A.P. US Government and Politics Exam 19/20
Updated Review Sheet
Exam Date: Monday, May 11th at 4:00 PM EST

Concept Application:

1.1 – Ideals of democracy
Describe political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors illustrated in different scenarios in context.

Enduring Understanding:
A balance between governmental power and individual rights has been a hallmark of American political development.

Essential Knowledge:
The U.S. government is based on ideas of limited government, including natural rights, popular sovereignty, republicanism, and social contract. LOR-1.A.2 The Declaration of Independence, drafted by Jefferson with help from Adams and Franklin, provides a foundation for popular sovereignty, while the U.S. Constitution drafted at the Philadelphia Convention and led by George Washington, with important contributions from Madison, Hamilton, and members of the “Grand Committee,” provides the blueprint for a unique form of political democracy in the U.S.

REQUIRED FOUNDATIONAL DOCUMENT: Declaration of Independence
Sample FRQs:
Concept FRQ 1.1

Vocab:
Limited Government
Natural Rights
Sovereignty
Social Contract
Declaration of Independence
1.3 - Government powers and individual rights

*Describe political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors.*

**Enduring Understanding:**

The Constitution emerged from the debate about the weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation as a blueprint for limited government.

**Essential Knowledge:**

CON-1.A.1 Madison’s arguments in Federalist No. 10 focused on the superiority of a large republic in controlling the “mischief of faction,” delegating authority to elected representatives and dispersing power between the states and national government. CON-1.A.2 Anti-Federalist writings, including Brutus No. 1, adhered to popular democratic theory that emphasized the benefits of a small, decentralized republic while warning of the dangers to personal liberty from a large, centralized government.

**REQUIRED FOUNDATIONAL DOCUMENTS:** Federalist No. 10 & Brutus No. 1

**Sample FRQs:**

[FRQ 1.3](#)

**Vocab:**

Articles of Confederation
Shays’ Rebellion
Federalist Papers
Federalist
Anti Federalist
Federalist # 10
Brutus # 1
Faction
1.5- Ratification of the U.S. Constitution

*Explain how political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors apply to different scenarios in context.*

**Enduring Understandings:**
The Constitution emerged from the debate about the weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation as a blueprint for limited government.

**Essential Knowledge:**
CON-1.C.1 Compromises deemed necessary for adoption and ratification of the Constitution are represented by the: Great (Connecticut) Compromise, Electoral College, Three-Fifths Compromise, Compromise on the importation of slaves
CON-1.C.2 Debates about self-government during the drafting of the Constitution necessitated the drafting of an amendment process in Article V that entailed either a two-thirds vote in both houses or a proposal from two-thirds of the state legislatures, with final ratification determined by three-fourths of the states.
CON-1.C.3 The compromises necessary to secure ratification of the Constitution left some matters unresolved that continue to generate discussion and debate today.

**Sample FRQs:**

1.5 Sample A

1.5 Sample B

1.5 Sample C

1.5 Sample D

**Vocab:**
Electoral College
Three - Fifths Compromise
Importation Compromise
Great Compromise
NJ Plan
Virginia plan
Philadelphia Convention
2.1 Congress: The Senate and the House of Reps

*Compare political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors.*

**Enduring Understandings:**
The republican ideal in the U.S. is manifested in the structure and operation of the legislative branch.

**Essential Knowledge:**
CON-3.A.1 The Senate is designed to represent states equally, while the House is designed to represent the population.
CON-3.A.2 Different chamber sizes and constituencies influence formality of debate.
CON-3.A.3 Coalitions in Congress are affected by term-length differences.
CON-3.A.4 The enumerated and implied powers in the Constitution allow the creation of public policy by Congress, which includes: Passing a federal budget, raising revenue, and coining money, Declaring war and maintaining the armed forces, Enacting legislation that addresses a wide range of economic, environmental, and social issues based on the necessary and proper clause.

**REQUIRED FOUNDATIONAL DOCUMENT:** The Constitution of the United States

**Sample FRQs:**

2.1 FRQ

**Vocab:**
Participatory democracy
Pluralist democracy
Elite democracy
Separation of powers
Checks and balances
Federalism
Exclusive powers
Implied powers
Concurrent powers
Unified Government
2.4 Roles and Powers of the President

Enduring Understandings:
CON-4 The presidency has been enhanced beyond its expressed constitutional powers.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE: CON-4.A Explain how the president can implement a policy agenda.

