

ANSWERS TO THE MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

The AP exam covers key content areas in certain percentages. This answer key will give you an indication of how much weight each area is given and your knowledge of each of the important content areas. Page numbers at the end of each answer refer to the pages in the 2009–2010 and 2011–2012 editions of *American Government & Politics Today* where that issue is discussed.

Questions 1–6 are about the *Constitution and Federalism* (covered in both editions of *American Government & Politics Today*, Chapters 2 and 3). These topics will be 5–15 percent of the multiple-choice portion of the AP exam.

1. ● Slaves would be counted as three-fifths of a person in the census. This would increase the South's representation in the House of Representatives, which is based on population (*American Government*, 2009–2010, pp. 47–48 / 2011–2012, pp. 48–49).
2. ● Pluralism is the belief that groups compete within a democratic system. Because no single group can dominate the policy-making process, the result is that all relevant interests can affect policy-making outcomes (*American Government*, 2009–2010, pp. 13–14 / 2011–2012, pp. 12–14).
3. ● The framers were politically experienced. They were wealthier and more educated than the general population (*American Government*, 2009–2010, pp. 44–45 / 2011–2012, p. 44).
4. ● There are two senators per state. Thus states are represented equally in the Senate. Seats in the House are awarded based on a state's population, as determined by the census. The number of members in the House of Representatives reflects a state's population (*American Government*, 2009–2010, pp. 46–47 / 2011–2012, pp. 47–48).
5. ● The appointment process for the Supreme Court is an example of both separation of powers and checks and balances. The executive and legislative branches have distinct roles. By confirming presidential nominees, Congress has a check on the presidency. Lifetime tenure is a check on both the executive and the legislature, because justices cannot be removed for political reasons (*American Government*, 2009–2010, pp. 50–52 / 2011–2012, pp. 51–52).
6. ● States prefer block grants because, in theory, they allow states more freedom in deciding how to spend the money, as long as the money is spent on the specific purpose determined by the federal government (*American Government*, 2009–2010, pp. 110–111 / 2011–2012, pp. 108–109).

Questions 7-14 are about *Political Beliefs and Behavior* (covered in *American Government & Politics Today, Chapters 1, 6, and 9*). These

topics will be 10-20 percent of the multiple-choice portion of the AP exam.

7. ● The United States provides political equality. Each adult citizen has one vote, which means there is equal opportunity to participate at the polls. While political equality is an American ideal, economic equality is not a goal of the American political system (*American Government, 2009-2010, p. 16 / 2011-2012, p. 16*).
8. ● Political culture consists of the community's beliefs and attitudes toward government (*American Government, 2009-2010, p. 14 / 2011-2012, p. 14*).
9. ● Conservatives believe that private businesses can outperform the government in most economic activities (*American Government, 2009-2010, p. 19 / 2011-2012, pp. 18-19*).
10. ● The majority of young people identify with their parents' political party. This is a result of political socialization (*American Government, 2009-2010, pp. 221-222 / 2011-2012, p. 215*).
11. ● There is a gender gap, with more women than men voting for the Democratic Party. This may be caused by economic disparities between men and women (*American Government, 2009-2010, pp. 229-230 / 2011-2012, pp. 222-224*).
12. ● Americans considered the economy to be a major problem in 22 of the 28 years shown on the table (*American Government, 2009-2010, p. 242 / 2011-2012, p. 236*).
13. ● Mail-in ballots make voting easier than going to the polls. However, Many Americans don't vote because they don't think their vote will make a difference in the election, or they are haven't met residency or registration requirements (*American Government, 2009-2010, p. 340 / 2011-2012, p. 321*).
14. ● This person has the most demographic factors that favor voting. He is older, well educated, and works for the government (*American Government, 2009-2010, pp. 324-325 / 2011-2012, pp. 317-319*).

Questions 15–23 are about *Political Parties, Interest Groups, Elections, and the Media* (covered in *American Government & Politics Today, Chapters 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11*). These topics will be 10–20 percent of the multiple-choice portion of the AP exam.

