AP Gov—Take Home Test

Chapters 13 (Federal Budget) and Chapter 14 (The Bureaucracy)

Answer each of the following questions thoroughly. Use a separate sheet of notebook paper or complete it in Google Docs & share it with me. If you complete this via Google Docs, clearly label it as the Ch. 13 and 14 Take Home Test.

Ch. 13 = The Federal Budget

1. What are the four main sources of federal revenues? (three major ones + one minor one)

2. How does the federal government borrow money?

3. What is the difference between "deficit" and "national debt"?

4. What is the "balanced budget amendment"? (You may have to look this up online.) What are the pros and cons of adopting a balanced budget amendment?

5. Define tax expenditures and give three examples.

6. Some have argued that cutting taxes keeps the government from growing too much. Realistically, what has happened to the scope of government during the times that taxes have been reduced?

7. Look at the chart on page 430. Compared to other industrialized nations, how does the tax burden on Americans compare?

8. When President Eisenhower discussed the "military industrial complex", what did he mean by this?

9. Explain how Social Security is a kind of intergenerational contract.

10. List four features of incremental budgeting.

11. What is the allowance theory? Why are uncontrollable expenditures different from the rest of the budget?

12. Who are the ten major players in the budget making process?

13. Define the following: budget resolution, reconciliation, authorization bill, appropriations bill, and continuing resolutions.

Chapter 14 = The Federal Bureaucracy

14. What are common myths about the federal bureaucracy?

15. What is the difference between patronage and the merit principle?

16. What is the purpose of the Hatch Act?

17. What are some common characteristics of "plum book" appointees?

18. Explain the roles of the following federal bureaucracies:

    A. The Cabinet Departments

    B. The Regulatory Agencies

    C. Government Corporations

    D. Independent Executive Agencies

19. What are the three minimum elements of implementation?

20. Explain the command-and-control policy and the incentive system.

21. List four methods in which the President can control the bureaucracy.

22. List four methods in which Congress can control the bureaucracy.

23. What is an “iron triangle”? Why are they referred to as “subgovernments”?

24. The textbook gives a detailed explanation of the death of one “iron triangle” (nuclear power). Why did nuclear power decline dramatically?

~ The End ~