

AP Government and Politics

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AP Exam Tip Sheet

- ANSWER: Party control of the presidency changes roughly every twenty years. This is the result of realignment, a lasting shift in the coalition supporting a political party (American Government, 11th ed., pages 198, 253 / 12th ed., pages 199-200, 253-254).
- ANSWER: If no candidate receives a majority vote (270 votes) in the electoral college, the House of Representatives decides, with each state casting one vote (American Government, 11th ed., pages 371-372 / 12th ed., pages 368-369).
- ANSWER: The media focuses primarily on the horse race—who is winning in the polls and by how much (American Government, 11th ed., pages 295-296 / 12th ed., pages 294-296).
- ANSWER: Voters ages eighteen to twenty-one have the lowest turnout of any age group (American Government, 11th ed., page 184 / 12th ed., pages 185-187).
- ANSWER: A critical election occurs when there is a major and permanent electoral shift. In 1932 African Americans began voting for the Democratic Party (American Government, 11th ed., pages 198-200, 251-253 / 12th ed., pages 198-201, 251-252).
- ANSWER: The Tenth Amendment reserves for the states and the people those powers that are not expressly given to the national government or prohibited to the states (American Government, 11th ed., page 59 / 12th ed., pages 57-58).
- ANSWER: Under the Articles of Confederation, there was inflation, the nation was in debt, and states fought over western lands. Shays's Rebellion illustrated the weaknesses of the national government. Most state constitutions contained bills of rights (American Government, 11th ed., pages 21-23 / 12th ed., page 23).

ANSWER: The Warren Court used judicial activism to expand civil rights and civil liberties (American Government, 11th ed., pages 438-439, 129-130 / 12th ed., pages 435-436, 132-133).

ANSWER: Some courts allow a good faith exception to the exclusionary rule; evidence obtained under the good faith belief that the search was legal can be used in court (American Government, 11th ed., page 115 / 12th ed., pages 118-119).

ANSWER: The winner-take-all single-member district, and plurality vote favor a two-party system. In proportional systems used in some European countries and elsewhere, smaller parties benefit by being allocated a proportional amount of seats in the legislature (American Government, 11th ed., pages 210-212 / 12th ed., pages 210-212).

ANSWER: Congress can check the judiciary by approving nominations, rewriting legislation, and proposing a constitutional amendment. Senatorial courtesy allows a senator from the president's party to block the nomination of a district judge from his or her home state (American Government, 11th ed., pages 454-456 / 12th ed., pages 450-452).

ANSWER: When the House and Senate pass different versions of a bill, it is sent to a conference committee to work out the language. Both houses must approve it before the bill is sent to the president (American Government, 11th ed., pages 344-345 / 12th ed., pages 342-343).

Conservatives tend to support tax cuts, increased military spending, and prayer in schools. They oppose abortion and affirmative action (American Government, 11th ed., page 164 / 12th ed., page 166).

Voters in closed primaries must be registered to a party, are stauncher in their ideology, and are more active in politics (American Government, 11th ed., page 231 / 12th ed., page 233).

Vice presidents have varied in their duties and importance, depending on their relationship with the president and the duties the president wants them to assume (American Government, 11th ed., pages 395-396 / 12th ed., pages 391-393).

Most PAC money goes to incumbents because they are more likely to win. Money goes to candidates who support a PAC's position (American Government, 11th ed., pages 277-278 / 12th ed., pages 276-278).

Supply-side economists believe that lowering taxes and reducing government regulations will stimulate economic growth (American Government, 11th ed., page 492 / 12th ed., page 492).

In the 2000 presidential election, for the first time since 1888, the winner of the popular vote lost the election because of the Electoral College vote (American Government, 11th ed., pages 371-372 / 12th ed., pages 368-369).

The House Armed Services Committee is a standing committee because it is permanent (American Government, 11th ed., pages 340-341 / 12th ed., pages 338-339).

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Wearing an armband is symbolic speech that is protected by the First Amendment, as long as it does not cause a substantial disruption in the learning environment (American Government, 11th ed., pages 95-96 / 12th ed., pages 98-100).

