

**American Government
Semester Exam Review
Coverstone**

Exam Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2003

Exam Location: Pfeffer Hall

Exam Review: Monday, January 13, 2003, 11:00, Debate Building

CAUTION!!! This review packet is based on a rough draft of this year's semester examination and is intended to serve as a guide for your review. It is not a substitute for review of your notes, essays, homework, and tests from this semester.

I. Textual Commitments

The exam will be drawn from the Lowi and Ginsberg text chapters listed on the syllabus, the text of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and excerpts from *Federalist #10* and *#51*. You should begin a regular and systematic review of these texts during the next few weeks. As you review, you should list and define key terms from each section paying particular attention to those terms and concepts that also appear in your class notes.

II. Format

A. Government Structures

1. Multiple Choice Section

Forty questions worth .5 points each. This section is worth 20 points toward your exam grade.

The best way to prepare for this section of the test is to study your old tests by covering answers and quizzing yourself.

2. Brief Identification Section

Twenty important terms worth one point each. This section is worth 20 points toward your exam grade.

Key terms and concepts related will appear. You will be asked to identify each according to its significance.

B. State of the Law

In this section you will see three hypothetical scenarios similar to those the student presentations will address. You must choose 2 of the five and resolve the controversy according to the current state of the laws. Responses will be long paragraphs drawing on specific legal precedent and experience. Each paragraph will be graded according to its accuracy as well as the substance and detail of its description of the present state of the law, while also acknowledging specific aspects of the law that are ambiguous and require a reasoned assessment to predict a resolution. The total value of this section is 10 points.

C. Concept Essays

You will be given a list of possible essays that require you to link a basic concept of American Government to one or more of the specific controversies we studied this semester. You must respond to three of these questions. The total value of this section is 15 points.

D. Major Political Analysis Essay

You will be asked to analyze a political controversy by adopting a clear and coherent argument for policy change that accounts thoroughly for the structures of government involved in the suggested change, the societal groups and institutions affected by the change, and the costs and benefits of the necessary public policy. This essay will be selected from a list of three possible topics distributed after the break and is worth 25 points toward your exam grade.

III. Key Terms

Use this list to begin your review. Preparation of these terms will prepare you well for section IB of the exam.

limited government	session	presidential succession
representative government	special session	presidential elector
Magna Carta	apportioned	presidential primary
Petition of Right	reapportionment	winner-take-all
English Bill of Rights	single-member district	keynote address
charter	at-large	platform
bicameral	gerrymandered	electorate
unicameral	continuous body	media
Albany Plan of Union	constituents	executive order
boycott	oversight function	treaty
constitution	strict constructionist	executive agreement
popular sovereignty	liberal constructionist	recognition
ratification	direct tax	reprieve
Articles of Confederation	commerce power	pardon
Framers	legal tender	commutation
Virginia Plan	copyright	amnesty
New Jersey Plan	patent	federal budget
Connecticut Compromise	Necessary and Proper Clause	cabinet
Three-Fifth Compromise	impeach	jurisdiction
Commerce and Slave	Speaker of the House	exclusive jurisdiction
Compromise	president of the Senate	concurrent jurisdiction
Federalists	president pro tempore	plaintiff
Anti-Federalists	floor leader	defendant
popular sovereignty	whip	original jurisdiction
constitutionalism	party caucus	appellate jurisdiction
rule of law	committee chairman	writ of certiorari
separation of powers	seniority rule	majority opinion
checks and balances	standing committee	concurring opinion
judicial review	select committee	dissenting opinion
unconstitutional	joint committee	redress
federalism	conference committee	
amendment	bill	
formal amendments	joint resolution	
Bill of Rights	concurrent resolution	
informal amendments	resolution	
executive agreements	rider	
division of powers	discharge petition	
delegated powers	subcommittee	
expressed powers	Committee of the Whole	
inherent powers	quorum	
implied powers	filibuster	
reserved powers	cloture	
exclusive powers	veto	
concurrent powers	pocket veto	
enabling act	chief of state	
act of admission	chief executive	
grants-in-aid program	chief administrator	
block grant	chief diplomat	
interstate compact	commander in chief	
full faith and credit	chief legislator	
extradition	chief of party	
term	chief citizen	

IV. Concept Essay Topics

Three of the following essay questions will appear in section III of the exam. Each one is worth 5 points.

1. The United States system is structured on a particular form of the principle of federalism. Illustrate and describe that principle by detailing its impact on one of the following:
 - capital punishment
 - abortion
 - school desegregation
2. The founders held differing views on disestablishment. Identify two different views and illustrate how each view would have produced different outcomes in the Mississippi school prayer case.
3. Some have argued that the Supreme Court's hate speech decisions have protected women while excluding African-Americans from protection against hate-filled expressions. What is the basis of this claim, and how accurate is it?
4. The process by which a bill becomes a law is stacked against public policy reform. Evaluate this statement as it applies to recent efforts to reform federal campaign finance laws.
5. The relationship between public opinion and government action is an important one in a democracy. What does the history of gun control legislation reveal about that relationship in America?

V. Major Policy Essay Topic

One from the following list of topics will appear on the semester examination. You must be prepared to identify the structures of government, legal principles, and public interest groups that would support and resist the policy reform you support and to explain the costs and benefits of the solution you advance. This essay should be outlined before the exam and supported with numerous specific arguments and details.

1. You are the chief advisor to the newly elected president. At your first meeting, the president-elect orders you to develop the administration's new policy on abortion. During the campaign, the candidate said he was against abortion, but did not offer specific details of his policy. Now you are charged with crafting a policy that satisfies your most loyal supporters without sacrificing your administration's ability to work effectively with Congress and members of the opposition party. What proposal will you endorse?
2. You are the chief advisor to the newly elected president. At your first meeting, the president-elect orders you to develop the administration's new policy on gun control. During the campaign, the candidate said he was against gun violence in schools, but did not offer specific details of his policy. Now you are charged with crafting a policy that satisfies your most loyal supporters without sacrificing your administration's ability to work effectively with Congress and members of the opposition party. What proposal will you endorse?
3. You are the chief advisor to the newly elected president. At your first meeting, the president-elect orders you to develop the administration's new policy on affirmative action. During the campaign, the candidate said he was against quotas, but did not offer specific details of his policy. Now you are charged with crafting a policy that satisfies your most loyal supporters without sacrificing your administration's ability to work effectively with Congress and members of the opposition party. What proposal will you endorse?