

# Key Government Agencies & Corporations

AP Exam  
Study Tool

AGENCY	AGENCY CLASSIFICATION	MAJOR FUNCTIONS/RESPONSIBILITIES
<b>Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)</b>	Independent Agency, but answers to Dir. Of Nat. Intelligence	Gathers information and conducts covert operations internationally to promote the national security interests of the United States.
<b>Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)</b>	Independent Agency with cabinet level status	Enforces federal environmental protection laws and conducts research relating to the health of the environment.
<b>Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI)</b>	Under Dept. of Justice	Enforces federal laws against criminal violators of those laws.
<b>Federal Communications Commission (FCC)</b>	Independent Regulatory Commission	Charged with regulating interstate and international communications by radio, television, wire, satellite and cable.”
<b>Federal Reserve Board (The Fed)</b>	Independent Regulatory Commission	Regulates the national money supply to help control inflation and moderate fluctuations in the economic business cycle.
<b>Federal Trade Commission (FTC)</b>	Independent Regulatory Commission	Seeks to protect consumers and thwart anti-competitive business practices.
<b>Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)</b>	Formerly Independent Agency; now under Dept. of Homeland Sec.	Responds to disaster within US and which overwhelms the resources of local and municipal authorities; disbursement of government funds for rebuilding efforts and relief funds for individual citizens and businesses
<b>Food &amp; Drug Administration (FDA)</b>	Under Dept. of Health & Human Services	Responsible for regulating food (human and animal), dietary supplements, drugs (human and animal), cosmetics, medical devices and radiation emitting devices , biologics, and blood products in the U.S.
<b>General Services Administration (GSA)</b>	Independent Agency	Facilitates the work of other federal agencies, providing them with office space and equipment.
<b>Government Accountability Office (GAO)</b>	Independent Agency	Investigates government spending of taxpayer dollars to ensure they are being spent wisely and efficiently.
<b>Nat. Aeronautics &amp; Space Admin. (NASA)</b>	Independent Agency	Conducts scientific research and aerospace exploration.
<b>Nat. Archives &amp; Records Admin. (NARA)</b>	Independent Agency	Stores documents and records relevant to or produced by the federal government.
<b>National Security Agency (NSA)</b>	Under Defense Dept.; answers to Dir. of Nat. Security	Monitors communications to gather intelligence and protect national security.
<b>Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)</b>	Independent Regulatory Commission	Regulate(s) civilian use of nuclear materials

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<b>Occupational Safety &amp; Health Admin (OSHA)</b>	Under Dept. of Labor	Sets and enforces standards relating to the well being of working Americans
<b>Office of Personnel Management (OPM)</b>	Independent Agency	Federal human resources agency; ensures that the civil service remains free of political influence and that federal employees are selected and treated fairly and on the basis of merit
<b>Securities &amp; Exchange Commission (SEC)</b>	Independent Regulatory Commission	Policies the stock market; protect investors, maintain fair, orderly, and efficient markets, and facilitate capital formation by punishing securities fraud and requiring transparent corporate finances
<b>Small Business Administration (SBA)</b>	Independent Agency	Helps protect and promote the interests of small businesses
<b>Social Security Administration (SSA)</b>	Independent Agency	Manages the federal social security program.
<b>Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)</b>	Government Corporation	Looks out for the energy, communication, and economic needs of the Tennessee Valley area; nation's largest public power company
<b>United States Postal Service (USPS)</b>	Government Corporation	Manages the nation's domestic and international postal system.