behavior, is a superb device for assuring judicial independence and protection of individual rights.

With a view toward creating a judiciary that would constitute a balance against Congress, the framers provided for the independence of the courts from Congress. Hamilton, therefore, praises the Constitution for establishing courts that are separated from Congress.

Amendments to Know

- 1 – Freedom of Speech, Press, Assembly, Petition, Religion
- 2 – Keep and bear arms
- 3 – No quartering of troops
- 4 – Search and Seizure
- 5 – Due Process
- 6 – SAW for Criminal Cases (Speedy Trial, Attorney, Witnesses)
- 7 – Right to trial by jury for Civil Cases
- 8 – No cruel or unusual punishment
- 9 – Not in Constitution you still have it (where Privacy comes from)
- 10 – Federalism
- 11 – Can't sue states
- 12 – How president is elected
- 13 – Abolishes slavery
- 14 – Privileges and Immunities, Due Process, and Equal Protection for ALL citizens
- 15 – All men right to vote
- 16 – Income Tax
- 17 – Direct election of senators
- 18 – Prohibition
- 19 – Women right to vote
- 20 – Inauguration Day
- 21 – Abolishes prohibition
- 22 – President gets 2 terms
- 23 – DC gets 3 electoral college votes
- 24 – Abolished poll taxes
- 25 – Line of succession

26 – Voting age lowered to 18

27 – Congressional pay raises after current term