The House Rules Committee adopts a rule that governs procedures for considering the bill in the House. It sets time limits on debates, and it can specify the kinds of amendments allowed or prohibit amendments entirely (American Government, 11th ed., page 348 / 12th ed., page 346).

Presidents have generally ignored the War Powers Act and committed troops for more than sixty days without congressional approval (American Government, 11th ed., pages 531-532 / 12th ed., pages 530-533).

Gingrich passed over some senior members as committee heads, abolished three committees, and wanted to limit the committee chairs' terms to six years (American Government, 11th ed., pages 335-336 / 12th ed., pages 330-333).

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 banned discrimination in public places and employment. It authorized the attorney general to bring suits to desegregate schools. A similar law passed in 1968 banned racial discrimination in housing (American Government, 11th ed., page 135 / 12th ed., page 138).

Under the incorporation doctrine, the Fourteenth Amendment protects individuals from state violations of "fundamental personal rights" (American Government, 11th ed., pages 433-434 / 12th ed., pages 430-432).

In McCulloch v. Maryland, the Supreme Court held that the necessary and proper clause enabled the federal government to establish a bank because such a power was implied in the power to regulate the currency (American Government, 11th ed., pages 56-57 / 12th ed., pages 55-56).

ANSWER: The family plays the largest role in political socialization (American Government, 11th ed., pages 156-157 / 12th ed., pages 159-160).

ANSWER: Retrospective voters vote based upon how things have gone in the recent past (American Government, 11th ed., pages 249-250 / 12th ed., pages 249-251).

ANSWER: Incumbent members in the House of Representatives have the highest reelection rates (American Government, 11th ed., page 325 / 12th ed., pages 323-324).

ANSWER: A filibuster, which takes place only in the Senate, has been criticized as being undemocratic because one senator can talk a popular bill to death (American Government, 11th ed., page 322 / 12th ed., page 321).

ANSWER: Presidents Johnson and Clinton were impeached. Impeachment is a process in which a president is charged by the House and tried by the Senate. Neither president was convicted or removed (American Government, 11th ed., pages 397-398 / 12th ed., pages 393-394, 396).

ANSWER: Issue networks are groups of people from interest groups, congressional staffs, universities, and the media who debate specific issues, like health care (American Government, 11th ed., page 421 / 12th ed., page 418).

ANSWER: The Supreme Court is most likely to take a case when two different circuit courts make opposite rulings over the constitutionality of a federal law. The Court would take the case to clarify the meaning of the Constitution (American Government, 11th ed., pages 444-446 / 12th ed., pages 440-443).

ANSWER: Congressional district boundaries are drawn every ten years, following the census. As much as possible, they are drawn so that every person's vote counts equally (American Government, 11th ed., page 230 / 12th ed., pages 231-232).

ANSWER: A congressional caucus is a group formed by members of Congress who share characteristics (for example, women's caucuses) or interests (for example, mushrooms) (American Government, 11th ed., pages 338-340 / 12th ed., pages 336-337).

ANSWER: A congressional committee or subcommittee, a bureaucratic agency, and an interest group form an iron triangle (American Government, 11th ed., page 420 / 12th ed., page 417).

ANSWER: States that gained in population and representation in 1990 and 2000 are in the sunbelt in the South and West (American Government, 11th ed., pages 229-230 / 12th ed., pages 230-232).

ANSWER: African Americans and non-Cuban Hispanics are the largest ethnic groups. They tend to vote for the Democratic Party. The most likely outcome of having a minority-majority is that more Democrats will be elected (American Government, 11th ed., pages 161-162 / 12th ed., pages 163-164).

ANSWER: The extradition clause, the full faith and credit clause, and the privileges and immunities clause are provisions of the Constitution governing states' relationships with one another. In addition, Article I, Section 10 prohibits interstate tariffs (American Government, 11th ed., page 57 / 12th ed., page 56).

ANSWER: The Supreme Court found a right to privacy implied in the language of the Fourth Amendment. This is a case of judicial activism (American Government, 11th ed., pages 432-433 / 12th ed., pages 429-431).

