AP Government Test Prep Review:

Two Sections on the Test

Part 1. 55 Multiple Choice Questions

--30 questions will NOT have a stimulus; they will be straightforward, knowledge questions.
--25 questions will have a stimulus; you will be presented with a chart/political cartoon/map that you will have to analyze, interpret, and draw conclusions.

Part 2. 4 Free Response Questions

--**Concept Application**: Respond to a political scenario, describe and explain the effects of a political institution, behavior, or process

--**Quantitative Analysis**: Analyze quantitative data, identify a trend or pattern, or draw a conclusion from a visual representation and explain how it relates to a political principle, institution, process, policy, or behavior

--**SCOTUS Comparison**: Compare a nonrequired Supreme Court case with a required Supreme Court case, explaining how information from the required case is relevant to the nonrequired one

*The first task of the SCOTUS Comparison question (FRQ 3) will **be worded slightly differently on the paper and pencil and the digital exams, due to exam security requirements:**

> On the paper and pencil exam, the prompt specifies 1 required SCOTUS case, and the student is asked to identify how that required case is related to the case given in the scenario.
>
> ***On the digital exam, the student will be asked to choose 1 required SCOTUS case from a provided list, and describe how the required case they choose is related to the case given in the scenario.***

--**Argument Essay**: Develop an argument in the form of an essay, using evidence from required foundational documents and course concepts.

Videos to Watch:

Heimler's Video on How to Write the First 3 FRQ's:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-FZt5sT_w3M

Heimler's Video on How to Write the Argument Essay:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVjjnncloto&t=1s

Review of the Foundational Documents:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VBwmQo8Tu5w

On the next page, there are some sample FRQ's. Take some time to answer each of them.

Writing Prompt #1

Special interest groups are often criticized for being divisive as well as for hindering the legislative process.

(A) Define the term special interest group.

(B) Give one example that supports the statement above and one example that refutes it.

(C) Choose two of the following acts (laws) and explain how special interest groups either helped or hindered the passage of the law.

1. The Equal Rights Amendment (E.R.A.)
2. The American with Disabilities Act of 1990
3. The Brady Bill of 1993

(If you have to look up these items, then feel free to do so! Just remember on the EXAM you will NOT be able to do so.)

Writing Prompt #2

The Electoral College has come under criticism by some Americans following the disputed presidential election of 2000 as well as the most recent presidential election.

(A) Identify and explain the process used by the Electoral College in choosing a president.

(B) Describe two criticisms of the Electoral College system, and discuss the validity of each.

(C) Discuss one reform that has been suggested to overhaul the Electoral College system.

Writing Prompt #3

Following WWI, a memorial was erected in Prince George's County, Maryland. The memorial, known as the Bladensburg Cross, was a 32-foot tall Latin cross on a pedestal bearing the names of 49 fallen soldiers from the county; the plain Latin cross was a central symbol of the war. The Bladensburg Cross has since been the site of patriotic events honoring veterans and other veterans' monuments have been added in a nearby park over time.

Since 1961, the Cross and its underlying land have been the property of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and have been maintained using public funds.

In 2014, a suit was filed alleging that the Cross's presence on public land and the Commission's maintenance of the memorial violated the First Amendment.

In American Legion v. American Humanist Association (2019), the Supreme Court rejected this argument by a 7-2 margin. Writing for the majority, Justice Alito asserted that "retaining established, religiously expressive monuments, symbols, and practices is quite different from erecting or adopting new ones…[though] the cross originated as a Christian symbol and retains that meaning in many contexts[,]...the symbol took on an added secular meaning when used in World War I memorials. The Cross has also acquired historical importance with the passage of time...The fact that the cross is undoubtedly a Christian symbol should not blind one to everything else that the Bladensburg Cross

has come to represent: a symbolic resting place for ancestors who never returned home, a place for the community to gather and honor all veterans and their sacrifices for this Nation, and a historical landmark."

Based on the information above, respond to the following questions.

(A) Identify a common constitutional principle at issue in both American Legion v. American Humanist Association (2019) and Engel v. Vitale (1962).

(B) Compare the manner in which the context of the challenged action impacted the holdings in American Legion v. American Humanist Association (2019) and a second Supreme Court case of your choice.

(C) Explain the process by which a case reaches the Supreme Court.