Essential Knowledge:
CON-4.A.1 Presidents use powers and perform functions of the office to accomplish a policy agenda.
CON-4.A.2 Formal and informal powers of the president include:
- Vetoes and pocket vetoes—formal powers that enable the president to check Congress
- Foreign policy—both formal (commander-in-chief and treaties) and informal (executive agreements) powers that influence relations with foreign nations
- Bargaining and persuasion—informal power that enables the president to secure congressional action
- Executive orders—implied from the president’s vested “executive power,” or from power delegated by Congress, executive orders allow the president to manage the federal government
- Signing statements—informal power that informs Congress and the public of the president’s interpretation of laws passed by Congress and signed by the president

Sample FRQs:

2.4 FRQ

Vocab:
- Vetoes
- Pocket Vetoes
- Executive order
- Executive Action
- War Powers Act
2.5 Checks on the Presidency

*Explain how political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors apply to different scenarios in context.*

**Enduring Understanding:**
The presidency has been enhanced beyond its expressed constitutional powers

**Essential Knowledge:**
CON-4.B.1 The potential for conflict with the Senate depends upon the type of executive branch appointments, including: Cabinet members, Ambassadors, White House staff
CON-4.B.2 Senate confirmation is an important check on appointment powers, but the president’s longest lasting influence lies in life-tenured judicial appointments.
CON-4.B.3 Policy initiatives and executive orders promoted by the president often lead to conflict with the congressional agenda

**Sample FRQs:**
2.7 Presidential Communication

ENDURING UNDERSTANDING
CON-4 The presidency has been enhanced beyond its expressed constitutional powers.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE:
CON-4.D: Explain how communication technology has changed the president’s relationship with the national constituency and the other branches.

Essential Knowledge:
CON-4.D.1: The communication impact of the presidency can be demonstrated through such factors as:
• Modern technology, social media, and rapid response to political issues
• Nationally broadcast State of the Union messages and the president’s bully pulpit used as tools for agenda setting

Sample FRQs:

2.7 FRQ

Vocab:
State of the Union
Agenda Setting
Bully pulpit

2.9 Legitimacy of the Judicial Branch

ENDURING UNDERSTANDING
The design of the judicial branch protects the Supreme Court’s independence as a branch of government, and the emergence and use of judicial review remains a powerful judicial practice.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE:
CON-5.A: Explain the principle of judicial review and how it checks the power of other institutions and state governments.

Essential Knowledge:
CON-5.A.1: The foundation for powers of the judicial branch and how its independence checks
the power of other institutions and state governments are set forth in:
• Article III of the Constitution
• Federalist No. 78
• Marbury v. Madison (1803)

Sample FRQs:

2.9 FRQ

Vocab:
Life Tenure
Stare Decisis
Rule of Four
Amicus Curiae
Writ of Certiorari
Judicial Review
Senatorial courtesy
Concurring opinion
Dissenting opinion
Majority opinion

2.11 Checks on the Judicial Branch

ENDURING UNDERSTANDING
The design of the judicial branch protects the Supreme Court’s independence as a branch of government, and the emergence and use of judicial review remains a powerful judicial practice.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE:
CON-5.B: Explain how the exercise of judicial review in conjunction with life tenure can lead to debate about the legitimacy of the Supreme Court’s power

CON-5.C: Explain how other branches in the government can limit the Supreme Court’s power.

Essential Knowledge:
CON-5.B.1: Precedents and stare decisis play an important role in judicial decision making.

CON-5.B.2: Ideological changes in the composition of the Supreme Court due to presidential appointments have led to the Court’s establishing new or rejecting existing precedents.

CON-5.B.3: Controversial or unpopular Supreme Court decisions can lead to challenges of the Court’s legitimacy and power which Congress and the president can address only through
future appointments, legislation changing the Court’s jurisdiction, or refusing to implement decisions.

CON-5.B.4: Political discussion about the Supreme Court’s power is illustrated by the ongoing debate over judicial activism versus judicial restraint.