15. ● Split-ticket voting is selecting a candidate from one major party for president and a candidate from the other major party for Congress. Split-ticket voting may result in divided government and policy gridlock (*American Government, 2009–2010*, p. 302 / *2011–2012*, p. 283, 285).
16. ● Sometimes minor parties develop ideas that the major parties later adopt. For example, in the historic election of 1896, the Democrats adopted some of the ideas of the Populist Party (*American Government, 2009–2010*, pp. 309–310 / *2011–2012*, p. 304).
17. ● An interest group is an organization that seeks to influence public policy. In America, these groups do not usually run candidates for office. The Libertarian Party is a political party, rather than an interest group, because it holds positions on a variety of issues and frequently runs candidates for office (*American Government, 2009–2010*, p. 250 / *2011–2012*, p. 245).
18. ● Political action committees are set up by and represent a corporation, labor union, or interest group. They raise and spend campaign contributions on behalf of candidates or causes (*American Government, 2009–2010*, pp. 357–358 / *2011–2012*, pp. 349–351).
19. ● Grassroots lobbying involves asking group members to contact members of Congress or conduct protests (*American Government, 2009–2010*, general discussion, p. 271 / *2011–2012*, pp. 265–266).
20. ● A social movement represents the demands of a large segment of the public for political, economic, or social change (*American Government, 2009–2010*, pp. 252–253 / *2011–2012*, pp. 246–247).
21. ● Market-driven journalism is reporting news and running commercials geared to a target audience. This makes the news more eye-catching but less substantive (*American Government, 2009–2010*, pp. 383–384 and 407 / *2011–2012*, pp. 379–380 and 395).
22. ● Investigative journalism occurs when reporters scrutinize public and business institutions and publicize perceived misconduct. This is also called “watchdog” journalism (*American Government, 2009–2010*, p. 399 / *2011–2012*, p. 388).
23. ● The FCC regulates radio, television, telephone, telegraph, cable, and satellite transmissions (*American Government, 2009–2010*, pp. 399–400 / *2011–2012*, pp. 390–391).

Questions 24-48 are about *Institutions of Government* including Congress, the Presidency, the Courts, and the Bureaucracy (covered in *American Government & Politics Today*, Chapters 12-15). These topics will be 35-45 percent of the multiple-choice portion of the AP exam.

24. ● There are fewer rules governing the conduct of the Senate because it has only 100 members, and it relies on unanimous consent agreements. As a result, it is easier to manage than the House of Representatives, which has 435 members (*American Government*, 2009-2010, pp. 439-443 / 2011-2012, pp. 428-432).

25. ● A greater percentage of incumbents in the House is reelected than in the Senate (*American Government*, 2009-2010, p. 427 / 2011-2012, pp. 415-416).

26. ● Committees usually reflect party membership in the chamber as a whole. Chairs are appointed by the majority party, which also decides which bills will be sent to particular committees. After the 2010 midterm elections, committees in the House were chaired by Republicans, who made up the majority on each committee (*American Government*, 2009-2010, p. 438 / 2011-2012, p. 427).

27. ● A filibuster allows one senator, or a small group, to talk a bill to death. Filibusters are difficult to end because sixty senators must vote for cloture. As a result, it allows a small group to block the will of the majority (*American Government*, 2009-2010, p. 423 / 2011-2012, p. 411-412).

28. ● Most bills either die or are modified by committees. They rarely become legislation in their original form (*American Government*, 2009-2010, general discussion pp. 435-436 / 2011-2012, pp. 424-425).

29. ● Federal funds appropriated by Congress to benefit a particular constituency or district are called "earmarks" or "pork barrel" spending (*American Government*, 2009-2010, pp. 444-445 / 2011-2012, p. 434).

