

AP United States Government and Politics – 2019/20 Summer Assignment

The AP course for US Government is a college-level class that is designed to prepare you for the AP exam in May. In order to set you up for success in this class, I am giving you a summer assignment to help you review some foundational documents and major Supreme Court cases in our country's history. The 2019/20 summer assignment for Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics consists of ten activities. **ALL activities will be due Friday, September 6th, at the beginning of class.**

ACTIVITIES

1. The United States Constitution

The Constitution of the United States of America is the supreme law of the United States. Empowered with the sovereign authority of the people by the framers and the consent of the legislatures of the states, it is the source of all government powers, and provides important limitations on the government that protect the fundamental rights of United States citizens.

Test---This information will be tested in the first weeks of school. Also, you will need to know the Constitution very well on the AP test- get started now!

2. Supreme Court Case Journals

Research 15 Supreme Court cases that you should know for the AP test, these cases will be used in class, so make sure you understand what is happening in each one. The Constitutional question, background information, and summary should be written in complete sentences.

Constitutional Question- You need to establish what Constitutional question arose from the specific case. Make sure to include which article or amendment is in question.

Background Information- In one paragraph, summarize the background information of the case. What is this case about? What happened in this case to bring it to the Supreme Court?

Summary of the Court's Opinion- The summary should include the vote of the court as well as explain what they decided and why. If you see connections to other cases, make sure that you note that in this section. This section should be 6-8 sentences to explain what the ruling means.

Be sure that your background of the case and the opinion of the Court are in your own words. If any part of your Supreme Court case journal is not in your own words.

3. Federalists Papers #10, #51, #70, and #78

The Federalist Papers are a series of 85 essays arguing in support of the United States Constitution. Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay were the authors behind the pieces, and the three men wrote collectively under the name of Publius. Read the selected four articles and respond to the questions provided in this packet.

4. Brutus #1

The antifederalists papers are a collection of essays written in opposition to the Federalists Papers; Brutus 1 is the most famous. Brutus is a pseudonym used either by Robert Yates, Melancton Smith or John Williams. The anti-federalists thought of themselves as protectors of the young nation of the US from tyranny. Read the selected article and respond to the questions provided in this packet.

5. **Declaration of Independence**

The Declaration of Independence is the statement adopted by the Second Continental Congress meeting at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on July 4, 1776. The Declaration announced that the Thirteen Colonies at war with the Kingdom of Great Britain would regard themselves as thirteen independent sovereign states, no longer under British rule. With the Declaration, these new states took a collective first step toward forming the United States of America. Read the entire document and respond to the questions in this packet.

6. **Articles of Confederation**

The Articles of Confederation was the first written constitution of the United States. Stemming from wartime urgency, its progress was slowed by fears of central authority and extensive land claims by states before it was ratified on March 1, 1781. Under these articles, the states remained sovereign and independent, with Congress serving as the last resort on appeal of disputes. Read the entire document and respond to the questions in this packet.

7. **Bill of Rights**

The Bill of Rights comprises the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution. Proposed following the often bitter 1787–88 debate over ratification of Constitution, and written to address the objections raised by Anti-Federalists, the Bill of Rights amendments add to the Constitution specific guarantees of personal freedoms and rights, clear limitations on the government's power in judicial and other proceedings, and explicit declarations that all powers not specifically granted to the U.S. Congress by the Constitution are reserved for the states or the people. Read the entire document and respond to the questions in this packet.

8. **MLK Letter from Birmingham Jail**

The Letter from Birmingham Jail, also known as the Letter from Birmingham City Jail and The Negro Is Your Brother, is an open letter written on April 16, 1963, by Martin Luther King Jr. The letter defends the strategy of nonviolent resistance to racism. Read the entire document and respond to the questions in this packet.

9. **Read and Annotate: “A Brilliant Solution- Inventing the American Constitution”**- We will be reviewing, discussing and testing on this book by Carol Berkin during the first month of class. “A Brilliant Solution” discusses the circumstances around the writing of the Constitution and what the founders argued about during the Constitutional Convention. You will be tested on this content and the historical background will be on the AP test. For every chapter, you will need to write a brief summary or at least 3 main annotations. These are things that jump out to you as you read. Annotations are brief summaries of your understanding.

Activity #1- THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

DIRECTIONS: Read the U.S. Constitution. Complete this worksheet using any online or print resource you require—you will keep it in your notebook for reference throughout the course. This review of the Constitution does not need to be in complete sentences.

