American Government: Final Exam Study Guide

The final exam will consist of 30 multiple choice questions assessing knowledge of the entire course.

Constitutional Foundations Concepts -
1. What role did the Magna Carta and the English Bill of Rights have in creating the American Government?
2. What were the philosophies of Montesquieu and Locke? Give specific examples of how does our American Government system reflects these views.
3. In what ways does the Declaration of Independence reflect the Social Contract belief?
4. In what ways was the concept of federalism incorporated into the Constitution? Why was federalism a demand of the Founding Fathers? What amendment most supports this concept?
5. What aspects of colonial American government were related to the English roots of representative government?
6. What were the arguments of the Federalists and Anti-Federalists? Identify the leaders from both sides.

Define/Describe:
- a. English Bill of Rights
- b. Magna Carta
- c. Bill of Rights (US Constitution)
- d. Declaration of Independence
- e. John Locke
- f. Montesquieu (Separation of Powers)
- g. Checks and Balances
- h. Social Contract
- i. Limited Government
- j. Inalienable Rights
- k. Divine Right
- l. Will of the People
- m. Federalism

Structure and Function of Legislative Branch
1. What is the difference between expressed, implied, and reserved powers? What are examples of each?
2. Considering the varying points of view in Congress and the likelihood of the House and Senate to have opposing majority parties, how can differences in proposed bills be worked out? Whose responsibility is it?
3. What is the purpose, the effect, and the significance of the relationship of lobbyist and members of Congress?
4. What power of checks and balances can Congress implement in regards to the President and the Judicial Branch?
5. What is the process of a bill becoming a law? List all the steps.
6. What are the different factors that influence decision making of law-makers and to what degree are these factors influential?

Define/Describe:
   a. Examples of Separation of Powers
   b. Veto
   c. Delegated Powers
   d. Legislative Elastic Clause
   e. Expressed, implied and inherent powers (examples)
   f. Commerce Clause
   g. Supremacy Clause
   h. Political parties
   i. Media
   j. Interest groups
   k. Conference committee

Structure and Function of the Executive Branch
1. Has the power of the President been expanded or limited in recent years? In what ways?
2. Describe the duties and powers of the President as detailed in Article II of the Constitution.
3. Identify presidential role and example of that illustrate the roles
4. What tool of checks and balances can the President implement?
5. What is the President’s role in regards to framing American foreign policy?
6. What is the nomination process?

Define/Describe:
   a. Executive Order
   b. Appointment Power
   c. Checks and Balances
   d. Electoral College
   e. Define each of the presidential roles

Structure and Function of the Judicial Branch
1. What is the difference between Judicial Constraint and Judicial Activism?
2. Describe the factors that can influence a Supreme Court decision.
3. How is it possible for a Supreme Court decision to be reversed?
4. What significance did the following court cases have on Judicial Review?
   a. Marbury v Madison
   b. McCollough v. Maryland
   c. Gibbons v. Ogden

Define/Describe:
   a. Article III
b. Judicial Review
c. Dual court system
d. jurisdiction
e. appellate
f. due process
g. Supreme Court
h. Marbury v Madison, McCulloch v. Maryland, and Gibbons v. Ogden

State and Local Government
1. Distinguish between initiative, referendum and recall procedures for Arizona
2. What purpose do these procedures play for the citizens of Arizona?
3. How does the initiative, referendum and recall engage political responsibility
4. What are the reserved powers of state governments

Civil Liberties, Rights and Responsibilities
1. Describe the responsibilities of American citizenship.
2. Describe how conflicts between rights of citizens occur during times of crisis or war.
3. How are the limits on First Amendment rights determined? How did the following cases impact First Amendment Freedoms? Schenk v. US, Sheppard v. Maxwell
4. What was the constitutional basis for the ruling in the following court cases? Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka
5. Explain the rights of an accused person based on due process as established by the Constitution.
6. In what ways has the right to vote been expanded in America? Identify each of the measures that provided this expansion.

Define/Describe:
a. Separate but equal
b. 14th Amendment
c. Clear and Present Danger
d. Patriot Acts
e. 1st Amendment
f. Schenk v United States
g. Libel
h. 4th – 8th Amendments
i. Voting Amendments 15th, 19th, 26th,

Political Parties, Role of the Media
1. Describe the major differences between liberal and conservative ideologies.
2. In what way do political parties impact the job of Congress?
3. What are the purposes of political parties?
4. In what way can media impact an election and/or public perception of elected officials?
Define/Describe:
  a. PACs
  b. Super PACs
  c. Citizens United

Role of Government/Government Systems
1. Describe the factors that influence American foreign policy.
2. Describe the factors and processes that determine major domestic policies.
3. What factors have led to the increase in the influence of interest groups in American government and politics?
4. Where does the power lie in the following types of governmental systems? monarchy, oligarchy, dictatorship, unitary, representative democracy

Define/Describe:
  a. Monarchy
  b. Dictatorship
  c. Oligarchy
  d. unitary
  e. Foreign policy
  f. Domestic policy