30. ● The most important leadership position in the House is the Speaker. The majority leader guides the Senate (*American Government*, 2009-2010, pp. 439-443 / 2011-2012, pp. 428-429 and 431-432).

31. ● While the vice president supports the president, the vice president does not preside over the Senate unless there is a tie vote (*American Government*, 2009-2010, p. 484 / 2011-2012, p. 472).

32. ● Divided government is a result of separation of powers. Opposing parties must compromise to pass legislation (*American Government*, 2009-2010, pp. 468-469 / 2011-2012, p. 456).

33. ● The Constitution does not expressly grant the president the power to sign an executive order; however, these directives carry the force of law (*American Government*, 2009-2010, p. 478 / 2011-2012, p. 465).

34. ● The president is the commander in chief, may grant reprieves and pardons for federal offenses, and can call Congress into special session. Congress has the power to declare war (*American Government*, 2009-2010, pp. 461-465 / 2011-2012, pp. 452-456).

35. ● The president's Cabinet appointees usually have not served in the legislature (*American Government 2009-2010*, pp. 481-482 / 2011-2012, p. 469).
36. ● Legislative-executive relations involve hard bargaining and struggle between these two branches of government (*American Government 2009-2010*, pp. 468-469 / 2011-2012, pp. 456-457).
37. ● The War Powers Resolution was passed in response to the Vietnam War. It requires presidents to consult Congress prior to committing troops for more than sixty days. Most presidents have ignored it (*American Government 2009-2010*, p. 465 / 2011-2012, p. 453).
38. ● People expect presidents to deliver on their promises. However, presidents must be careful in choosing which programs to advocate. The president has the power to persuade, but he cannot force Congress to act (*American Government 2009-2010*, pp. 468-471 and 474-475 / 2011-2012, pp. 456-457 and 461-462).
39. ● It takes a two-thirds vote by both houses of Congress to override a presidential veto. This is most likely to occur during divided government, when a large majority of both houses of Congress are from the opposing party (*American Government 2009-2010*, pp. 302 and 473 / 2011-2012, pp. 296 and 460).
40. ● The Executive Office of the Presidency provides staff assistance to the president and helps coordinate the executive bureaucracy. The Cabinet is separate, and consists of 15 large departments (*American Government 2009-2010*, pp. 482-483 and 499-500 / 2011-2012, pp. 470-472 and 487).
41. ● The House votes, by a simple majority, on impeachment charges. The Senate holds an impeachment trial. A conviction requires a two-thirds vote in the Senate (*American Government 2009-2010*, pp. 479-481 / 2011-2012, p. 468).
42. ● Political appointees make up a small percentage of federal employees (*American Government 2009-2010*, pp. 507-508 / 2011-2012, pp. 494-495).
43. ● Since the start of the twentieth century, the government has been expected to play a more active role in dealing with economic and social problems. The bureaucracy manages a wide variety of government programs and plays an active role in regulating the economy (*American Government 2009-2010*, general discussion pp. 498-499 / 2011-2012, pp. 485-486).
44. ● Most bureaucrats are hired under the requirements of the civil service, in which positions are filled through written examinations or are based upon certain selection criteria (*American Government 2009-2010*, pp. 508-510 / 2011-2012, p. 497).
45. ● Congress must approve the creation of agencies, and no money may be spent until Congress authorizes it. In addition, congressional committees hold hearings to investigate the efficiency and effectiveness of agencies (*American Government 2009-2010*, p. 521 / 2011-2012, pp. 494-495).
46. ● In *Marbury v. Madison*, the Supreme Court asserted its authority to invalidate congressional laws that violate the Constitution. Subsequent cases extended the power to cover presidential acts as well (*American Government 2009-2010*, pp. 528-529 / 2011-2012, pp. 520-522).
47. ● Judicial activism is the philosophy whereby judges take an active role in creating new policy or in checking other branches of government when they have exceeded their authority. When the Supreme Court held that the Bill of Rights contains a right to privacy, this was an example of judicial activism, because the Supreme Court interpreted several amendments as creating a zone of privacy (*American Government 2009-2010*, p. 546 / 2011-2012, pp. 535-536).
48. ● During confirmation hearings, prospective judges can be asked about their judicial philosophy but cannot be asked how they would rule on specific cases (*American Government 2009-2010*, pp. 545-546 / 2011-2012, pp. 533-534).