ANSWER: Under federalism, states can become laboratories for experimental programs and policies (American Government, 11th ed., pages 51-52 / 12th ed., pages 59-60).

ANSWER: Only 47 percent of Americans were contacted by a candidate or campaign. While Canadians are politically active, the graph does not measure voting—an important form of political participation. America leads the world in the percentage of citizens who donate to campaigns, but the chart does not indicate how much is donated (American Government, 11th ed., page 186 / 12th ed., page 187).

ANSWER: The American Association of Retired Persons is an interest group that protested to pressure Congress and President Bush to add a prescription drug benefit to Medicare. Its efforts were successful (American Government, 11th ed., page 258 / 12th ed., page 261). AARP

ANSWER: Delegates are pledged to candidates during state primaries and caucuses. The candidate is formally selected by a vote of the delegates at the national convention (American Government, 11th ed., pages 231-233 / 12th ed., pages 233-235).

ANSWER: The political agenda is a set of issues thought by the public or those in government to merit action by the government (American Government, 11th ed., page 464 / 12th ed., page 462).

ANSWER: Presidential power over foreign affairs has increased along with military technology and sophisticated weaponry. In addition, the bureaucracy has increased to fifteen cabinet departments from the three originally established (American Government, 11th ed., pages 378-379, 541-543 / 12th ed., pages 375-376, 540-542).

ANSWER: Congress can rewrite agency regulations, propose cuts in their budgets, and hold oversight hearings. The Senate confirms the appointments of cabinet secretaries (American Government, 11th ed., pages 421-423 / 12th ed., pages 418-420).

ANSWER: The cartoon shows a large audience. At first, the viewer may think these are constituents, but in reading the cartoon, the reader sees that the people are all the congressman's staff. This reflects the viewpoint that Congressional staffs are too large (American Government, 11th ed., page 352 / 12th ed., page 350).

ANSWER: Private industry often recruits people from the agencies that once regulated them. This enables them to lobby the agency more effectively (American Government, 11th ed., page 278 / 12th ed., page 278).

ANSWER: Congress can check the executive by vetoing legislation and rejecting the president's budget. The Senate can refuse to confirm the appointment of a cabinet secretary (American Government, 11th ed., page 29 / 12th ed., pages 30-31).

ANSWER: Incumbency is the most important factor in congressional elections (American Government, 11th ed., pages 324-325 / 12th ed., pages 322-324).

ANSWER: The War Powers Act, Office of Independent Counsel, and Budget Control Act are all attempts by Congress to reassert power over the presidency (American Government, 11th ed., pages 389, 397-398, 531-532 / 12th ed., pages 385, 393-396, 530-533).

ANSWER: A lame duck is the term for a politician who is leaving office because of term limits or an electoral defeat. It is often difficult for lame duck politicians to be effective (American Government, 11th ed., page 397 / 12th ed., page 393).

Supreme Court justices serve for life to enable them to protect unpopular views and minority rights without fear of reprisal (American Government, 11th ed., pages 440-441, 449-452 / 12th ed., pages 437-438, 446-449).

The Senate is the upper house, and it ratifies treaties and confirms judicial nominations. Each senator represents an entire state, which means senators usually represent a bigger constituency than members of the House. Revenue bills must originate in the House (American Government, 11th ed., pages 26-29, 320-321 / 12th ed., pages 27-31, 318-319).

The Supreme Court has original jurisdiction over controversies between states. There are a few other kinds of cases in which the Court has original jurisdiction; most of the Court's jurisdiction is appellate (American Government, 11th ed., pages 444-446 / 12th ed., pages 440-443).

The president does not have a line-item veto power (American Government, 11th ed., pages 388-390 / 12th ed., pages 384-387).

Chief Justice Earl Warren presided over a liberal court. Eisenhower, a Republican, nominated him. This shows that justices can be very independent once in office (American Government, 11th ed., page 440 / 12th ed., page 437).

The due process and equal protection clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment have been used by the courts to protect groups from discrimination by the states. Congress used the commerce clause to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits racial discrimination (American Government, 11th ed., pages 125-136 / 12th ed., pages 128-140).

