

AP US Government – Midterm Study Guide

Spring 2013

Midterm Exam Details

- Covers Ch. 12 -17, split over two days: written – Thu. 3/21, MC – Fri. 3/22
- Written: 4 FRQs (you choose 2) – *FRQs taken from actual AP exams between 2000 and 2012*
- Multiple Choice: 45 questions – *MCs taken from AP Review Exams & Review Books*

Concepts/Terms you should know/be able to explain

(concepts are grouped under topics – several concepts may be addressed in multiple chapters)

Ch. 12 – Congress

- Pork barrel politics, casework, earmarking
- House vs. Senate qualifications, unique powers, term durations (& why they are that length)
- Franking privilege (& advantages of such privilege)
- Select/Special/Joint/Conference/Standing committees *Ways & Means, Rules, Judiciary
- Committee staffing & seniority privileges, majority/minority party advantages
- Legislative powers of, foreign policy powers of (formal and informal)
- Delegate/politico/trustee/partisan roles
- Oversight hearings (function & purpose of), relation to bureaucracy/agencies
- Possible response to SCOTUS rulings
- Roles of Speaker/leaders/whips, how Speaker is chosen
- Senate filibuster (how it works, relation to lawmaking/party politics)

Ch. 13 – The Presidency

- Constitutional powers (how they get them and what they are)
- Function/purpose of White House staff
- War Powers Resolution, other foreign policy powers (formal & informal)
- Confirmation of appointments (judicial & executive)
- Cabinets & secretaries (function, purpose, behavior) *know the Departments!
- Pocket veto vs. regular veto
- Methods for gaining popular support
- 22nd & 25th Amendments

Ch. 14 – Congress & Presidential Budget-making

- Progressive/regressive/proportional/flat tax
- Continuing resolutions
- OMB vs. CBO
- Federal income tax: how it was created, its proportion of the budget, structure & scope of

Ch. 15 - Bureaucracy

- Independent agencies vs. regulatory agencies vs. govt corporation/department
- Iron triangles (components)
- Patronage & the merit system reforms in the 1800s
- Major agencies (EPA, SEC, FTC, NASA, USPS, FCC)
- Policy-making discretion granted by Congress, limitations of legislative oversight

Ch. 16 – The Federal Courts

- *Marbury v. Madison*
- *Habeas corpus* vs. *writ of certiorari* vs. *ex post facto* vs. *stare decisis*
- Bill of attainder
- Number of SCOTUS justices & how/why that number is chosen
- Judicial activism/restraint & role in creation of precedent
- Senatorial courtesy
- Original vs. appellate jurisdiction
- Sources of SCOTUS cases

Ch. 17 – Economic Policymaking

- Federal Reserve/Treasury Department (functions of, differences between)
- Fiscal policy vs. monetary policy, influences of executive & legislative branches
- Keynesian vs. supply-side economics (use of both in history & by parties in philosophy/platform)
- *Laissez-faire* policies & their implications