

AP Government and Politics

Gentlemen,

Welcome to AP Government and Politics. As we head into the summer, I wanted to give you an indication about what you are heading into. The goal in this course will be to prepare you to take the AP exam in May. We will cover the five sections that make up the test and will utilize the Multiple Choice and Free Response Essay format throughout the year.

In many respects, you will teach yourself the material. The readings for the class can be found in a free, online text found at www.ushistory.org/gov/index.asp. I will assign questions for each chapter that you will be responsible for. The class will be conducted using Cold Calling (me calling randomly on students to answer questions about the day's readings) and the Socratic Method (a teaching technique in which questions are asked continually until either the student gives the wrong answer or reasoning, or the teacher is satisfied with the student's response). It will be imperative that you do the readings and answer the questions I provide. Your verbal responses will be graded on a scale of 1 to 4 (with 4 being the highest) and this aspect of the class will make up 50% of your grade (the other 50% will be written work and tests). If this is not something you feel you can or want to do, please visit with your Guidance Counselor and drop the course. This is an AP class and will be taught at a high level.

An attachment with the questions for Chapters 1 and 2 in the online text is included in this email. This will be due on the first day of class for the Cold Calling segment. You may use your notes in all Cold Calling sessions but the pace will be quick so being organized and very thorough will be the key. Contact academics@hermits.com with any questions you might have,

Have a Great Summer!

Chapter One and Two

1. *Why do governments exist?*
2. *What is sovereignty?*
3. *In what ways have government responsibilities extended to the economy and public service?*
4. *What is the major criticism of government provided social programs?*
5. *When is a government considered "legitimate?"*
6. *Can an absolute ruler be legitimate?*
7. *What is an oligarchy?*
8. *What do all governments based on "rule of law" have in common?*
9. *Governments based on a rule of law have what common characteristics?*
10. *Why did the Founding Fathers fear democratic rule?*
11. *What is a democracy?*
12. *What is Natural Law?*
13. *What is meant by the term Direct Democracy?*
14. *What is an "indirect" or "representative" democracy?*
15. *Why did the Founders prefer the term "Republic" to "Democracy?"*
16. *What is the major criticism of Democratic centralism as laid out by Vladimir Lenin?*
17. *Explain the impact of the Enlightenment on the American political system.*
18. *What are the two kinds of balance sought after in the American political system?*
19. *What was the significance of the Magna Carta?*
20. *What was the Petition of Right?*
21. *What was the English Bill of Rights?*
22. *Each of the 13 original English colonies had a charter. Explain.*
23. *What is the significance of the Virginia House of Burgesses?*
24. *What is the significance of the Mayflower Compact?*
25. *Describe the economic philosophy of mercantilism.*
26. *What impact did the French and Indian War have on the relationship between Great Britain and her American colonies?*
27. *What was the Declaration of independence?*
28. *Explain the significance of the Articles of Confederation.*
29. *Describe Articles I, II and III of the Constitution.*
30. *What safeguards against the dangers of tyrannical government were built into the Constitution?*
31. *Describe Article V of the Constitution.*
32. *Who were the Federalists?*
33. *Who were the Anti-Federalists?*
34. *What were the Federalist Papers?*
35. *What were the Bill of Rights?*