Political Science 101 Midterm Study Guide

- To what extent was the American Revolution a popular political movement?
- What was significant about the American Declaration of Independence and why does it continue to be held in high regard?
- What was it about the American Declaration of Independence that was left largely unrealized after the war?
- How did American regionalism impact political values in the emerging nation?
- How did American regionalism impact the development of government in the United States?
- In what ways did American regionalism contribute to the forging of a new nation?
- To what extent is American regionalism evident in modern American politics?
- What political factors brought rival regions together despite their religious, economic, and cultural differences?
- What role did property play in the formulation of a new government in America?
- What role did the concept of equality play in the formulation of a new government in America?
- Why did the American's find the specter of taxation so troubling politically and economically?
- How did traditions of self-government in America impede British rule in America?
- How did the Article of Confederation affirm the primacy of State’s rights?
- Why did the Articles of Confederation feature a weak central government?
- Why were the Articles of Confederation ultimately replaced by a new Constitution?
- How did proponents of the U.S. Constitution like Madison, Jay, and Hamilton, view the relationship between economics and politics?
- What similarities did the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, and Constitution share?
- What are some key differences between the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution?
- Did the conception of American government change among some of the framers of the Constitution? If so, how?
- How would you describe the theory behind American Federalism?
- What were the key institutions laid out in the U.S. Constitution?
  - Why was the model of bicameralism ultimately adopted?
  - How did the way elections worked affect the way power was distributed at the federal level?
  - What was the role of compromise during the drafting and ratification of the U.S. Constitution?
  - How did economic realities impact the shape and scope of the American government?
  - What is apportionment and how was it originally determined? Did the original method of apportionment and reapportionment change since the ratification of the Constitution? If so, how?
- How was the concept of democracy expressed in the U.S. Constitution?
- How was the concept of democracy suppressed in the U.S. Constitution?
- What is the Bill of Rights and why was it essential to the ratification of the Constitution?
- What were the political and legal ideals that the Bill of Rights expressed which the original Constitution seemed to omit?
- What were the similarities between the Bill of Rights and the U.S. Constitution?
- What were the differences between the Bill of Rights and the U.S. Constitution?
- What is meant by ‘original intent’?
  - What are the potential objections to this form of interpretation?
- What is meant by ‘living constitution’?
  - What are the potential objections to this form of interpretation?
- Who was John Marshall and what was his contribution to the development of American government?
- How has the role of the Supreme Court evolved over time?
- What similarities does the California Constitution share with the U.S. Constitution?
• In what ways is the California Constitution distinct from the U.S. Constitution?
• How have certain features of the California Constitution shaped the state’s politics?
• Where do legal rights which are not explicitly stated in the Constitution originate? For example, what gives individuals the right to privacy in the United States?
• How would you describe the development of American Federalism?
  - How has the relationship between the states and the federal government evolved?
  - How has the relationship between individuals and the state evolved?
  - How has American expansionism affected national politics?
• How has the development of American Federalism been affected by economics?
• How would you explain the development of democracy in the United States?
• What has been the role of government in the development of the American economy?
• What has been the role of capitalism in the development of American government?
• How have economic imperatives shaped the role of American government?
• How have changing expectations at the grass-roots level affected the direction of American politics?
• In what ways have minority groups shown the power to affect political change in the United States?
• In what ways have individuals shown the power to affect political change in the United States?
• In what ways have majority groups shown the power to affect political change in the United States?