A. The Original Constitution

Read each article of the Constitution. Summarize the general purpose or subject of each article, and then write down the meanings of any unfamiliar terms (look them up) or bigger questions you have for discussion. This can be a place for creative “what-if” questions, too---now is the time to write them down.

Article #	Big Idea- The Main Topics	Details- Unfamiliar Terms and Questions
I		
II		
III		
IV		
V		
VI		
VII		

Follow-up #1

Which is the longest and most detailed article? Why do you think that is?

B. The Three Branches- Powers

Enumerated powers are those listed specifically in the Constitution. Look through the first three Articles for examples. Pay careful attention to checks and balances—how each branch of government controls the others. Remember to answer in your own words, and to look up what you don't understand.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Checks & Balances: What are TWO enumerated powers it has over the President?

Checks and Balances: What is ONE enumerated power it has over the courts?

What other enumerated powers does Congress have?

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Checks & Balances: What is ONE enumerated power it has over the courts?

1.

Checks & Balances: What is ONE enumerated power it has over Congress?

1.

What other enumerated powers does the President have?

JUDICIAL BRANCH

Checks & Balances: What's ONE enumerated power it has over the President?

a.

Checks & Balances: What is ONE enumerated power it has over Congress?

a.

What other enumerated powers do the courts have?

Follow-up #2

Identify and explain two powers that the Constitution specifically DENIES to Congress.

C. The Amendment Process

In your own words, describe TWO ways to propose an amendment, and TWO ways to ratify an amendment.

2 Ways to Propose an Amendment	2 Ways to Ratify an Amendment

Follow-up #3

Can you find which process of proposal and ratification has been used most often?

Which has never been used? Why do you think it has never been used?

D. Requirements for National Office

What requirements can you find to hold political office in the United States? Fill in the table below with your findings from the Constitution and the amendments.

	House of Reps	Senate	President	Supreme Court Justice
Age Requirement				
Citizenship Requirement				
Length of Term				
Gaining Office- How does it happen? Who is involved?				

Follow-Up #4

Why would the requirements vary for different offices? Come up with some theories on why the founders would make different rules for different branches.

Follow-Up #5

Where and what is the Elastic Clause in the U.S. Constitution?

E. The Amendments to the Constitution

Identify the main point of each Constitutional amendment.

Amendment	What did this amendment accomplish?
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Follow-Up #6

Which Amendments are called the Civil War Amendments and what is significant about each?

Activity #2- SUPREME COURT CASE JOURNALS

You need to research each of the 15 Supreme Court cases listed below. Each case summary should be typed on its own page. The Constitutional question, background information, and summary should be written in complete sentences. See example on next page.

For each case, you will need to provide the following. For more details, see first page of packet.

- Constitutional Question
- Background Information
- Summary of the Court's Opinion

*If any part of your Supreme Court case journal is not in your own words, **it will not be graded, and you will not receive credit!** Take the material and re-write it so it makes sense to you! I don't want to see you trying to pass off the Wikipedia entry as your own.

15 COURT CASES (CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)

1803-1969	1971-2012
1. Marbury v. Madison (1803)	9. NY Times v. US (1971)
2. McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)	10. Wisconsin v. Yoder (1972)
3. Schenck v. US (1919)	11. Roe v. Wade (1973)
4. Brown v. Board of Education (1954)	12. Shaw v. Reno (1993)
5. Baker v. Carr (1962)	13. U.S. vs Lopez (1995)
6. Engel v. Vitale (1962)	14. Citizens United v. FEC (2010)
7. Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)	15. McDonald v. City of Chicago (2010)
8. Tinker v. Des Moines (1969)	

A SAMPLE CASE SUMMARY FOLLOWS:

***Yes, you may use the information from this case summary to help you write your own.**

Marbury v. Madison (1803)

Constitutional Question: Does the Supreme Court of the United States have the power, under Article III, Section 2, of the Constitution, to interpret the constitutionality of a law or statute passed by Congress?

Background Information: In the last few hours of office, President John Adams made a series of "midnight appointments" to fill as many government posts as possible with Federalists. One of these appointments was William Marbury as a federal justice of the peace. When Jefferson he took office as President, he instructed his Secretary of State James Madison to not deliver the appointment. Marbury sued Madison to get the appointment he felt he deserved. He asked the court to issue a writ of mandamus requiring him to deliver the appointment. The Judiciary Act, passed by Congress in 1789, permitted the Supreme Court of the U.S. to issue such a writ.

