

# AP<sup>®</sup> U.S. Government and Politics

## Your Course at a Glance

### Plan

The Course at a Glance provides a useful visual organization of the AP U.S. Government and Politics curricular components, including:

- Sequence of units, along with approximate weighting and suggested pacing. Please note, pacing options are provided for teaching the course for a full year and for a single semester.
- Progression of topics within each unit, including the location of required foundational documents or Supreme Court cases.
- Spiraling of the course skills across units.

### Teach

#### COURSE SKILLS

- 1

Concept Application
- 4


Source Analysis
- 2


SCOTUS Application
- 5

Argumentation
- 3

Data Analysis

#### FOUNDATIONAL DOCUMENTS AND SUPREME COURT CASES

- 

Foundational Document
- 

Supreme Court Case

### Assess

Assign the Progress Checks—either as homework or in class—for each unit. Each Progress Check contains formative multiple-choice and free-response questions. The feedback from the Progress Checks shows students the areas where they need to focus.

UNIT  
1

Foundations of American Democracy

~16/~8

Class Periods

15–22%

AP Exam Weighting

LOR 1	1.1 Ideals of Democracy
LOR 4	1.2 Types of Democracy
CON 1	1.3 Government Power and Individual Rights
CON 4	1.4 Challenges of the Articles of Confederation
CON 1	1.5 Ratification of the United States Constitution
PMI 4	1.6 Principles of American Government
CON 5	1.7 Relationship Between States and the Federal Government
CON 2	1.8 Constitutional Interpretations of Federalism
CON 5	1.9 Federalism in Action

#### Progress Check 1

Multiple-choice: ~20 questions  
Free-response: 3 questions

- Concept Application
- Argument Essay (partial)
- Argument Essay (partial)

UNIT  
2

Interactions Among Branches of Government

~28/~14

Class Periods

25–36%

AP Exam Weighting

CON 1	2.1 Congress: The Senate and the House of Representatives
CON 3	2.2 Structures, Powers, and Functions of Congress
CON 2	2.3 Congressional Behavior
CON 3	2.4 Roles and Powers of the President
CON 1	2.5 Checks on the Presidency
CON 4	2.6 Expansion of Presidential Power
CON 1	2.7 Presidential Communication
CON 2	2.8 The Judicial Branch
CON 1	2.9 Legitimacy of the Judicial Branch
CON 2	2.10 The Court in Action
CON 1	2.11 Checks on the Judicial Branch
CON 4	2.12 The Bureaucracy
CON 1	2.13 Discretionary and Rule-Making Authority
CON 3	2.14 Holding the Bureaucracy Accountable
PMI 3	2.15 Policy and the Branches of Government

#### Progress Check 2

Multiple-choice: ~45 questions  
Free-response: 3 questions

- Concept Application
- Quantitative Analysis
- SCOTUS Comparison

UNIT  
3

Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

~26/~13

Class Periods

13–18%

AP Exam Weighting

LOR 1	3.1 The Bill of Rights
LOR 2	3.2 First Amendment: Freedom of Religion
LOR 5	3.3 First Amendment: Freedom of Speech
LOR 4	3.4 First Amendment: Freedom of the Press
LOR 4	3.5 Second Amendment: Right to Bear Arms
LOR 5	3.6 Amendments: Balancing Individual Freedom with Public Order and Safety
LOR 2	3.7 Selective Incorporation
LOR 5	3.8 Amendments: Due Process and the Rights of the Accused
LOR 2	3.9 Amendments: Due Process and the Right to Privacy
PRD 4	3.10 Social Movements and Equal Protection
PMI 2	3.11 Government Responses to Social Movements
CON 2	3.12 Balancing Minority and Majority Rights
CON 1	3.13 Affirmative Action

#### Progress Check 3

Multiple-choice: ~30 questions  
Free-response: 3 questions

- SCOTUS Comparison
- Argument Essay (partial)
- Argument Essay (partial)

UNIT  
4

American Political Ideologies and Beliefs

~22/~11

Class Periods

10–15%

AP Exam Weighting

MPA 1	4.1 American Attitudes About Government and Politics
MPA 3	4.2 Political Socialization
MPA 3	4.3 Changes in Ideology
MPA 4	4.4 Influence of Political Events on Ideology
MPA 3	4.5 Measuring Public Opinion
MPA 3	4.6 Evaluating Public Opinion Data
PMI 1	4.7 Ideologies of Political Parties
PMI 4	4.8 Ideology and Policy Making
PMI 3	4.9 Ideology and Economic Policy
PMI 4	4.10 Ideology and Social Policy

#### Progress Check 4

Multiple-choice: ~30 questions  
Free-response: 3 questions

- Concept Application
- Quantitative Analysis
- Quantitative Analysis

UNIT  
5

Political Participation

~18/~9

Class Periods

20–27%

AP Exam Weighting

MPA 1	5.1 Voting Rights and Models of Voting Behavior
MPA 3	5.2 Voter Turnout
PMI 1	5.3 Political Parties
PMI 4	5.4 How and Why Political Parties Change and Adapt
PMI 3	5.5 Third-Party Politics
PMI 3	5.6 Interest Groups Influencing Policy Making
PMI 1	5.7 Groups Influencing Policy Outcomes
PRD 5	5.8 Electing a President
PRD 5	5.9 Congressional Elections
PRD 5	5.10 Modern Campaigns
PRD 2	5.11 Campaign Finance
PRD 5	5.12 The Media
PRD 2	5.13 Changing Media

#### Progress Check 5

Multiple-choice: ~30 questions  
Free-response: 3 questions

- Quantitative Analysis
- Argument Essay
- Argument Essay

**NOTE:** Partial versions of the free-response questions are provided to prepare students for more complex, full questions that they will encounter on the AP Exam.