

AP Government Chapter 1
Summer Assignment

Name _____

This assignment is to be completed along with the Web Research assignment. Both are due on the first day of class regardless of which semester you take AP Government. Together, they will be worth a total of 3 daily grades.

Using your textbook, define the terms listed in the first section of this handout. Then, under each learning objective for Chapter 1, answer the questions which will help you meet the objective.

government –

public goods –

politics –

single-issue groups –

linkage institutions –

policy agenda –

political issue –

policymaking institutions –

public policy –

democracy –

representation –

Objective 3: Identify the important features of the policy system and explain how public policies are the choices that government makes, and declines to make, in response to political issues.

4. Draw a diagram of how a policy system works.

5. List the four key linkage institutions in a democratic society.

6. How does a government's policy agenda change?

7. List the four major policymaking institutions in the United States.

8. What is meant by "policy impacts"?

Objective 4: Understand the nature of democratic government, traditional theory, and the key questions concerning democracy.

9. List the five cornerstones of an ideal democracy.

10. Explain what is meant by majority rule and minority rights.

Objective 5: Distinguish between the three contemporary theories of American democracy and politics (pluralist, elite and class, and hyperpluralist) and identify some of their strengths and weaknesses.

11. Complete the following table comparing pluralist, elite/class, and hyperpluralist theories according to who holds the power and how policy is made.

Theory	Who Holds Power	How Policy is Made
Pluralist		
Elite and Class		
Hyperpluralist		

12. List the (4) major challenges facing American democracy.

Objective 6: Understand the nature of the scope of government in America and the key questions concerning the scope of government.

13. How does the scope of American government compare to the scope of government in other countries?

14. List a few items that illustrate the scope of American government.

14. How has American individualism affected the scope of government?