

Chapter 1: Introduction to Government

Topics	Key Questions	Key Terms
Government	Identify the key functions of government and explain why they matter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> political participation single-issue groups policymaking system linkage institutions policymaking agenda political issue public policy majority rule minority rights pluralism elitism hyperpluralism
Politics	Define politics in the context of democratic government	
The Policymaking System	Assess how citizens can have an impact on public policy and how policies can impact people.	
Democracy in America	Identify the key principles of democracy and outline theories regarding how it works in practice and challenges democracy faces today.	

Chapter 6: Public Opinion and Political Action

Topics	Key Questions	Key Terms
The American People	Identify demographic trends and their likely impact on American politics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> public opinion demographics census melting pot majority minority political culture political socialization exit poll political ideology gender gap political participation trial balloon
How Americans Learn About Politics: Political Socialization	Outline how various forms of socialization shape political opinions.	
What American Voters Value: Political Ideologies	Assess the influence of political ideology on Americans' political thinking and behavior.	
How Americans Participate in Politics	Classify forms of political participation into two broad types.	
Understanding Public Opinion and Political Action	Analyze how public opinion about the scope of the government guides political behavior.	

Chapter 7: The Mass Media and the Political Agenda

Topics	Key Questions	Key Terms
The News and Public Opinion	Analyze the impact the media has on what policy issues Americans think about.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• policy agenda• media as gatekeeper• media as scorekeeper• media as watchdog
Understanding the Mass Media	Assess the impact of the mass media on the scope of government and democracy in America.	
FRQs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. One of the most important ways the news media influence politics is through agenda setting.<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Define policy agenda.b) Explain how the national news media engage in agenda setting.c) Explain the primary reason the president tends to have an advantage over Congress in gaining media attention.		

Chapter 8: Political Parties

Topics	Key Questions	Key Terms
The Meaning of Party	Identify the functions that political parties perform in American democracy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> political party linkage institution party identification ticket splitting third parties winner-take-all system proportional representation coalition government
The Party in the Electorate	Determine the significance of party identification in America today.	
Third Parties: Their Impact on American Politics	Assess both the impact of third parties on American politics and their limitations	
Understanding Political Parties	Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of responsible party government.	

FRQs:

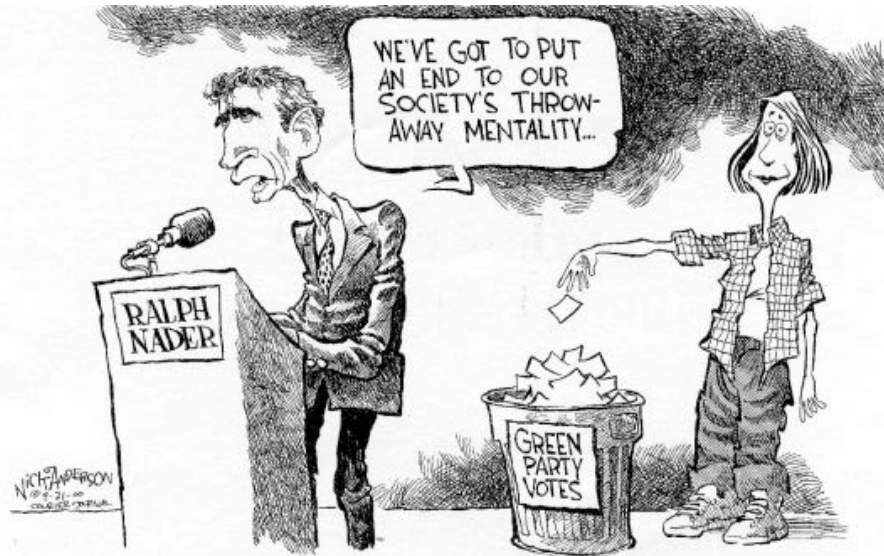
In the United States political system, there are several linkage institutions that can connect citizens to government. Elections constitute one such institution. Because of low voter turnout, elections represent an imperfect method of linking citizens to their government. Even when there is low voter turnout, however, other linkage institutions can connect citizens to government.

(a) Describe how each of the following is related to the likelihood of voting.

