AP Government Review  UNIT 1
Overarching Topic – Foundations of American Democracy

Here’s what you need to do…
❖ UNDERSTAND information in the ‘Enduring Understanding’ column.
❖ STUDY / MEMORIZE / KNOW information in the ‘Essential Knowledge’ column. You will be tested on this!
❖ In the ‘Making Connections’ box, OFFER TWO SPECIFIC EXAMPLES from your understanding of government, political practices and/or history which illustrates the Essential Knowledge’ alongside which it appears. These could be events, facts, or in a rare case, a definition. If you need more room, attach an additional page of paper.
❖ Utilize this information and related knowledge when ANSWERING the ‘Key/Essential’ questions on the last page.

ENDURING UNDERSTANDING
A balance between government power and individual rights has been a hallmark of American political development

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE
- The US government is based in ideas of limited government, including natural rights, popular sovereignty, republicanism, and social contract

MAKING CONNECTIONS
“Natural Rights” = life, liberty, property
“Social contract” = Government is an agreement between those who rule and those who are governed...the ruled allow themselves to be governed so long as the government takes care of those whom they rule. John Locke
“Popular sovereignty” = let the people decide
“Republican gov’t” = the power is held by the people; they elect representatives; protect the rights of the minority party

- The Declaration of Independence (Jefferson, Adams, Franklin) provides a foundation for popular sovereignty, while the US Constitution (Washington, Madison, Hamilton) provides the blueprint for a unique form of political democracy in the US.
Representative democracies can take several forms along this scale:
❖ Participatory democracy, which emphasizes broad participation in politics and civil society
❖ Pluralist democracy, which recognizes group-based activism by on governmental interests striving for impact on political decision making
❖ Elite democracy, which emphasizes limited participation in politics and civil society

- Different aspects of the US Constitution, as well as the debate between Federalist nr.10 and Brutus nr.1, reflect the tension between the broad participatory model and the more filtered participation of the pluralist and elite models.

- The three models of representative democracy continue to be reflected in contemporary institutions and political behavior.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENDURING UNDERSTANDING</th>
<th>ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE</th>
<th>MAKING CONNECTIONS</th>
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<td>The Constitution emerged from the debate about the weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation as a blueprint for limited government</td>
<td>- Madison’s arguments in <em>Federalist nr.10</em> focus on the superiority of a large republic in controlling the “mischiefs of faction,” delegating authority to elected representatives and dispersing power between states and national government.</td>
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<td>- Anti-Federalist writings, including <em>Brutus nr.1</em>, adhered to the popular democratic theory that emphasized the benefits of a small decentralized republic while warning of the dangers to personal liberty from a large, centralized government.</td>
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<td>- Specific incidents and legal challenges that highlighted key weaknesses of the <em>Articles of Confederation</em> are represented by the:</td>
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<td>- Lack of centralized military power to address Shay’s Rebellion</td>
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<td>- Lack of tax-law enforcement power</td>
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<td>- Compromises deemed necessary for adoption and ratification of the <em>Constitution</em> are represented by the:</td>
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<td>- Great (Connecticut) Compromise</td>
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<td>- Electoral Collee</td>
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<td>- Three-Fifths Compromise</td>
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<td>- Compromise on the importation of slaves</td>
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<td>- Debates about self-government during the drafting of the <em>Constitution</em> necessitated the drafting of an amendment process in Article V that entails either a two-thirds vote in both houses or a proposal from two-thirds of the state legislatures, with final ratification determined by three-fourths of the states.</td>
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<td>- The compromises necessary to secure ratification of the <em>Constitution</em> left some matters unresolved that continue to generate discussion and debate today.</td>
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<td>- The debate over the role of central government and the powers of the state governments, and the rights of individuals remain at the heart of present-day constitutional issues about democracy and governmental power, as represented by:</td>
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<td>- Debates about government surveillance resulting from the federal government’s response to the September 11 attacks.</td>
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<td>- The debate about the role of the federal government in public school education</td>
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<td>The Constitution created a competitive policy-making process to ensure that people’s will is represented and that freedom is preserved.</td>
<td>- The powers allocated to Congress, the president, and the courts demonstrate the separation of powers and checks and balances features of the US Constitution.</td>
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<td>- Federalist nr.51 explains how constitutional provisions of separation of powers and checks and balances control abuses by majorities.</td>
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<td>- Multiple access points for stakeholders and institutions to influence public policy flows from the separation of powers and checks/balances.</td>
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<td>- Impeachment, removal, and other legal actions taken against public officials deemed to have abused their power reflect the purpose of checks/balances</td>
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**ENDURING UNDERSTANDING**