Questions 49–54 are about *Civil Rights and Civil Liberties* (covered in American Government & Politics Today, Chapters 4 and 5). These topics will be 5–15 percent of the multiple-choice portion of the AP exam.

49. ● Although the First Amendment protects freedom of speech, there are prohibitions against defamation (libel and slander), speech that presents a clear and present danger to the public, and obscenity. However, as a general rule, the government may not restrain speech prior to its publication (*American Government*, 2009–2010, p. 136 / 2011–2012, pp. 136–139).
50. ● This funding for math books will probably be upheld. It has a secular purpose (improve math skills), does not advance religion, and will not cause excessive government entanglement in religion. This is the standard established in *Lemon v. Kurtzman* (*American Government*, 2009–2010, p. 129 / 2011–2012, pp. 127–128).
51. ● The exclusionary rule bars illegally obtained evidence from being used in court. However, there is an exception when police act in good faith. Defendants may still be tried, however, if there is additional evidence against them (*American Government*, 2009–2010, pp. 158–159 / 2011–2012, p. 155).
52. ● In the *Bakke* case, the University of California's racial quota system was found to violate the prohibition against race discrimination in the Fourteenth Amendment. The Court did not abolish affirmative action, stating that race can be a factor
53. ● Abortion is legal during the first two trimesters of pregnancy. States may pass regulations, such as a mandatory waiting period, as long as they do not unduly restrict abortion (*American Government*, 2009–2010, pp. 151–152 / 2011–2012, pp. 148–149).
54. ● *Brown v. Board of Education* involved the invidious segregation of public school by law (*de jure*). This followed the “separate but equal” doctrine. In the second *Brown* decision, the Court ordered desegregation “with all deliberate speed.” This is not a case of *de facto* segregation because the separation was required by law (*American Government*, 2009–2010, pp. 174–175 / 2011–2012, pp. 172–173).
53. ● In admissions decisions (*American Government*, 2009–2010, pp. 198–199 / 2011–2012, p. 198).

Questions 55–60 are about *Public Policy* (covered in *American Government & Politics Today, Chapters 16–18*). These topics will be 10–20 percent of the multiple-choice portion of the AP exam.

55. ● NCLB requires testing to determine whether students are making adequately yearly progress. Children in under-performing schools may transfer (*American Government, 2009–2010*, pp. 560–561 / 2011–2012, p. 552).
56. ● Legislation consists of the bills passed by Congress. Regulations are rules that intervene in the workings of a business market to promote some socially desirable goal. Agencies create regulations, which have the force of law (*American Government, 2009–2010*, pp. 501–502 / 2011–2012, pp. 488–491).
57. ● Monetary policy involves government decisions that control interest rates and the money supply. Fiscal policy concerns the budget (*American Government, 2009–2010*, pp. 606–607 and 612–613 / 2011–2012, pp. 600–603).
58. ● Keynesianism is the theory that the government should actively stimulate economic growth. On the other hand, supply-side economists favor less government planning, more deregulation, and tax cuts to stimulate economic growth (*American Government, 2009–2010*, p. 607 / 2011–2012, pp. 595–596).
59. ● Entitlement programs are available to everyone who meets certain requirements, such as the age requirement for receiving Social Security retirement benefits, regardless of income (*American Government, 2009–2010*, general discussion pp. 623–624 / 2011–2012, pp. 555 and 572).
60. ● The Welfare Reform Act of 1994 limits welfare assistance to two years at a time, with maximum limit of five years (*American Government, 2009–2010*, p. 584 / 2011–2012, pp. 572–573).