Congratulations! You’ve made it through your AP U.S. Government course and are now ready to prepare for the AP Exam. These tips and strategies should help you in the final days or weeks before taking the exam. Remember that preparing for the Exam is a bit like training for a marathon—you won’t do as well if you wait and cram a lot of training into the day before the Exam. Working at a reasonable pace from now until test day will pay off in the end.

The Format of the Exam: Let’s begin by looking at a breakdown of how the AP US Government Exam is structured:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Time allowed</th>
<th>Percentage of grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>55 multiple choice</td>
<td>1 hour &amp; 20 min</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 free response</td>
<td>1 hour &amp; 40 min</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The questions on the test will cover topics from the whole course. However, in the multiple-choice section, you’ll find that certain subjects come up more often:

**Subject**                                                                 | **Percentage of the Test**
---                                                                           | ---
**Government Institutions**                                                 | ——
(Congress, presidency, courts, bureaucracy)                                 | ——
**Political Behavior of Individuals**                                       | ——
(political culture, public opinion, voting)                                 | ——
**Political Behavior of Groups**                                            | ——
(political parties, elections, interest groups, PACs, and mass media)       | ——
**Constitutional Foundations**                                             | ——
(federalism, checks & balances, separation of powers, theories of democracy) | ——
**Civil Liberties and Civil Rights**                                       | ——

There are 15 Required Supreme Court Cases:

- Marbury v. Madison
- McCulloch v. Maryland
- Schenck v. US
- Brown v. Board of Ed (1954)
- Baker v. Carr
- Engel v. Vitale
- Gideon v. Wainright
- Tinker v. DesMoines
- NY Times Co. v. US
- Wisconsin v. Yoder
- Roe v. Wade
- Shaw v. Reno
- US. v. Lopez
- McDonald v. Chicago
- Citizens United v. FEC

**Required Documents:**

- The Declaration of Independence
- The Articles of Confederation
- The Constitution of the United States
- Federalist #10
- Brutus #1
- Federalist #51
- Federalist #70
- Federalist # 78
- Letter from a Birmingham Jail
Unit 4: American Political Ideologies and Beliefs. American political beliefs are shaped by founding ideals, core values, linkage institutions, political parties, interest groups and the media.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Explain</th>
<th>Explain how cultural factors influence political attitudes and socialization.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Public opinion is measured through scientific polling, and the results of public opinion polls influence public policies and institutions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Describe</th>
<th>Explain the quality and credibility of claims based on public opinion data.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Public opinion data that can impact elections and policy debates is affected by such scientific polling types and methods as:

- **Opinion polls**
- **Tracking polls**
- **Entrance and exit polls**

Did you know that polls repeatedly report that a majority of Americans disapprove of the job Congress is doing?

Explain the relationship between scientific polling and elections and how policy debates are affected by the:

- Importance of public opinion as a source of political influence in a given election or policy debate
Widely held political ideologies shape policy debates and choices in American policies.

**Explain** how ideologies of the two major parties shape policy debates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Democratic Party</th>
<th>Republican party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Economic:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Social:</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

America’s political culture does support economic opportunity, it does NOT support economic equality.

**Explain** how U.S. political culture (e.g., values, attitudes, and beliefs) influences the formation, goals, and implementation of public policy over time.