

AP Government and Politics Introductory Assignment 2016

Name _____ HR _____

Part I—Questions – Directions - Answer each question with as much detail as possible in a well-structured and organized paragraph. All questions MUST be answered to receive ANY credit.

1) Describe yourself politically (republican, democrat, etc.) and the foundations of your political views (in other words, what or who has influenced you the most politically?)

2) *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it."*

Using the previous passage from the Declaration of Independence, answer the following questions.

a. In your own words, explain what the previous passage means to you as an American citizen.

b. Explain the historical content of the passage and its impact on American society.

3) The Framers of the Constitution established a **representative democracy**. Political scientists have developed at least three theories of American democracy—pluralism, elitism, and hyperpluralism.

a. Briefly describe each of these three theories.

Pluralism-

Elitism-

Hyperpluralism-

4) "The Constitution is a living, breathing document."

a. Explain the meaning of the previous quote.

b. List and explain three historical events which prove that this quote is true.

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5) Give a letter grade (A, B, C, D, F- "A" =92-100 and F =64 and below) to each branch of government and explain the rationale for each grade.

Executive Branch

Legislative Branch

Judicial Branch

6) In your opinion, what are the main issues with the United States government or how could the United States government be improved.