CON-5.C.1: Restrictions on the Supreme Court are represented by:
- Congressional legislation to modify the impact of prior Supreme Court decisions
- Constitutional amendments
- Judicial appointments and confirmations
- The president and states evading or ignoring Supreme Court decisions
- Legislation impacting court jurisdiction

Sample FRQs:

2.11 FRQ

Vocab:
Litmus test
Senate approval of nominees
Presidential appointment

2.13 Discretionary and Rule – Making Authority

Describe political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors illustrated in different scenarios in context.

Enduring Understandings:
The federal bureaucracy implements federal policies.

Essential Knowledge:
Discretionary and rule-making authority to implement policy are given to bureaucratic agencies, including: Department of Homeland Security, Department of Transportation, Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Education, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Federal Elections Commission (FEC), Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
REQUIRED FOUNDATIONAL DOCUMENTS:

Sample FRQs:

2.13 FRQ

Vocab:
Appropriations
Discretionary authority
Freedom of Information Act
Hatch Act
Iron Triangle
Merit system
Pendleton Civil Service Act
Spoils system
Whistleblower Protection Act

3.1 The Bill of Rights
Describe political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors illustrated in different scenarios in context.

Enduring Understandings:
Provisions of the U.S. Constitution’s Bill of Rights are continually being interpreted to balance the power of government and the civil liberties of individuals.

Essential Knowledge:
LOR-2.A.1 The U.S. Constitution includes a Bill of Rights specifically designed to protect individual liberties and rights.
LOR-2.A.2 Civil liberties are constitutionally established guarantees and freedoms that protect citizens, opinions, and property against arbitrary government interference.
LOR-2.A.3 The application of the Bill of Rights is continuously interpreted by the courts.
LOR-2.B.1 The Bill of Rights consists of the first ten Amendments to the Constitution, which enumerate the liberties and rights of individuals.
Vocab:
Civil liberties
First amendment
Establishment clause
Free exercise clause
Fifth amendment
Wall of separation

3.13 Affirmative Action

Explain how political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors apply to different scenarios in context.

Enduring Understandings:
The Court’s interpretation of the U.S. Constitution is influenced by the composition of the Court and citizen-state interactions. At times, it has restricted minority rights and, at others, protected them.

Essential Knowledge:
CON-6.A.2 The debate on affirmative action includes justices who insist that the Constitution is colorblind and those who maintain that it forbids only racial classifications designed to harm minorities, not help them.

Sample FRQs:
**Argumentative:**

1.7 Relationship Between States and Federal Government  
*Articulate a defensible claim/thesis*

**Enduring Understandings:**
Federalism reflects the dynamic distribution of power between national and state governments.

**Essential Knowledge:**
CON-2.A.1 The exclusive and concurrent powers of the national and state governments help explain the negotiations over the balance of power between the two levels.
CON-2.A.2 The distribution of power between federal and state governments to meet the needs of society changes, as reflected by grants, incentives, and aid programs, including federal revenue sharing, mandates, categorical grants, and block grants.

**REQUIRED FOUNDATIONAL DOCUMENT:** The Constitution of the United States

**Sample FRQs:**

1.7 FRQ

**Vocab:**
Judicial activism  
Judicial restraint  
Strict constructionist  
Original jurisdiction
1.9 Federalism in Action

*Support the argument using relevant evidence.*

**Enduring Understandings:**
Federalism reflects the dynamic distribution of power between national and state governments.

**Essential Knowledge:**
CON-2.C.1 Multiple access points for stakeholders and institutions to influence public policy flows from the allocation of powers between national and state governments
CON-2.C.2 National policy making is constrained by the sharing of power between and among the three branches and state governments.

**Sample FRQs:**

1.9 FRQ

**Vocab:**
Checks and balances
Separation of powers
Enumerated powers
Implied powers
Concurrent powers
Reserved powers

3.3 First Amendment: Freedom of Speech

Articulate a defensible claim/thesis.

Enduring Understandings:
LOR-2 Provisions of the U.S. Constitution’s Bill of Rights are continually being interpreted to balance the power of government and the civil liberties of individuals.

LOR-2.C: Explain the extent to which the Supreme Court’s interpretation of the First and Second Amendments reflects a commitment to individual liberty.

