

United States Government and Politics
Advanced Placement Exam

Date:

Thursday, May 4, 2017, 8:00 AM

Format:

Section I (50% of exam) = 60 multiple-choice questions (45 minutes)

Section II (50% of exam) = 4 short-answer questions (100 minutes)*

*You must answer all four of the short-answer questions; each of the four questions will consist of four sub-questions that will ask you to define, compare, describe, etc. (total of 16 written responses).

Content Areas:

I. Constitutional Underpinnings of U.S. Government (5-15%)

-Theories of democracy, formulation/adoption of U.S. Constitution, checks and balances, separation of powers, and federalism

II. Political Beliefs and Behaviors (10-20%)

-Political ideologies, political participation and voting, public opinion, and political socialization

III. Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Mass Media (10-20%)

-Party organization and functions, elections, interest groups and policymaking process, PACs, media and campaigns

IV. Institutions of National Government (35-45%)

-Congress, Presidency, Federal Bureaucracy, Judiciary, formal and informal powers of each branch, checks and balances between each branch, linkage institutions that influence each branch

V. Public Policy (5-15%)

-Policymaking system, political agenda, role of bureaucracy and courts in implementing policy, role of political parties, interest groups, mass media, elections, and issue networks on policy

VI. Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (5-15%)

-Bill of Rights, judicial interpretations of civil liberties and civil rights, historical development of rights and role of the 14th Amendment

-Major topics for the multiple-choice and free response sections include Congress, the Presidency, the Supreme Court, civil liberties, and civil rights (review constitutional powers of each branch, checks and balances, Bill of Rights and other amendments, and court cases).

-Keep in mind that studying for the multiple-choice section is also preparation for the free response section.