

# **Study Guide for Unit 1:**

## **Constitutional Underpinnings**

### **Chapter 1: Introducing Government in America**

#### ***Questions you should be able to answer:***

1. Define government and identify the functions that governments perform. What is the role of politics in government?
2. What are the principle components of the policymaking system? Explain how a political issue travels through the policymaking system by using an example.
3. What is the definition of democracy? What are the basic principles of traditional democratic theory?
4. Compare, contrast, and critically evaluate the three theories of American democracy: pluralist theory, elite & class theory, and hyperpluralism.

#### ***Terms you should be able to identify & describe:***

single-issue groups	indirect democracy
policymaking system	majority rule
linkage institutions	minority rights
policy agenda	pluralist theory
policymaking institutions	elite & class theory
public policy	hyperpluralism
popular sovereignty	policy gridlock
direct democracy	individualism

### **Chapter 2: The Constitution**

#### ***Questions you should be able to answer:***

1. In what specific ways did the philosophy of John Locke influence the origins of the American national government & the Declaration of Independence?
2. What philosophical views did the delegates to the Constitutional Convention share? How did they influence the nature of the Constitution?
3. How did the colonial experience shape the policy agenda at the Constitutional Convention? What issues comprised the agenda and how were they resolved?
4. What is the Madisonian model of government? How is it reflected in the structure of American government? What issues or problems does it raise?
5. Explain the process by which the Constitution was ratified. What were the major arguments raised by the federalists in favor of the Constitution? What were the major arguments raised by the anti-federalists in opposition to the Constitution? How were some of these latter issues resolved?
6. What are the formal and informal processes by which the Constitution is changed? Be able to give examples of formal amendments and informal amendments.
7. In what ways was the original Constitution both democratic and undemocratic? How has the Constitution become democratized throughout American history?

***Terms you should be able to identify & describe:***

natural rights	Checks and balances
consent of the governed	<i>Federalist Papers</i>
limited government	Federalists
Articles of Confederation	Anti-Federalists
Shays' Rebellion	<i>Marbury v. Madison</i>
factions	judicial review
Connecticut Compromise	unicameral legislature
separation of powers	bicameral legislature

**Chapter 3: Federalism**

***Questions you should be able to answer:***

1. Define federalism. How is federalism different from unitary governments and confederations? Why is federalism important to understanding American government?
2. What does the Constitution have to say about national versus state power? How was the supremacy of the national government established in the American federal system?
3. Explain the obligations that states have to each other. Give examples to illustrate your answer.
4. Why does cooperative federalism, as compared to dual federalism, best describe the American federal system today? Why is fiscal federalism important to intergovernmental relations?
5. Compare & contrast the different types of federal aid and grants given to states and cities. What is the nature of the competition for federal grants? Under what conditions might states not want to receive federal aid?
6. What are the advantages and disadvantages of federalism for democracy? Give examples to illustrate your answer.
7. How and why has federalism contributed to the growth of the national government?

***Terms you should be able to identify & describe:***

unitary government	implied powers
confederation	elastic clause
federalism (federal system of government)	<i>Gibbons v. Ogden</i>
dual federalism	concurrent powers
cooperative federalism	inherent powers
fiscal federalism	reserved powers
New Federalism	categorical grants
supremacy clause	block grants
<i>McCulloch v. Maryland</i>	formula grants
enumerated powers	project grants
	mandates