

2017 AP Government & Politics Review Schedule and Exam Information

Overview: How will we prepare for the exam?

- To study effectively for the APGOV exam, ***students must begin their review at least four to six weeks before the test.*** (The school calendar conveniently places Spring Break at just the right time for this.) The review schedule on this sheet is designed to help students manage this daunting task. The most important thing to remember is this: ***the sooner you start, the easier it will be, and the better you will do on the APGOV exam.***
- In order to compel you to prepare for the exam, you will take a series of review quizzes over the next several weeks, covering much of the material we have learned this year, that will count as a significant portion of your fourth-quarter grade. (See below for more information.)
- In order to assist you in preparing for these quizzes, the final exam, and the AP exam in May, you are encouraged to partake in a number of activities, including: attending after-school review sessions, taking practice tests after school and at home, and reviewing old tests and quizzes. (See below for more information.)
- Best resources for studying: textbook, test-prep book(s), practice tests on website, reading notes, course notes, Quizlet.

Studying for the Review Quizzes, the Final Exam, and the AP Exam

- Start reviewing each unit ***at least three days*** before the scheduled review quiz. (See the master review schedule.)
- On the first day of study, make sure you can fully define, describe, and identify the significance of every item on the blue sheet for that particular unit. If you cannot do this, re-read the textbook, the test-prep book, your reading notes and class notes, and/or Quizlet.
- On the second day, take as many practice quizzes as you can that cover those topics. As you take the quizzes, make a list of any questions or topics you get wrong (“stuff I don’t know”), and use this list to narrow your studying.
- On the third day, study the topics you got wrong on the practice quizzes. After each review quiz, add any questions or topics you got wrong on the review quizzes to your list.
- About two weeks before the final exam, start reviewing all of the potential FRQs mentioned in the test-prep book and in other review books you have. You should also consider FRQs I have given you on tests, for practice, and the possible FRQ topics I have mentioned throughout the course. This might also be a good activity to do in small groups.
- In the week before the final exam (and again before the AP exam), take several practice tests.
- Attend as many review sessions and sit for as many practice tests as possible.
- It is recommended you do not do too much studying on the last day before the test. Use this day to make sure you have everything you need for the test and to get plenty of rest.

Review Sessions

- You should come prepared to each review session with your own questions in mind. Do not expect a structured review. This is your chance to ask questions about your own areas of weakness. I may start each session with a quick overview or a review game, but review sessions are your chance to ask questions.
- It might be helpful to have your AP Government binder, your list of “stuff I don’t know,” and a pen/pencil with you.
- You must study on your own prior to these sessions. The sessions alone cannot possibly prepare you for the exam.
- Sessions will start at 2:35 and continue until 3:30 if there is interest. You are **not** required to stay the entire session.
- Classroom rules apply. Cell phones must be turned off.

Review Quizzes

- Be aware that each of the review quizzes is a graded quiz and will collectively constitute 25% of your fourth-quarter grade. Therefore, ***it is imperative you prepare for these as you would for any other quiz or test.***
- You may begin the quiz as soon as you arrive in class. Therefore, there can be no talking or opening of notes, books, etc. upon entering the room. The quiz ends exactly eight (8) minutes after the tone sounds.
- