

Questions for AP Government

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	Red Tape
	Red Tape
Category: Chapter 11 - (46 questions)	
A lawmaking body made up of two chambers or parts.	Bicameral Legislature
An order from the House Rules Committee that sets a time limit on debate and forbides aperticular bill from being amended on the legislative floor.	Closed Rule
A rule used by the Senate to end or limit debate. Designed to prevent "talking a bill to death" by filibuster.	Cloture Rule
The Republican committees in the House and Senate that assigns Republican representatives and senators to committees.	Committee on Committees

A closed meeting of the members of a political party to select a candidate or to agree on a legislative position.	Congressional Caucus
An alliance between Republicans and conservative Democrats	Conservative Coalition
A device by which any member of the House, after a committee has had a bill for 30 days, may petition to have it brought to the floor. If a majority of the members agree, the bill is discharged from the committee. It was designed to prevent a committee from killing a bill by holding it for too long	Discharge Petition
An attempt to defeat a bill in the Senate from talking indefinitely, thus preventing the Senate from taking action on the bill.	Filibuster
The committee in charge of what bills will come to the floor.	House Rules Committee
Political districts in which candidates elected to the House win in close elections, typically with less than 55 percent of the vote.	Marginal Districts
When a congressional committee debates, amends, and rewrites legislation.	Markup
A traditional, pejorative name for the United States Senate.	Millionaire's Club
A congressional process whereby a bill may be referred to several committees that consider it simultaneously in whole or in part.	Multiple Referral
An assembly of party representatives that chooses a government and discussess major national issues.	Parliament
A meeting of the members of a political party to decide questions of policy.	Party Caucus
A vote which a majority of Democratic legislators oppose a majority of Republican legislators.	Party Polarization
The extent to which members of a party vote together in the House or the Senate.	Party Vote

A Senator or Representative who helps the party leader stay informed about what party members are thinking, rounds up members when important votes are to be taken, and attempts to keep a nose count on how the voting on controversial issues is likely to go.	Party Whip
An order from the House Rules Committee that permits certain kinds of amendments but not others to be made into a bill on the legislative floor.	Restrictive Rule
Amendments on a matter unrelated to a bill that is added to a bill so that it will "ride" to massage through the Congress.	Riders
Districts in which incumbents win by margins of 55 percent or more.	Safe Districts
The system under which committee chairs are awarded to members who have the longest continuous service on the committee.	Seniority
A congressional process by which a Speaker may send a bill to a seconds committee after the first is finished acting, or may refer parts of a bill to separate committees.	Sequential Referral
Assigns Democrats to standing committees in the Senate.	Steering Committee
An association of members of Congress created to advocate a political ideology or a regional ethnic or economic interest.	Caucus (Congressional)
A bill that contains lots of Riders.	Christmas Tree Bill
An expression of congressional opinion without the force of law the requires the approval of both the House and Senate but not of the President. Used to settle housekeeping and procedural matters that affect both houses.	Concurrent Resolution
An especially important kind of joint committee made up of representatives and senators appointed to resolve differences in the Senate and House versions of the same piece of legislation before final passage.	Conference Committees
A congressional voting procedure in which members stand and are counted.	Division Vote

A procedure to keep the Senate going during a filibuster in which the disputed bill is shelved temporarily so that the Senate can get on with other business.	Double Tracking
The ability of members of Congress to mail letters to their constituents free of charge by substituting their facsimile signature (frank) for postage.	Franking Privilege
A committee in which both representatives and senators serve.	Joint Committee
A formal expression of congressional opinion that must be approved by both houses Congress and by the president. Joint resolutions proposing a constitutional amendment need not be signed by the president.	Joint Resolution
The legislative leader elected by party members holding the majority of seats in the House of Representatives or the Senate.	Majority Leader
The legislative leader elected by party members holding a minority of seats in the House or Senate.	Minority Leader
An order from the House Rules Committee that permits a bill to be amended on the legislative floor.	Open Rule
Legislation that gives tangible benefits (highways, dams, post offices) to constituents in several districts or states in the hopes of winning their votes in return.	Pork Barrel Legislation
A legislative bill that deals only with specific, private, personal, or local matters rather than with general legislative affairs. The main kinds include immigration and naturalization bills (referring to particular individuals) and personal-claim bills.	Private Bill
A legislative bill that deals with matters of general concern. A bill involving defense expenditures is a public bill; a bill pertaining to an individuals becoming a naturalized citizen is not.	Public Bill

