American Government  
Chapter One-Study Guide

Write definitions for each of the following terms:

1. State 7. Politics 12. Autocracy
2. Sovereignty 8. Confederacy 13. Oligarchy
3. Consensus 9. Federal System 14. Political Party
4. Government 10. Industrialized nations 15. Laissez-Faire
5. Constitution 11. Developing Nations 16. Command Economy
6. Preamble

Answer each of the following questions:

1. What group of people were the first serious students of politics and government?
2. What type of government did the ancient Romans have?
3. A nation means a sizable group of people who believe they are united by what common bonds?
4. The United States is relatively stable because most Americans believe in what type of government system?
5. What are the four essential features of a state?
6. In recent decades political power in American has shifted as the majority of the population has moved from the ? to the ? part of the country.
7. A source of conflict among states is often the exact location or shape of what?
8. What factors may cause change to a nation’s territory?
9. Although every sovereign state is considered equal, in reality what conditions may give a state more power?
10. Of the four theories on the origins of the state, which supports the idea that certain people are chosen by a god or gods to rule?
11. Of the writers that supported the social contract theory, which one believed people had to give up ALL rights in order to receive an assurance of order and security from the government?
12. Which social contract theorist wrote that people have natural rights and if the government failed to protect those rights, the people had the right to rebel?
13. Which of the philosophers whose writings contributed to the U.S.’ form of government believed in separation of and balancing of power?
14. Governments derive their authority to fulfill their functions from what two sources?
15. List the four purposes or functions of government.

Section Two

1. What two systems describe the relationship between nation’s central government and its smaller governments (subdivisions)?
2. From where does a Constitution draw its authority?
3. Why do people, including everyday citizens, participate in politics?
4. Give one example of how two groups in conflict might seek to use the government to turn their values and beliefs into public policy through politics (DO NOT use an example given in the text).
5. In *The Federalist* articles, what effect did James Madison believe that a well-constructed Union would have on factions?
6. In what two ways (areas) are nations today especially interdependent?
7. Through what are the United States, Canada, and Mexico developing greater ties (please write it out, do not use the acronym)?

Section Three

1. According to Aristotle, all governments can be classified into one of what three groups?
2. Today all monarchies are constitutional monarchies, what does that mean for them?
3. Oligarchs may derive their power from one of or a combination of what three sources?
4. Before the early 1800s, only what groups of people were given the right to vote in Europe?
5. In what type of organized government do voters elect representatives to run the nation?
6. Although in a representative democracy elected officials enact laws that reflect the will of a majority of people, the U.S. Constitution also protects the rights of whom?
7. The idea that everyone’s vote carries the same weight in free elections is expressed by what phrase?
8. What do political parties that are out of power do to serve as the “loyal opposition”?
9. List the five essential elements required to sustain a democracy.
10. How do societies determine the allocation of their resources?
11. What are the three key questions that all economic systems must answer?
12. What are the five (5) characteristics of pure capitalism?
13. Describe what takes place in a market system.
14. Who wrote *Wealth of Nations* and how did he describe the role of the market in society?
15. What two groups compete in different ways in the capitalist system?
16. What three factors explain why the role of government in the U.S. economy has increased since the early 1900s?
17. “Mixed” economies combine elements from which two types of economic systems?
18. What types of social services are provided by the government in a socialist system?
19. During the industrial revolution in the U.S., what did social reformers want the government to do?
20. What three arguments do opponents of socialism make against the system?
21. In 1848, who first published his ideas about how a capitalist system would collapse and what was the name of his pamphlet?
22. In his work on Communism, how did the author portray “all of human history”?
23. Why are economies in communist nations referred to as command economies?