

**AP U.S. Government & Politics**  
**Unit 1: Constitutional Foundations**  
**Ch 1: Introducing American Government**  
**Due Wednesday September 12, 2018**

For the first chapter, please read carefully and take other notes about what you read.

**Chapter 1: Introducing American Government**

**OPTION 1- KEY QUESTIONS**

**Answer each question in a complete sentence using your own words.**

1. (a) What are some reasons American youth (defined as 18-24 years old) lack political knowledge? (b) What are some of the most important problems associated with this lack of knowledge?
2. (a) What is **government**? (b) What institutions make up government in the U.S.?
3. What functions do most national governments perform?
4. (a) Define **politics**? (b) How is it similar to and different than **government**?
5. (a) What is the most common form of political participation in a democracy? (b) What are other forms? (c) How does America do compared with other nations on political participation?
6. What is a **single-issue group**? How do they affect political outcomes?
7. What is the **policymaking system**? Describe it by explaining its component parts.
8. What are **linkage institutions** and why are they important?
9. What is **public policy**? Give some examples.
10. (a) What is a **democracy**? (b) What are the key principles of traditional democratic theory?
11. (a) Explain the three theories of American democracy: the **pluralist theory**, the **elite and class theory** and **hyperpluralism**. (b) Which do you think provides the best description of the U.S. today?
12. Define **scope of government**. How does the U.S. compare to other nations in terms of its scope of government? Provide examples.

**OPTION 2- Key Terms**

**IDENTIFY each term below AND create a sentence using the term that shows you understand its meaning.**

government	policy agenda	
public goods	political issue	pluralist theory
politics	policymaking institutions	elite and class theory
political participation	public policy	hyperpluralism
single-issue groups	democracy	policy gridlock
policymaking system	majority rule	gross domestic product
linkage institutions	minority rights	individualism