

Unit #1: AMSCO Guided Reading

Foundations of American Democracy

Chapter 1: Founding Principles (Topics 1.1 - 1.3)

Chapter 2: The Constitution (Topics 1.4 - 1.6)

Chapter 3: Federalism (Topics 1.7 - 1.9)

Topic 1.1: Ideals of Democracy

Pages 3 - 9

When you come across terms/phrases you do not understand, look up their definitions. The AP US Government & Politics Exam contains complex language that can create confusion for students - even those students who have a strong understanding of course material. Improving your vocabulary will improve your ability to read and decipher passages, scenarios, questions, etc.

Example: The Enlightenment = A European movement of the 18th century that stressed the belief that science and logic give people more knowledge and understanding than tradition and religion.

1. Complete the chart below that contains information about the Enlightenment principles adopted by leading revolutionaries in the colonies.

Idea from Enlightenment Philosopher(s)	Description
Natural Rights (John Locke)	
Social Contract (Thomas Hobbes & Jean-Jacques Rousseau)	
Popular Sovereignty (Jean-Jacques Rousseau)	
Republicanism (Baron de Montesquieu)	

2. Think as a Political Scientist: Define limited government.

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3. Why did the American colonists want to break away from King George III & Great Britain? Provide 2+ reasons.

4. Foundational Documents: What was the intended purpose of the Dclaration of Independence (July 4, 1776)?

5. The first official government in the United States was called the _____.

6. The framers of the US Constitution wanted the citizen representation of a democracy, but on a national level, so they created a _____, a collection of sovereign states gathered for the national interest, national needs, and national defense.

7. In your opinion, which of the five principles of our government is MOST important? Why?
(Options: Natural rights, popular sovereignty, social contract, limited government, republicanism)

Topic 1.2: Types of Democracy

Pages 10 - 15

1. Complete the chart below that contains information about the forms of Representative Democracies.

Type of Democracy	Definition	Pros	Cons	Example(s)
Participatory Democracy				
Pluralist Democracy				

Elite Democracy				
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2. Which of the three types of democracy are most similar? Can you think of an example of democracy being both of them at the same time?

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3. How is each type of democracy represented in the U.S. Constitution?

Participatory	Pluralism	Elitism

4. In your opinion, which form of democracy is most *effective* at the creation of public policy? Why?
(Options: Participatory, pluralist, elite)

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5. Those who supported the proposed structure of the US Constitution, a strong federal government, and supported full ratification (approval) of the proposed Constitution became known as _____.

6. How did the Federalists encourage the states to ratify the US Constitution?

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7. Those who opposed ratification of the proposed US Constitution because of its consolidation of the states under a federal government, became known as the _____.

8. Why type of democracy does Federalist #10 support? **Circle one** (Options: Participatory, Pluralist, Elite)

9. Which type of democracy does Brutus 1 support? **Circle one** (Options: Participatory, Pluralist, Elite)

Topic 1.3: Government Power & Individual Rights

Pages 16 - 21

1. Under the Articles of Confederation, political power belonged largely to _____ governments.

2. According to *Federalist #10*, what main points are the "Federalists" trying to make?

3. According to *Brutus 1*, what main points are the "Anti-Federalists" trying to make?

4. Complete the chart below that contains information on the Federalists and Anti-Federalists.

	Believed Power Should Lie with the	Views Regarding the Proposed U.S. Constitution	Fears
Federalists			
Anti- Federalists			

5. In your opinion, were the Anti-Federalists fears justified? Why or why not?