A calling of the roll on either house of Congress to see whether the number of representatives in attendance meets the minimum number required to conduct official business.	Quorum Call
A congressional voting procedure that consists of members answering "yea" or "nay" to their names.	Roll Call Vote
Congressional committees appointed for a limited time and purpose.	Select Committees
An expression of opinion either in the House or the Senate to settle housekeeping or procedural matters in either body. Such expressions are not signed by the president and do not have the force of law.	Simple Resolution
Permanently established legislative committees that consider and are responsible for legislation within a certain subject area. Examples are the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee.	Standing Committees
A congressional voting procedure in which members pass between two tellers, the "yeas" first and then the "nays"	Teller Vote
A congressional voting procedure in which members shout "yea" or "nay" in disapproval	Voice Vote
Category: Chapter 12 - (29 questions)	
A method of organizing a president's staff in which several task forces, committees, and informal groups of friends and advisers deal directly with the president.	Ad Hoc Structure
A statement that defines the constitutional powers of the President	Article II
By custom, the cabinet includes the heads of the fourteen major executive departments.	Cabinet
A method of organizing the president's staff in which several presidential assistants report directly to the president.	Circular Structure

The view that the elected representative should represent the opinions of his or her constituents.	Delegate
Also called Participatory Democracy, a political system in which all or most citizens participate directly by either holding office or making policy.	Direct Democracy
A government in which one party controls the White House and another party controls one or both houses of congress.	Divided Government
A legal system by which states select electors who then vote for the president and vice president.	Electoral College
Agencies that perform staff services for the president but are not part of the White House.	Executive Office of the President
	Executive Privilege
A formal accusation against a public official by the lower house of a legislative body. It is merely an accusation and not a conviction. This has only happened to two presidents, Andrew Johnson, and Bill Clinton.	Impeachment
	Impoundment of Funds
	"In-and-Outers"
	Independent Agencies
A politician who is still in office after having lost a reelection bid.	Lame Duck
The rejection of a presidential or administrative agency action by a vote of one or both houses of Congress without the consent of the president. In 1983 it was declared unconstitutional.	Legislative Veto
The power of an executive to veto some provisions in an appropriations bill while approving others. The president does not have this power.	Line-Item Veto
	Office of Management and Budget
A short form of prerequisites, meaning "fringe benefits of office."	Perks

One of two ways for a president to disapprove a bill sent to him by Congress. If the president does not sign the bill within ten days of his receiving it and Congress has adjourned within that time, the bill does not become a law.	Pocket Veto
The chief executive in a parliamentary system who is chosen by the legislature.	Prime Minister
a method of organizing a president's staff in which most presidential assistants report through a hierarchy to the president's chief of staff.	Pyramid Structure
A political system in which leaders and representatives acquire political by means of a competitive struggle for the people's vote. This is the form of government used by nations that are called democratic.	Representative Democracy
The view that an elected representative should act on his or her own best judgement of what public policy requires.	Trustee
Legislation that specifies the conditions and order of succession to the presidency and vice presidency when the president leaves office before completion of his term.	Twenty-Fifth Amendment
A government in which the same party controls both the White House and both houses of Congress. When Bill Clinton took office in 1993 it was the first time since 1981 (and only the second time since 1969) that this had happened.	Unified Government
One of two ways for a president to disapprove a bill sent to him by Congress. This must be sent to Congress within ten days after the president receives the bill.	Veto Message
	White House Office
Who was on the first Cabinet?	Secretary of War: Henry Knox Secretary of State: Thomas Jefferson Attorney General: Edmund Randolph Secretary of the Treasury: Alexander Hamilton
Category: Chapter 13 - (15 questions)	

