Constitutional Underpinnings
1. List three weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation and explain how the U.S. Constitution provided solutions to problems created by those weaknesses.
2. List three compromises entered into by the writers in order to construct the U.S. Constitution.
3. List three arguments in favor of ratification of the Constitution.
4. List three arguments against ratification of the Constitution.
5. Distinguish between unitary government, confederations, and federalism.
6. Explain how federalism keeps the government closer to the people.
7. Distinguish between inherent, implied, and expressed powers (with examples of each).
8. Distinguish between categorical grants, project grants, block grants, and unfunded mandates.
9. Describe the system of checks and balances created by the Constitution.
10. What effect did McCulloch v. Maryland have on the relationship between the federal government and the states?
11. Show how Marbury v. Madison established the principle of judicial review and how this precedent affected the constitutional process of separation of powers.
12. List four informal ways the original Constitution has been modified.
14. Describe the impeachment process established by the Constitution. How many Presidents have been impeached using this process? How many have been removed from office?
15. Describe the separation of powers provided by the Constitution can lead to divided government and what affect this has on the formulation of public policy.

Political Beliefs and Behaviors
1. List the main values shared by most Americans.
2. List four sources where young people learn about American political culture and rank them in order of importance.
3. Show what contradiction apparently exists between unregulated capitalism and democracy?
4. Distinguish between liberal and conservative ideologies. Describe three issues on which liberals and conservatives clearly disagree.
5. Explain how the range of ideological alignments effects the policy-making in our governmental system.
6. Explain which policy issues divide men and women.
7. Explain the role religion plays in the US.
8. Describe the effects of education on political ideology.
9. Describe the effect of wealth and income on political ideology.
10. Explain how polls are used to measure public opinion.
11. Explain how geography is a part of our political diversity. Consider regional geography and urban, suburban and rural geography.
12. List the ways voting eligibility has been expanded by legislation and constitutional amendments.
13. List the causes for low voter turnout.

Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Mass Media
1. List and describe major party functions that political parties provide in our democratic system.
2. Describe the current party procedures for nominating candidates for Congress and the Presidency.
3. Explain why the two-party system dominates American politics.
4. Explain what is meant by a realigning election.
5. Define divided government and explain its effect on policy making.
6. Define soft money and its effect on political campaigns in America.
7. Explain the respective party platform positions of the two major parties on the following issues:
   a. Campaign finance reform
   b. School choice
   c. Gun control
   d. Status of gays
   e. Abortion rights
   f. Foreign policy
   g. Taxation
8. Give an example of an interest group for each of the following areas: economic, labor, public interest, foreign policy, single interest (ideological), government, professional associations.
9. Describe the techniques used by interest groups to affect public policy.
10. Describe what lobbyists do to affect public policy making.
11. List two purposes of PAC’s and explain how PAC’s are regulated by the FEC.
12. Evaluate the argument that PAC’s have too much influence on elections and candidates.
13. Describe the roles played by the media in our political system, specifically:
   a. The impact of the media on public opinion.
   b. The impact of media on the perceptions of voters.
14. Describe the effect of the media on campaign strategies and electoral outcomes.
15. Describe the impact of the media on the development of the agenda, governance, and the images of public officials.

Institutions of National Government
1. Explain the process of reapportionment and redistricting and how it affects the composition of the legislative branch.
2. Explain incumbency advantage and the factors that contribute to it.
3. Differentiate between the House of Representatives and Senate in both structure and powers.
4. List and describe the enumerated powers of the legislative branch found in Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution. Explain how the elastic clause interpreted loosely adds significantly to these powers.
5. Describe the organizational structure of the House including the role of the Speaker, Majority and Minority leaders, and committees.
6. Describe the organizational structure of the Senate and how the filibuster creates a need for supermajorities in Senate deliberations over legislation and confirmations.
7. Differentiate between the roles of trustee, delegate, politico, and partisan for members of Congress.
8. Describe how the votes of members of Congress may be affected by each of the following:
   a. Ideology
   b. Votes of constituents
   c. Colleagues
   d. Staff
   e. Party
   f. Interest groups
   g. The President
9. Describe—IN DETAIL—the process by which a bill becomes a law.
10. Differentiate between the formal powers of the President found in Article II of the US Constitution and the informal powers created by the responsibilities placed upon the President as the chief executive.
11. Describe the structure and duties of the White House Staff, the Executive Office of the President, and the cabinet.
12. Describe the debate between justices who believe in judicial restraint (original intent) and justices who favor judicial activism.
13. Explain the process by which a case reaches the Supreme Court and is decided.
14. Explain the purpose of the Hatch Act and the restrictions it places on federal bureaucrats.
15. Define and explain what an iron triangle is and how it interferes with normal policy making procedures.

Public Policy and the Budget
1. What are the stages of the policy-making process?
2. Describe the evolution of health policy in the United States.
3. Outline the evolution of education policy in the United States.
4. Explain the evolution of energy and environmental policy in the United States.
5. Assess the ongoing challenges in U.S. domestic policy.
6. Trace the evolution of economic policy in the United States.
7. Assess the impact of the budget process on fiscal policy.
8. Analyze the effect of the Federal Reserve on monetary policy.
10. Evaluate the role of the following in the economic recession and recovery:
    a. Fiscal policy
    b. Monetary policy
    c. Income security policy
11. Trace the evolution of U.S. foreign and defense policy.
12. Explain the developments that led to the rise of the United States as a world power
13. Outline the actors that shape foreign and defense policy decision making
14. Identify four contemporary foreign and defense challenges confronting the United States.
15. Evaluate the shift in thinking about American power that has occurred in recent decades.