



STUDY GUIDE: FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

AP Gov/Ms. Strong



Format: 40 Multiple Choice questions, one Free Response Question (FRQ), several extra credit questions.

Review Resource: Go to Ms. Strong's website for political process PowerPoints, notes, etc.
<http://jstrongapgov.weebly.com/foundations-of-american-democracy.html>

Readings

- Sabato Chapters. 1 (pages 2-14), 2, & 3 (including vocabulary)
- John Locke's *Second Treatise*
- U.S. Constitution: Preamble, Articles I-VII, Amendments, STUDYING THE CONSTITUTION PACKET!!!!
- James Madison and *Federalist 51*

Content – Study class notes, PowerPoints, and handouts

- Types and characteristics of democracy: pure/direct democracy (ballot initiatives, referendums, recall elections), representative/indirect democracy, republic
- Types of Government: autocracy, totalitarian dictatorship, absolute monarchy, constitutional monarchy, oligarchy, democracy (direct & representative)
- Economic systems: communism, socialism, welfare capitalism, capitalism
- Philosophical roots of American democracy: Hobbes and Locke
- British influences: Magna Charta, English Bill of Rights
- Colonial Influences: Mayflower Compact, Declaration of Independence, state constitutions
- Articles of Confederation: weaknesses, accomplishments, why it failed, Shays' Rebellion
- Constitutional Convention: why it convened, who was there, who was not
 - Controversies: representation (VA Plan, NJ Plan), slavery, presidential power, power of the national government,
 - Compromises: Great Compromise (a.k.a. Connecticut Plan), Three-fifths Compromise, Electoral College
 - Struggle for ratification: Federalist v. Antifederalists
- KNOW THE U.S. CONSTITUTION!!!!: The founding principles (Limited Government/Rule of Law, Federalism, Separation of Powers, Checks And Balances); Articles, powers (delegated, expressed, implied, inherent, concurrent); powers of the branches, all amendments, specific examples of denied powers [ex: *Writ of Habeas Corpus*, *ex post facto* laws, bills of attainder], checks and balances, amendment process
- Structure of Government: Unitary System, Confederation, Federal System, advantages and disadvantages of federalism
- Constitutional Structure of American Federalism: Implied Powers/"Necessary and Proper Clause" [Ex: Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Commerce Clause], Supremacy Clause, 10th Amendment/Reserved Powers, Full Faith and Credit Clause
- American Federalism: Dual Federalism, Cooperative Federalism, No Child Left Behind, Devolution
- Supreme Court decisions: *Marbury v. Madison*, *McCulloch v. Maryland*, *Gibbons v. Ogden*, *Gitlow v. New York*, *United States v. Lopez*, *McDonald v. Chicago*, Selective incorporation (a.k.a. Incorporation Doctrine), *Obergefell v. Hodges*
- Federal Grants-in-Aid: Revenue Sharing, Categorical Grants, Federal Mandates (including unfunded mandates), Block Grants

Sample Free Response Questions (FRQs) – Since this is your first test in AP Gov, Ms. Strong is providing sample FRQs for you to study. One of these FRQs will appear on your test. It would be a good idea to prepare for the content in each of the five below.

1. James Madison defends the limited government created by the U.S. Constitution in *Federalist 51*, and asserted that "ambition must be made to counteract ambition."
 - a) Define "limited government."
 - b) Explain how two of the Constitutional principles below were intended by the Founders prevent the concentration of power within the national government.
 - Separation of Powers
 - Bicameralism
 - Checks and balances
 - c) Explain how two of the Constitutional provisions or principles below restrict the power of the national government.
 - *Writ of habeas corpus*
 - Federalism
 - Elections

2. The founding fathers created a government under the Constitution rooted in federalism in which both the national and state governments were given certain powers.
 - a) Explain how each of the following has been used to expand the power of the federal government over the states.
 - Commerce clause
 - Federal Mandates
 - b) Explain how each of the following has played a role in the devolution of power from the national government to the states.
 - Block grants
 - Supreme Court decisions

3. The United States government was established on the principles of democracy. However, sometimes government falls short of implementing those principles in practice.
 - a) Define "democracy."
 - b) Federalism allows for some forms of direct democracy at the state and local levels. Explain how two of the examples below allow citizens to have a more direct say in their government.
 - Initiative
 - Referendum
 - Recall
 - c) Choose two of the fundamental principles established in the U.S. Constitution below and explain how each promotes democracy.
 - Popular sovereignty
 - Equality of opportunity
 - Personal liberty

4. 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.
 - a) Explain how each of the following limits the powers of the national government.
 - Federalism
 - Checks and balances
 - b) Choose TWO of the following provisions in the Bill of Rights and explain how each limits the powers of the national government.
 - 1st Amend. freedom of religion
 - 4th Amend. unreasonable search and seizure
 - 1st Amend. freedom of the press
 - c) Choose ONE of the following and explain how it limits the power of state governments.
 - "Necessary and Proper" Clause
 - Selective incorporation

5. The framers of the Constitution devised a federal system of government that affected the relationship between the national and state governments.
 - a) Explain why the framers of the Constitution created a system of government based upon federalism.
 - b) Choose TWO of the following and explain how each has been used to increase the power of the federal government relative to the states.
 - *McCulloch v. Maryland*
 - Categorical grants
 - Supremacy Clause
 - c) Choose TWO of the following explain how each has been used to increase the power of the states relative to the federal government.
 - *U.S. v. Lopez*
 - Block grants
 - Tenth Amendment