Essential Knowledge:
LOR-2.C.2: The Supreme Court has held that symbolic speech is protected by the First Amendment, demonstrated by Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District (1969), in which the court ruled that public school students could wear black armbands in school to protest the Vietnam War
LOR-2.C.3: Efforts to balance social order and individual freedom are reflected in interpretations of the First Amendment that limit speech, including:
  ● Time, place, and manner regulations
  ● Defamatory, offensive, and obscene statements and gestures
  ● That which creates a “clear and present danger” based on the ruling in Schenck v. United States (1919)

Sample FRQs:

3.3 FRQ

Vocab:
Symbolic Speech
Clear and present danger test
Engel v. Vitale
Lemon v. Kurtzman
Obscene speech
Prior restraint
Schenck b. U.S.
Wisconsin v. Yoder
Tinker v. Des Moines
Libel
slander

3.6 Amendments: Balancing individual Freedom with Public Order and Safety
Support the argument using relevant evidence.

Enduring Understandings:
LOR-2 Provisions of the U.S. Constitution’s Bill of Rights are continually being interpreted to balance the power of government and the civil liberties of individuals.

LOR-2.D: Explain how the Supreme Court has attempted to balance claims of individual freedom with laws and enforcement procedures that promote public order and safety.

Essential Knowledge:
LOR-2.D.1: Court decisions defining cruel and unusual punishment involve interpretation of the Eighth Amendment and its application to state death penalty statutes over time.

LOR-2.D.2: The debate about the Second and Fourth Amendments involves concerns about public safety and whether or not the government regulation of firearms or collection of digital metadata promotes or interferes with public safety and individual rights.

Sample FRQs:
3.6 FRQ

Vocab:
McDonald v. Chicago
2nd amendment
4th amendment

3.8 Amendments: Due process and the Rights of the Accused
Use reasoning to organize and analyze evidence, explaining its significance to justify the claim or thesis.

Enduring Understandings:
LOR-3
Protections of the Bill of Rights have been selectively incorporated by way of the Fourteenth Amendment’s due process clause to prevent state infringement of basic liberties.
LOR-3.B: Explain the extent to which states are limited by the due process clause from infringing upon individual rights.

**Essential Knowledge:**

LOR-3.B.1: The Supreme Court has on occasion ruled in favor of states’ power to restrict individual liberty; for example, when speech can be shown to increase the danger to public safety.

LOR-3.B.2: The Miranda rule involves the interpretation and application of accused persons’ due process rights as protected by the Fifth and Sixth Amendments, yet the Supreme Court has sanctioned a public safety exception that allows unwarned interrogation to stand as direct evidence in court.

LOR-3.B.3: Pretrial rights of the accused and the prohibition of unreasonable searches and seizures are intended to ensure that citizen liberties are not eclipsed by the need for social order and security, including:

- The right to legal counsel, a speedy and public trial, and an impartial jury
- Protection against warrantless searches of cell phone data under the Fourth Amendment
- Limitations placed on bulk collection of telecommunication metadata (Patriot and USA Freedom Acts)

LOR-3.B.4: The due process clause has been applied to guarantee the right to an attorney and protection from unreasonable searches and seizures, as represented by:

- Gideon v. Wainwright (1963), which guaranteed the right to an attorney for the poor or indigent
- The exclusionary rule, which stipulates that evidence illegally seized by law enforcement officers in violation of the suspect’s Fourth Amendment right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures cannot be used against that suspect in criminal prosecution

**Sample FRQs:**

**3.8 FRQ**

**Vocab:**
Due process
14th amendment
Selective incorporation
Compelling government interest

Click here to view the: 
**NEW Argumentative FRQ Rubric**
for the 2020 Exam...
Everything below is for the future…
(ignore for 2020)

The following topics are where the CED has specified distinct practice areas related to the following FRQs

FRQ 2 - SCOTUS analysis
1.8
2.3, 2.8, 2.10
3.2, 3.7, 3.9, 3.11, 3.12
(none in Unit 4)
5.11, 5.13

FRQ 3 - Quantitative Analysis
(none in unit 1)
2.2, 2.4, 2.14, 2.15
(none in unit 3)
4.2, 4.3, 4.5, 4.6, 4.9
5.2, 5.5, 5.6,