- Age
- Education

(b) Identify one current government electoral requirement that decreases voter turnout. Explain how it decreases voter turnout.

(c) Identify one linkage institution other than elections and explain two ways it connects citizens to government.



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Minor parties have been a common feature of United States politics.

a. Describe the point of view expressed about minor parties in the political cartoon.

b. Identify and explain how two rules of the United States electoral system act as obstacles to minor party candidates winning elections.

c. Minor parties make important contributions to the United States political system in spite of the institutional obstacles to their candidates' success.

Describe two of these contributions.

Linkage institutions—such as political parties, the media, and interest groups—connect citizens to the government and play significant roles in the electoral process.

- (a) Describe one important function of political parties as a linkage institution in elections.
- (b) Describe the influence of the media on the electoral process in each of the following roles.
 - Gatekeeping/agenda setting
 - Scorekeeping/horse race journalism
- (c) Describe two strategies interest groups use to influence the electoral process.
- (d) Explain how, according to critics, interest groups may limit representative democracy.

Chapter 9: Campaigning and Voter Behavior

Topics	Key Questions	Key Terms
The Nomination Game	Evaluate the fairness of our current system of presidential primaries and caucuses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nomination • campaign strategy • national party conventions • superdelegates • invisible primary • caucus • presidential primaries • party platform • campaign contributions • political action committee (PACs) • Super PACs • political efficacy • civic duty • policy voting • mandate theory of elections • Electoral College • swing states • battleground states
The Impact of Campaigns	Determine why campaigns have an important yet limited impact on election outcomes.	
Whether to Vote: A Citizen's First Choice	Identify the factors that influence whether people vote.	
How Americans Vote: Explaining Citizens Decisions	Assess the impact of party identification, candidate evaluations, and policy opinions on voting behavior.	
The Last Battle: The Electoral College	Evaluate the fairness of the Electoral College	

Citizens often choose to participate in the political process in ways other than voting.

- a) Identify two forms of participation in the political process other than voting.
- b) Explain two advantages of each form of participation you identified in (a).

A significant feature of the electoral college is that most states have a winner-take-all system.

- a) Describe the winner-take-all feature of the electoral college.
- b) Explain one way in which the winner-take-all feature of the electoral college affects how presidential candidates from the two major political parties run their campaigns.
- c) Explain one way in which the winner-take-all feature of the electoral college hinders third-party candidates.
- d) Explain two reasons why the electoral college has not been abolished.

Nominees for the presidency of the two major parties are chosen by delegates at national conventions. How these delegates are chosen varies across states and between the political parties.

1. Define each of the following methods used by states to choose delegates to party conventions.

a. Open primary

b. Caucus

2. Republican Party rules permit winner-take-all primaries. Describe one consequence of this rule for the Republican nomination process.

3. The Democratic Party has used superdelegates in the presidential nominating process since 1984. Explain why the use of superdelegates increases the influence of party leaders in the Democratic nomination process.

4. Explain why a candidate's strategy to win the nomination is often different from the strategy developed to win the general election.



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The framers created the electoral college to elect the president of the United States. This system influences the campaign strategies of presidential candidates.

Describe one reason that the framers chose to use the electoral college as the method to elect the president.

Describe the message the cartoon above conveys about presidential elections.

Explain why California, Texas, and New York do not appear prominently in the cartoon above.

Describe two campaign tactics presidential candidates use to win the key states identified in the cartoon above

