

*Ms. Strong's AP U.S. Gov Exam Review Website: <http://juliestrong.weebly.com/ap-us-gov-exam-review-stuff.html>

I. Theory & the Basic Functions of Government

- Locke (*Second Treatise*): “consent of the governed,” “life, liberty and property,” natural law, natural rights, Social Contract
- Declaration of Independence (1st 2 paragraphs): “all men created equal,” “unalienable rights,” “life, liberty, pursuit of happiness,” “consent of the governed”
- U.S. Constitution: Preamble, Articles I-VII, Amendments
- Madison's *Federalist 51*: argument for large republic with strong national gov't with separation of powers, checks and balances

II. Evolution of democracy (types of democracy)

- Characteristics and basic ideals and values of democracy evolution of American democracy i.e. our understanding today v. 1788
- The US Government and Society today: how democratic are we?
- Theories of power distribution: Elite Theory and Pluralist Theory (*Federalist 10*)
- Economic systems: communism, socialism, welfare capitalism, capitalism
- American Democracy: Representative (ex: Congress, President, state legislatures) v. Direct (ex: recall, referendum, ballot initiatives at state and local level)
- American Capitalism: Free market economy with regulation, private ownership, welfare capitalism

III. Constitutional Foundations

- KNOW THE CONSTITUTION INCLUDING ALL 27 AMENDMENTS!!!!
- Articles of Confederation: problems, successes
- Constitutional Convention: why it convened, who was there, who was not
 - Controversies: representation (VA Plan, NJ Plan), slavery, power of the national government,
 - Compromises: Great (or Conn) Compromise, 3/5 Compromise, Electoral College, etc.
 - Struggle for ratification: federalist v. Antifederalists
- Big Four Principles: Separation of Powers, Checks and Balances, Federalism, Limited Government
- Constitution: founding principles (federalism, separation of powers, checks and balances, the rule of law); types of powers (delegated, expressed, implied, inherent, concurrent); powers of the branches, formal and informal; specific examples of checks and balances, amendment process
- Amendment process: Methods of Proposal (2/3 both houses of Congress OR 2/3 states call for constitutional convention; Methods of Ratification (3/4 state legislatures OR 3/4 state ratifying convention)
- Important clauses: Commerce Clause, Necessary & Proper Clause, Supremacy Clause, Full Faith & Credit Clause, 1st Amendment (Establishment Clause, Free Exercise Clause), 14th Amendment (Equal Protection Clause, Due Process Clause, Citizenship Clause)

IV. Federalism

- *Federalism* – powers divided between national and state governments with national government supreme
- Constitutional basis of federalism: Article 1, 10th and 14th Amendments, Article IV, “Full, Faith and Credit” Clause
- 14th Amendment and the Incorporation Doctrine (a.k.a. *Gitlow v. New York* and “selective incorporation”)
- History of Federalism and relationship between federal & state governments
- Debate over “necessary and proper” or “elastic clause,” & commerce clause
- Supreme Court decisions: *Marbury v. Madison*, *McCulloch v. Maryland*, *Gibbons v. Ogden*, *Gitlow v. New York*, *United States v. Lopez*, *McDonald v. Chicago*, Selective incorporation (a.k.a. Incorporation Doctrine), *Obergefell v. Hodges*
- Benefits and consequences of US federal system
- Define and apply *Dual Federalism* (“layer cake”) v. *Cooperative Federalism* (“marble cake”)
- Politics of modern federalism and Grants-in-Aid: revenue sharing, categorical grants, block grants
- *Devolution* – returning, or granting powers to the state through federal law (since 1980s; ex: block grants)
- Federal Grants-in-Aid: Revenue Sharing, Categorical Grants, Federal Unfunded Mandates, Block Grants

Key Review Handouts

- Key Constitutional Principles
- Studying the Constitution (most important handout!!!!)
- Constitutional Structure of Federalism
- Key Events in the History of American Federalism
- Federalism and the Use of Grants-in-Aid