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ANSWER: () The sound bite dropped from about 42 seconds in 1968 to 7.3 seconds in 2000. As a result, candidates' speeches are not covered in depth (American Government, 11th ed., pages 292-293 / 12th ed., pages 292-293).

ANSWER: () The McCain-Feingold law bans soft-money contributions—these were unlimited contributions to political parties that were considered the largest loophole in previous campaign finance reform laws (American Government, 11th ed., pages 241, 244-245 / 12th ed., page 242). *


ANSWER: () Social Security and Medicare are uncontrollable expenditures. They have increased since 1990 (American Government, 11th ed., page 499 / 12th ed., pages 498-499).


ANSWER: () In Gitlow v. New York, the Supreme Court held that the due-process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment protects individuals from state action that violates fundamental rights. This is known as the incorporation doctrine (American Government, 11th ed., page 100 / 12th ed., page 105).


ANSWER: () Families have the most influence in political socialization (American Government, 11th ed., pages 156-158 / 12th ed., pages 159-161).


ANSWER: () Abortion may be banned during the third trimester. The court has upheld parental consent laws, a twenty-four-hour waiting period, and a requirement that women be given information about alternatives. The Court struck down a spousal consent requirement (American Government, 11th ed., pages 139-140 / 12th ed., pages 143-144). *


ANSWER: () Under the Articles of Confederation, the national government did not have the power to tax (American Government, 11th ed., pages 21-22 / 12th ed., pages 23-24).


ANSWER:  Medicare and Social Security are entitlement programs. They have been promised to people once they meet certain qualifications. They are not based on financial need (*American Government*, 11th ed., page 511 / 12th ed., pages 511-512).


ANSWER:  Retrospective voting means looking at how things have gone in the recent past. Voters were not happy with the track record of the Carter administration, and he lost the 1980 election (*American Government*, 11th ed., pages 249-250 / 12th ed., pages 249-251).


ANSWER:  A pocket veto occurs when a president does not sign a bill within ten days and Congress has adjourned. A pocket veto cannot occur if Congress sends the president a bill more than ten days prior to adjournment (*American Government*, 11th ed., page 388 / 12th ed., pages 384-385).


ANSWER:  Normal sampling error is plus or minus 3 percent. This makes it difficult to predict the winner in a close election (*American Government*, 11th ed., page 155 / 12th ed., page 157).



ANSWER:  For any population over 500,000, at least 1,065 people need to be polled to achieve a sampling error of plus or minus 3 percent, 95 percent of the time (*American Government*, 11th ed., page 155 / 12th ed., page 157).


ANSWER:  The Tenth Amendment reserves powers not delegated to the national government, nor prohibited to the states, to the states and the people. It is the main basis for state power (*American Government*, 11th ed., pages 54-55 / 12th ed., pages 53-54).


ANSWER: ( Presidents usually appoint judges from the ranks of their political party. These candidates are also chosen based upon their qualifications (*American Government*, 11th ed., pages 441-443 / 12th ed., pages 438-440).

ANSWER:  Senatorial courtesy allows a senator to block the nomination of a federal district judge from his or her home state. This has been criticized as a legislative veto, which reverses the balance of powers (*American Government*, 11th ed., page 447 / 12th ed., pages 443-444).

ANSWER:  Beginning in 1994, Clinton faced divided government, in which the party opposing the president holds one or both houses of Congress. This makes it difficult for a president to get programs passed (*American Government*, 11th ed., page 364 / 12th ed., pages 361-362).

ANSWER:  It is difficult for Congress to obtain the two-thirds vote necessary to override a presidential veto (*American Government*, 11th ed., page 388 / 12th ed., page 384) .

ANSWER:  Madison believed that a balanced government (including separation of powers, checks and balances, and federalism) could eliminate "the mischiefs of faction" (*American Government*, 11th ed., pages 32-33 / 12th ed., pages 34-35).

ANSWER:  Environment protection laws caused friction between the state and federal governments because the number of federal mandates is high and the funding received from the national government is inadequate (*American Government*, 11th ed., page 67 / 12th ed., page 68).

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ANSWER: Categorical grants are used for specific undertakings, like building a new airport (American Government, 11th ed., page 65 / 12th ed., pages 66-67).