Chapter 2: the Constitution

Topics	Key Questions	Key Terms
The Origins of the Constitution	Describe the ideas behind the American Revolution and their role in shaping the Constitution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• natural rights• consent of the governed• limited government• Articles of Confederation• factions• New Jersey Plan• Virginia Plan• Connecticut (or Great) Compromise• writ of habeus corpus• the tyranny of the majority/majoritarianism• separation of powers• checks and balances• republicanism• Federalists• Anti-Federalists• <i>Marbury v. Madison</i>• judicial review
The Government That Failed: 1777-1787	Analyze how the weakness of the Articles of Confederation led to its failure.	
Making a Constitution: The Philadelphia Convention	Describe the delegates to the Constitutional Convention and the core ideas they shared.	
Critical Issues at the Convention	Categorize the issues at the Constitutional Convention and outline the resolutions reached on each type of issue.	
The Madisonian System	Analyze how the components of the Madisonian system addressed the dilemma of reconciling majority rule with the protection of minorities.	
Ratifying the Constitution	Compare and contrast the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists in terms of their background and their positions regarding government.	
Changing the Constitution	Explain how the Constitution can be formally amended and how it changes informally.	
FRQs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. The framers of the Constitution created a political system based on limited government. The original Constitution and the Bill of Rights were intended to restrict the powers of the national government. Later constitutional developments also limited the powers of state governments.<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Explain how each of the following limits the powers of the national government.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Federalism• checks and balances• separation of powers2. The United States Constitution’s ratification resulted from a political process that required compromise between the Federalists and Anti-Federalists. Many of the debates in government today continue to reflect the concerns of each perspective.<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Compare the positions of Federalists and Anti-Federalists regarding the power of the national government.b) Describe two features of the original Constitution that have led to a growth in the power of the national government.c) Explain how each of the following additions to the Constitution addressed Anti-Federalist concerns.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First Amendment• Tenth Amendment3. The Constitution limited the power of the national government and restricted popular control; however, citizen participation has changed over time.<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Explain how each of the following constitutional features protects against the concentration of power in the national government.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• checks and balances• federalismb) Explain how the following features of the Constitution limited the people’s ability to influence the national government.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electoral Collegec) Describe a constitutional amendment that increased suffrage		

Chapter 3: Federalism

Topics	Key Questions	Key Terms	
Defining Federalism	Define federalism and contrast it with alternative ways of organizing a nation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• federalism• unitary governments• intergovernmental relations• supremacy clause• 10th Amendment• <i>McCulloch v. Maryland</i>• enumerated powers• implied powers• elastic clause	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Gibbons v. Ogden</i>• full faith and credit• extradition• dual federalism• cooperative federalism• devolution• fiscal federalism• categorical grants• project grants• formula grants• block grants
The Constitutional Basis of Federalism.	Outline the constitutional basis for the division of power between national and state governments, the establishment of national supremacy, and the states’ obligations to each other.		
Intergovernmental Relations	Characterize the shift from dual to cooperative federalism and the role of fiscal federalism in intergovernmental regulations today.		
Diversity in Policy	Explain the consequences of federalism for diversity in public policies among the states.		
Understanding Federalism	Assess the impact of federalism on democratic government and the scope of government.		
FRQs:			
<div>1. The Constitution was an attempt to address problems of decentralization that were experienced under the Articles of Confederation.<div>a) List three problems of decentralized power that existed under the Articles of Confederation. For each problem you listed, identify one solution that the Constitution provided to address the problem.<div>b) Some have argued that the tensions between decentralized and centralized power continue to exist. Support this argument by explaining how one of the following illustrates the continuing tension.<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• environmental policy• gun control• women’s health</div></div></div></div> <div>2. The power of the federal government relative to the power of the states has increased since the ratification of the Constitution<div>a) Describe two of the following provisions of the Constitution and explain how each has been used over time to expand federal power.<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• The power to tax and spend• The “necessary and proper” or “elastic” clause• The commerce clause</div><div>b) Explain how one of the following has increased the power of the federal government relative to the power of state governments.<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Civil Rights Act of 1964 *No Child Left Behind *Clean Air Act</div></div></div></div> <div>3. The framers of the United States Constitution created a federal system.<div>a) Define federalism.<div>b) Select one of the following and explain how each has been used to increase the power of the federal government relative to the states.<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Categorical grants• Federal mandates</div><div>c) Select one of the following and explain how each has been used to increase the power of the states relative to the federal government.<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Block grants• Tenth Amendment</div></div></div></div></div>			

The graph below shows reelection rates for incumbents in the House and Senate. From this information and your knowledge of United States politics, perform the following tasks.

- Identify two patterns displayed in the graph.
- Identify two factors that contribute to incumbency advantage. Explain how each factor contributes to incumbency advantage.
- Discuss one consequence of incumbency advantage for the United States political process.