Opinion: Court said yes to judicial review- voted 4-0. The Court decided that Marbury's request for a writ of mandamus was based on a law passed by Congress that the Court held to be unconstitutional. The court said that the federal law contradicted the Constitution, and since the Constitution is the Supreme Law of the Land, it must reign supreme. Through this case, Chief Justice John Marshall established the power of judicial review: the power of the court not only to interpret the constitutionality of a law or statute, but also to carry out the process and enforce its decision.

Activity #3- THE FEDERALISTS PAPERS

Federalist Paper 10 - James Madison

What did Madison mean by factions? Are factions inevitable? What would we call a faction today?

Explain how Madison believed a large republic would protect its citizens from factions better than a small democracy.

Are Madison's views on our federal government controlling factions true today? Explain

Federalist Paper 51 - James Madison

Which of the following statements would Madison agree with based on his views in Federalists #51? Explain your selection.

- a. Government is necessary.**
- b. The people should elect government leaders who act like angels.**
- c. Elected government officials should be controlled by a system of "checks and balances."**

What would you say was Madison's general opinion of people in government: Angels? Devils? Something else? Explain.

Federalist Paper 70 - Alexander Hamilton

What are the four ingredients of an energetic executive?

What is an energetic executive?

Why does Hamilton say that all men of sense will agree in the necessity of an energetic executive?

Federalist Paper 78 - Alexander Hamilton

What does Hamilton mean by "the permanent tenure of judicial offices"? Does Hamilton support or oppose this idea?

What does Hamilton mean when he says that an "independent spirit in the judges" is essential for them to do their duty?

Should Supreme Court Justices be elected for limited terms, or do you agree with Hamilton? Explain.

Activity #4- Brutus I, the Anti-Federalists

Brutus I – Robert Yates

According to Brutus I, which form of government (a large national republic or a confederation of small republics) is more likely to preserve and protect personal liberties and why?

According to Brutus I, can a larger republic, based on the principle of consent of the governed, sufficiently protect the rights and liberties of the individual states and people, or is a confederation the only method of securing such liberty?

According to Brutus I, should the federal legislature be able to repeal state laws in order to impose federal laws for the purpose of promoting the general welfare or common defense of the nation? If so, why? If not, why?

Brutus argues that in a republic, "the manners, sentiments, and interests of the people should be similar...if not, there will be a constant clashing of opinions and the representatives of one part will be constantly striving against the other." According to Brutus I, should a republic be made up of a small group of like-minded people? Or, is diversity of opinion beneficial to the success of a federal government?

Activity #5- DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

The Declaration of Independence became the path and rationale for American independence from Great Britain. The document can be broken into three sections. For each section identify the main points and purpose of that section.

Section 1 – The Philosophical Basis

Section 2 – The Grievances

Section 3 – The Statement of Separation

Activity #6- THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

What were the main problems with the Articles of Confederation that led to the Constitutional Convention of 1787?

What weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation made a lasting government impossible?

Why is it difficult to pass laws under the Articles of Confederation?

Activity #7- THE BILL OF RIGHTS

What is the importance of Bill of Rights?

Why did the Founding Fathers create the Bill of Rights?

Why is enumeration effective in the Bill of Rights?

Activity #8- LETTER FROM A BIRMINGHAM JAIL

Discuss Dr. King's use of restraint in the "Letter." What does it reveal about his purpose, and what is its effect?

How does the "Letter" deal with the subject of race?

Why does Dr. King decry moderation?

How does the discussion of group immorality relate to the letter's overall purpose?

Who is the letter's intended audience?

In what ways does the "Letter" attack the clergymen even when being outwardly deferential towards them?

Detail the distinction between just and unjust laws. Why is it important Dr. King make this distinction?

Activity #9 "A Brilliant Solution- Inventing the American Constitution"

Read and Annotate: For every chapter, you will need to write a brief summary or at least 3 main annotations. These are things that jump out to you as your read.

CHAPTER	Summary or Annotations
1	
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United States of America

Name the State!



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| 2 _____ | 14 _____ | 26 _____ | 38 _____ |
| 3 _____ | 15 _____ | 27 _____ | 39 _____ |
| 4 _____ | 16 _____ | 28 _____ | 40 _____ |
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| 7 _____ | 19 _____ | 31 _____ | 43 _____ |
| 8 _____ | 20 _____ | 32 _____ | 44 _____ |
| 9 _____ | 21 _____ | 33 _____ | 45 _____ |
| 10 _____ | 22 _____ | 34 _____ | 46 _____ |
| 11 _____ | 23 _____ | 35 _____ | 47 _____ |
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49 _____

50 _____