AP U.S. Government and Politics
Unit 2: Public Opinion and Elections
Review Items
Ch 6, 9 and 10
Test: Wednesday November 9, 2016

In addition to reviewing homework assignments, lecture notes, quizzes and the multiple choice questions given last class, students should have a strong understanding of the following terms and concepts.

Chapter 6: Public Opinion and Political Action
Terms

Public opinion	demography	census	reapportionment
Political socialization	random sampling	exit poll	gender gap
Minority majority	universe	margin of error	
Political participation	protest	civil disobedience	
Liberal	conservative	political ideology	

Key Questions
1. List THREE **demographic factors** that are significant in US politics. Identify the processes through which people learn about politics.
2. What makes a political poll scientifically legitimate? Describe the role of a poll's **universe**, **random sample**, **margin of error** and objective questions.
3. What is meant by the concept of **political ideology** in American politics and government?
4. Explain FIVE differing views commonly held by **liberals** and **conservatives**. Which major political party is associated with each ideology?
5. How do citizens participate in politics and in the policymaking process in the U.S.? What is the difference between **conventional** and **unconventional participation**?

Chapter 9: Nominations and Campaigns
Terms

Nomination	primary	frontloading	platform
matching funds	soft money	caucus	PACs
general election	campaign	regional primary	hard money
Federal Election Commission		*Buckley v. Valeo*	frontloading
McCain-Feingold Act (Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act)			
Federal Election Campaign Act		Super delegates	*Citizens United*

Key Questions
1. Distinguish between a **primary** and **general** election.
2. Distinguish between a **direct primary** and a **caucus**.
3. Distinguish between a **closed**, **open**, **blanket** and **top two primary elections**.
4. What are the FOUR steps in the **nomination process** and what is the role of the **national party convention** in the process?
5. What is the role of the media in campaigns?
6. What is the role of money in campaigns in the U.S. today?
7. What is the difference between **hard** and **soft money**?
8. Discuss the provisions of the **Federal Election Campaign Act**?
9. Discuss the provisions of the **McCain-Feingold Act**.

10. What did the Supreme Court say about campaign finance in the **Buckley** and **Citizens United** cases?
11. What is the role of PACs in the U.S. today? How many are there and what do they do?

Chapter 10: Elections and Voting Behavior
Terms

political efficacy	referendum	initiative	suffrage
Motor Voter Act	mandate theory	franchise	registration
Civic duty	franchise	winner-take-all	
Policy voting	Electoral College	retrospective voting	

Key Questions
1. What THREE amendments expanded **suffrage** in the U.S.? What stimulated these changes?
2. Describe how American elections have evolved using the presidential elections of 1800, 1896 and 2004 as examples.
3. What factors affect a citizen's choice of whether to vote? What is **political efficacy** and **civic duty**?
4. Who is most likely to vote in the U.S.? Describe FIVE demographic examples.
5. How do **party identification**, **candidates' personalities** and **personal policy preferences** affect how citizens will vote? Explain.
6. How does the U.S. compare, in terms of voter turnout, to other similar democracies? Explain.
7. What FIVE factors affect overall voter turnout in the US?

The Electoral College
1. Why did the Founders create an Electoral College to elect the President?
2. How does the popular vote affect the selection of the Electoral College?
3. How is the number of votes per state calculated?
4. Most states are "winner-take-all." Explain.
5. How do Maine and Nebraska differ?
6. How many votes are needed to win in the Electoral College? What happens if no one reaches that total?
7. What are the major flaws of the Electoral College?
8. What are the major strengths of the Electoral College?