

Summer Assignment for AP Government and Politics

Dear AP Students,

Welcome to AP Government. As you were made aware when you signed up for this class, there is a summer assignment. You are being asked to take notes on the first three chapters of the text and answer the guided review questions attached. You will need to obtain a textbook from Ms. Motta before you leave for the summer.

Now...a word about the notes. You are to read the material and process it. You can then summarize in your own words, what you have read. What it is NOT, is recopying the textbook. If you recopy the textbook at any point, it is considered to be plagiarism and you will receive a zero. Also, if you download any notes from the internet or take notes on already existing notes, I will know and you will receive a zero. You are not allowed to do this assignment with anyone or copy another students' work. If you receive a zero for the summer assignment, you will fail for the quarter and have difficulty passing for the year.

I will periodically check my email over the summer, so if you have any questions, please email me at kcarr@stedmundprep.org.

Regards,

Mrs. Kathleen Carr

Chapter 1

1. What is the difference between power and authority?
2. Why was it argued that the United States needed a representative democracy instead of a direct democracy?
3. Define referendum. Is this an example of representative or direct democracy?
4. How does the elitist, Marxist, power elite, bureaucratic and pluralist views of government differ? Which do you think the United States follows and provide an example to support your answer?

Chapter 2

1. What did John Adams consider to be the “real revolution?”
2. Please discuss in detail, the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation?
3. What event/situation finally made the Founding Fathers realize they needed a new form of government?
4. What are the aspects of the Virginia Plan? The New Jersey Plan?
5. What are all the key provisions of the Great Compromise (Connecticut Compromise)?
6. Why is our government considered to be a republic? What are the two ways an amendment can be added?

Chapter 3

1. What is the difference between a federal form of government and a unitary government?
2. Why has the government begun a period of devolution and give an example?
3. How can federalism be both good and bad?
4. How did John Marshall expand the power of the federal government?
5. How did Jefferson and Hamilton differ on their views of government?
6. What problems have developed with dual federalism?
7. What was the issue in conflict in United States vs. Lopez and what was the decision reached?

8. How has the federal government found ways to compel the states to fix such problems as public education, crime, welfare and the environment?
9. What kinds of grants were given initially and what problems developed?
10. What types of grants were given to states beginning in 1966 and what problems developed with those types of grants?
11. What is a mandate and what problems do states have with mandates?
12. What are the three forces behind devolution and explain.