a large, complex organization composed of appointment officials. Made up of the department and agencies of the U.S. government.	Bureaucracy
Another phrase for political patronage-that is, the practice of giving the fruits of a party's victories to loyal members of that party.	Spoils System
An economic theory that government should not regulate or interfere with commerce.	Laissez-Faire
The extent to which appointed bureaucrats can choose courses of action and make policies that are not spelled out in advance by laws.	Discretionary Authority
The government offices to which people are appointed on the grounds of merit as ascertained by a written examination or by having met certain selection criteria (such as training, education attainments, or prior experience).	Competitive Service
A job to be filled by a person whom a government agency has identified by name.	Name-Request Job
A close relationship between an agency, a congressional committee, and an interest group that often becomes a mutually advantageous alliance.	Iron Triangle
A network of people in Washington-based interest groups, on congressional staffs, in universities and think tanks, and in the mass media who regularly discuss and advocate public policies. These are split along political, ideological, and economic lines.	Issue Network
Legislative permission to begin or continue a government program or agency.	Authorization Legislation
a legislative grant of money to finance a government program.	Appropriation
Funds for government programs that are collected and spent outside the regular government budget	Trust Funds
Authorization that must be reviewed every year.	Annual Authorization

The ability of a congressional committee to review and approve certain agency decisions in advance and without passing a law. Such approval is not legally binding on the agency, but few agency heads will ignore the expressed wishes of committees.	Committee Clearance
The rejection of a presidential of administrative agency action by a vote of one or both houses of Congress without the consent of the president. In 1983 this was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.	Legislative Veto
Complex bureaucratic rules and procedures that must be followed to get something done.	Red Tape
Category: Chapter 14 - (28 questions)	
The power of the courts to declare acts of the legislature and of the executive to be unconstitutional and hence null and void.	Judicial Review
The view that judges should decide cases on the basis of the language of the Constitution.	Strict-Constructionist Approach
The view that judges should discern the general principles underlying the Constitution and its often vague language and assesses how best to apply them in contemporary circumstances	Activist Approach
A federal court exercising the judicial powers found in Article III of the Constitution and whose judges are given constitutional protection.	Constitutional Court.
The lowest federal courts where federal cases begin. They are the only federal courts where trials are held. There are 94 in the U.S. and its territories.	District Courts
The federal courts with the authority to review decisions and by federal district courts, regulatory commissions, and certain other federal courts. They have no jurisdiction.	Court of Appeals
A court that is created by Congress for some specialized purpose and staffed with judges who do not enjoy the protection of Article III of the constitution.	Legislative Court

A test of ideological purity, a way of finding what a person's views are.	Litimus Test
Cases concerning the Constitution, federal law, or treaties over which the federal courts have jurisdiction as described in the constitution.	Federal-Question Cases
Cases involving citizens of different states over which the federal courts have jurisdiction as described in the constitution.	Diversity Cases
The body of rules defining relationships among private citizens. It consists of both status and the accumulated customary law embodied in judicial decisions.	Civil Law
The body of rules defining offenses that, though they harm an individual, are considered to be offenses against society.	Criminal Law
A Latin term meaning "made more certain." An order issued by a higher court to a lower court to send up the record of a case for review. Most cases reach the Supreme Court this way when at least four of the justices feel that the case should be reviewed	Writ of Certiorari
A procedure whereby a poor person can file and be heard in court as a pauper, free of charge.	In Forma Pauperis
A law or rule that allows the plaintiff to collect its legal costs from the defendant if the defendant loses.	Fee Shifting
The party that initiates the a lawsuit to obtain a remedy for an injury to his or her rights.	Plaintiff
A legal concept establishing who is entitled to bring a lawsuit to court.	Standing
A doctrine that a citizen cannot sue the government without its consent	Sovereign Immunity
A case brought into court by a person on behalf of not only themselves but all other persons in the country under similar circumstances.	Class-Action Suit

A legal document that announces how much the government will collect in taxes and spend in revenues and how those expenditures will be allocated among various programs.	Brief
A Latin term meaning "a friend of the court." Refers to interested groups or individuals, not directly involved in a suit, who may file legal briefs or make oral arguments in support of one side.	Amicus Curiae
A brief, unsigned opinion issued by the Supreme Court to explain its ruling.	Per Curiam Opinion
A Supreme Court Opinion written by one or more justices in the majority to explain the decision in a case.	Opinion of the Court
A Supreme Court opinion by one or more justices who agree with the majority's conclusion but for different reasons.	Concurring Opinion
a Supreme Court opinion by one or more justices in the minority to explain the minority's disagreement with the Court's ruling.	Dissenting Opinion
A Latin term meaning "let the decision stand."	Stare Decisis
An issue that the Supreme Court refuses to consider because it believes the constitution has left it entirely to another branch to decide .	Political Question
A judicial order preventing or redressing a wrong or enforcing a right.	Remedy
Category: Chapter 15 - (11 questions)	
A set of issues thought by the public or those in power to merit action by the government.	Political Agenda
Any burden, monetary or nonmonetary, that some people must bear, or think they must bear, if a policy is adopted.	Cost
And satisfaction, monetary or nonmonetary, that people believe that they will enjoy if a policy is adopted.	Benefit