ANSWER: The Voting Rights Act of 1965 had a clear goal of increasing registration and voting by blacks. Federal officials oversaw its implementation, and criminal penalties were provided for interfering with voting rights (American Government, 11th ed., page 177 / 12th ed., page 179).

ANSWER: A president's popularity tends to be highest right after he is elected, and this is the best time for him to get programs enacted (American Government, 11th ed., page 385 / 12th ed., page 382).

ANSWER: In Miranda v. Arizona, the court held that suspects must be read their rights. Otherwise, their confessions are not admissible in court (American Government, 11th ed., page 114 / 12th ed., pages 117-118).

ANSWER: While the president may veto a bill in its entirety, he cannot veto a portion of a bill (American Government, 11th ed., page 373 / 12th ed., page 370).

No
LINE
ITEM
VETO

ANSWER: While turnout in 1996 was slightly above 49 percent, turnout in the 2008 election was 62 percent (American Government, 11th ed., page 179 / 12th ed., page 181).

ANSWER: Single-member districts with winner-take-all elections favor two parties and make it difficult for third parties to compete (American Government, 11th ed., pages 210-212 / 12th ed., pages 210-212).

ANSWER: () Congress can refuse to confirm a judge nominated by the president. This is a check on both the executive and judicial branches (American Government, 11th ed., page 29 / 12th ed., page 31).

ANSWER: () Strict constructionists use original intent to interpret the Constitution in a narrow manner, using the document's expressed language and in light of its historical context (American Government, 11th ed., page 433 / 12th ed., pages 430-431).

ANSWER: Because the House is larger than the Senate, it is more difficult to control. The House is more formal and has more rules in the conduct of its business (American Government, 11th ed., pages 349-351 / 12th ed., pages 347-349).

ANSWER: Sixty votes are required to end a filibuster by cloture (American Government, 11th ed., page 350 / 12th ed., pages 347-348).

ANSWER: PACs are committees set up to raise and spend campaign contributions on behalf of one or more candidates or causes (American Government, 11th ed., pages 277-278 / 12th ed., pages 276-278).

ANSWER: Executive orders are presidential directives that have the force of law but do not need to be approved by Congress (American Government, 11th ed., pages 373-374 / 12th ed., pages 370-371).

ANSWER: In many other countries cooperation is highly valued. In contrast, Americans are individualists who tend to value competition more than collaboration (American Government, 11th ed., pages 80-81 / 12th ed., pages 79-80).

ANSWER: Iowa and New Hampshire are not demographically representative of the country as a whole. Yet they receive a disproportionate share of attention because they hold the first caucus and primary (American Government, 11th ed., pages 231-233 / 12th ed., pages 233-235).

X ANSWER: Judicial review was established in Marbury v. Madison. It is the power of the Supreme Court to declare state or federal laws unconstitutional (American Government, 11th ed., page 432 / 12th ed., pages 429-430).

ANSWER: (/ African Americans, Jews, and union members tend to vote for Democrats. In addition, there is a gender gap, with women favoring the Democrats and men favoring the Republicans (American Government, 11th ed., pages 158-159, 199-200 / 12th ed., pages 160-161, 200-201).

ANSWER: (/ A critical or realigning period occurs when there is a major and permanent shift in the groups supporting the political parties (American Government, 11th ed., pages 198-199 / 12th ed., pages 199-200).

ANSWER: (Blacks accounted for 6.5 percent of President George H. W. Bush's appointments. This is greater than the 4.1 percent appointed by President Johnson (American Government, 11th ed., page 442 / 12th ed., page 439).

ANSWER: (An amendment to the Constitution can, in effect, overturn a Supreme Court decision. An amendment requires the approval of two-thirds of both houses of Congress and ratification by three-fourths of the states (American Government, 11th ed., pages 454-456 / 12th ed., pages 450-452).

ANSWER: Congressional committees revise, delay, and kill bills. They can also refer bills to subcommittees for further review (American Government, 11th ed., pages 338-341 / 12th ed., pages 336-339).

