

Unit 1 AP US Government & Politics Study Guide

The test is divided into two separate parts. Both parts will be timed separately, with a break between to give you a sense of what the actual AP Exam will be like. Part One will be the Free Response Section. You will have 25 minutes to answer one FRQ. Part Two will include 35 multiple choice questions. The first 25 require you to have some prior knowledge in order to answer the questions. Questions 26-35 ask you to answer questions based on various graphs and charts. This study guide is meant to help you be successful on the multiple choice portion of the unit test.

1. Define the following terms. If possible provide examples.
 - a. Elitist Theories
 - b. Pluralist Theories
 - c. Hyperpluralist Theories
 - d. Political Culture
 - e. Political Efficacy
 - f. Realignment Election
 - g. Political Socialization
2. Describe the most influential factors in congressional elections. Describe the most influential factors in presidential elections.
3. Describe the relationship between socioeconomic status and political participation.
4. Describe what groups of voters are most likely to vote Democratic? Republican?
5. Explain voting trends over the last century. Discuss the relationship between public opinion and political behaviors.
6. Identify the most common forms of political participation.
7. Describe the differences in voter turnout in the United States compared to that of other democratic nations.
8. Describe what is meant by realignment or critical elections. Be able to discuss the key factors and influence and evaluate whether the 2008 election was a realignment election.
9. Describe the difference between general election and primary election voters.
10. Identify and explain the important, and changing, aspects of political culture since the 1950s.
11. Explain what happened in national elections after Women's Suffrage? The Voting Rights Act of 1965? The change in voting age in 1971?

12. Describe the influence of education on political participation, especially with regard to voting.
13. Identify the most influential agents on political socialization.