The politics of policy-making in which almost everybody benefits from a policy and almost everybody pays for it.	Majoritarian Politics
The politics of policy making in which one small group bears the cost of the policy and another small group receives the benefits.	Interest Group Politics
The politics of policy making in which some small group receives the benefits of the policy and the public at large bears the cost.	Client Politics
Projects that give tangible benefits to constituents in the hope of winning their votes in return.	Pork-Barrel Projects
Mutual aid among politicians, whereby one legislator supports another's pet project in return for the latter's support of his.	Logrolling
Policies benefitting society as a whole or some large part that impose a substantial cost on some small identifiable segment of society.	Entrepreneurial Politics
A concerted effort to get people to stop buying goods and services from a company or person in order to punish that company or to coerce its owner into changing policies.	Boycott
Rules regulating manufacturing of industrial processes, usually aimed at improving consumer or worker safety and reducing environmental damage.	Process Regulation
Category: Chapter 16 - (15 questions)	
An economic philosophy that assumes inflation occurs when there is too much money chasing too few goods. It suggests that the proper thing for the government to do is to have a steady, predictable increase in the money supply at a rate about equal to the growth in the economy's productivity.	Monetarism
An economic philosophy that assumes that the market will not automatically operate at a full-employment, low-inflation level. It suggests that the government should intervene to create the right level of demand by pumping more money into the economy and taking it out.	Keynesianism

An economic philosophy that assumes that the government should plan, in varying ways, some part of the country's economic activity.	Economic Planning
Economic planning.	Price and Wage Controls
An economic philosophy where the government subsidizes investments in industries that need to recover or in new industries that could replace them.	Industrial Policy
The federal economic policies of the Regan administration, elected in 1981. These policies combined a monetarist fiscal policy, supply-side tax cuts, and domestic budget cutting. Their goal was to reduce the size of the federal government and stimulate economic growth,	Reaganomics
An attempt to use taxes and expenditures to affect the economy.	Fiscal Policy
A situation in which the government spends more money than it takes in from taxes and fees.	Budget Deficit
A situation in which the government takes in more money than it spends.	Budget Surplus
An attempt to alter the amount of money in circulation and the price of money (the interest rate) to affect the economy.	Monetary Policy
The period from October 1 to September 30 for which government appropriations are made and federal books are kept.	Fiscal Year
A document that announces how much the government will collect in taxes and spend in revenues and how those expenditures will be allocated among various programs.	Budget
A proposal submitted by the House and Senate budget committees to their respective chambers recommending a total budget ceiling and ceiling for each of several spending areas for the current fiscal year.	Budget Resolution
A claim for government funds that cannot be abridged without violating the rights of the claimant.	Entitlement

Automatic, across-the-board in certain federal programs that are triggered by law when Congress and the president cannot agree on a spending plan.	Sequester
Category: Chapter 17 - (6 questions)	
A self-financing government program based on contributions that provide benefits to unemployed or retired persons.	Insurance Program
A government program financed by general income taxes that provides benefits to poor citizens without requiring contributions from them.	Assistance Program
An income qualification that determines whether one is eligible for benefits under government programs reserved for lower-income groups.	Means Test
A provision of a 1975 tax law that entitles working families with children to receive money from the government if their total income falls below a certain level.	Earned Income Tax Credit
A policy of providing poor people with education and job training to help lift them out of poverty.	Service Strategy
A policy of giving poor people money to help lift them out of poverty.	Income Strategy
Category: Chapter 18 - (1 questions)	
Charges that unfairly or dishonestly tarnish the motives, attack the patriotism, or violate the rights of individuals, especially of political opponents.	McCarthyism