ANSWER: The Fourteenth Amendment's equal protection clause prohibits race and gender discrimination. It applies in cases involving school segregation, affirmative action, sex discrimination, and racial profiling. Abortion cases are decided under the due process clause (American Government, 11th ed., pages 125-140 / 12th ed., pages 128-145).

ANSWER: The drawing shows gerrymandering, whereby districts are malapportioned (American Government, 11th ed., pages 229-230 / 12th ed., pages 230-232).

ANSWER: A law requiring the posting of the Ten Commandments in public schools could be challenged under the establishment clause as violating the separation between church and state (American Government, 11th ed., pages 507-510 / 12th ed., pages 508-511).

ANSWER: The Patriot Act balanced privacy rights with national security (American Government, 11th ed., pages 117-118 / 12th ed., pages 120-121).

ANSWER: Lobbyists, often working for interest groups, attempt to influence legislation (American Government, 11th ed., pages 259-260 / 12th ed., pages 261-262).

ANSWER: Pure conservatives strongly supported Ronald Reagan's philosophy of tax cuts and decreased social spending (American Government, 11th ed., page 121 / 12th ed., page 170).

ANSWER: The majority party in the Senate appoints committee heads. Under the scenario, the Democrats would have a majority and would appoint committee chairs (American Government, 11th ed., page 338 / 12th ed., page 336).

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ANSWER: (, In 2000, 40 percent of the electorate identified themselves as independent. This is the highest percentage shown on the table (American Government, 11th ed., page 192 / 12th ed., pages 194-195).

ANSWER: (/ Senior White House staff members are typically drawn from the ranks of the president's campaign staff and are longtime associates of the president (American Government, 11th ed., page 377 / 12th ed., page 374).

X ANSWER: (/ Delegates are more extreme in their ideology than average party members are. This means that Republican delegates are more right wing, and Democratic delegates are more left wing (American Government, 11th ed., pages 204-205 / 12th ed., pages 205-206).

ANSWER: (The census determines the number of representatives a state will have in the House of Representatives. This also impacts the number of electoral college votes. Census data are also important for receiving formula grant money (American Government, 11th ed., pages 27, 67 / 12th ed., pages 29, 68).

ANSWER: (/ Incumbent members of Congress benefit from name recognition, the use of franking privileges, casework, and by bringing pork-barrel projects to their states. Sitting on oversight committees usually does not bring much attention (American Government, 11th ed., pages 324-325 / 12th ed., pages 322-324).

ANSWER: (The Electoral College hurts third parties because it is difficult for them to get a majority in any state. It is difficult for third parties to get any electoral college votes (American Government, 11th ed., pages 371-372 / 12th ed., pages 368-369).

ANSWER: (Federal grants in aid often come with strings attached. This was a major reason for the move from dual to cooperative federalism (American Government, 11th ed., pages 61-63 / 12th ed., pages 63-65).

ANSWER: (The federal courts of appeals hear appeals from the federal district courts. If a litigant is unhappy with an appeals court decision, the final level of appeal is the Supreme Court, which may or may not grant a writ of certiorari to decide the case (American Government, 11th ed., pages 440-441 / 12th ed., pages 437-438).

ANSWER: (/ An amicus curiae brief is filed by an interested party not directly involved in the lawsuit (American Government, 11th ed., page 450 / 12th ed., pages 446-447).

ANSWER: (Fiscal federalism involves using federal money to pay for state and local programs through project, categorical, and block grants (American Government, 11th ed., page 65 / 12th ed., pages 66-67).

ANSWER: (, In all states except Maine and Nebraska, a winner-take-all system is used. The state will have ten electoral college votes (eight for its members in the House of Representatives and two for its senators), all of which will be pledged to the Republican candidate (American Government, 11th ed., pages 371-372 / 12th ed., pages 368-369).

ANSWER: (/ Conference committees with members of both houses work on the language of bills that were passed in different versions (American Government, 11th ed., pages 236-237 / 12th ed., pages 238-239).

ANSWER: (The commerce clause, in conjunction with the necessary and proper clause, allows the federal government to regulate private businesses (American Government, 11th ed., pages 473-474 / 12th ed., pages 471-472).