Federalism reflects the dynamic distribution of power between national and state government.

**ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE**

- The exclusive and concurrent powers of the national and state governments help explain the negotiations over the balance of power between the two levels.

- The distribution of power between federal and state governments to meet the needs of society changes, as reflected by grants, incentives, and aid programs, including federal revenue sharing, mandates, categorical grants, and block grants.

- The interpretation of the **Tenth and Fourteenth Amendments**, the commerce clause, the necessary and proper clause, and other enumerated and implied powers is at the heart of the debate over the balance of power between the national and state governments.

- The balance of power between the national and state governments has changed over time based on US Supreme Court interpretation, such as:
  - **McCullough v. Maryland** (1819), which declared that Congress has implied powers necessary to implement its enumerated powers and established supremacy of the US Constitution and federal laws over state laws.
  - **United States v. Lopez** (1995), which ruled that Congress may not use the commerce clause to make possession of a gun in a school zone a federal crime, introducing a new phase of federalism that recognized the importance of state sovereignty and local control.

- Multiple access points for stakeholders and institutions to influence policy flows from the allocation of powers between national and state governments.

- National policymaking is constrained by the sharing of power between and among the three branches and state government.

**MAKING CONNECTIONS**

Name: ________________________________
Here’s what you need to do…
❖ CONSIDER the content and scope of coverage from the review sheets you did in this packet
❖ ANSWER the following questions. Each answer must…
✓ Be direct and to-the-point
❖ Be sure you are answering the question being asked, not just commenting on the topic of the question.
✓ Include an opening stand-alone sentence which rewords/reframes/repurposes the question toward your answer (like a thesis statement might). This sentence can then be followed by 2-3 paragraphs in answering each question. (in a real AP exam there would be more than this; for our preparation purposes 2-3 paragraphs are sufficient)
✓ Offer multiple (3-4) specific examples from political practices, electorate behavior, government structure, and/or history which is relevant to your answer.
✓ Offer a definition of any key terms of vocabulary.
❖ You will need to hand write (not type!) this on separate paper, and then attach it to the rest of the Unit Packet and turn it all in together.

Key Questions
1. Explain how democratic ideals are reflected in the Declaration of Independence and in the US Constitution.
2. Explain how models of representative democracy are visible in major institutions, policies, events or debates in the US.
3. Explain how Federalist and Anti-Federalist views on central government and democracy are reflected in US foundational documents.
4. Explain the relationship between key provisions of the Articles of Confederation and the debate over granting the federal government greater power formerly reserved to the states.
5. Explain the ongoing impact of political negotiation and compromise at the Constitutional Convention on the development of the constitutional system.
6. Explain the constitutional principles of separation of powers and checks and balances.
7. Explain the implications of separation of powers and checks and balances for the US political system.
8. Explain how societal needs affect the constitutional allocation of power between the national and state governments.
9. Explain how the appropriate balance of power between national and state governments has been interpreted differently over time.
10. Explain how the distribution of powers among three federal branches and between national and state governments impacts policy making.

Essential Questions
1. How did the Founders if the US Constitution attempt to protect individual liberty, while also promoting public order and safety?
2. How have theory, debate, and compromise influenced the US Constitutional system?
3. How does the development and interpretation of the Constitution influence policies that impact citizens and residents of the US?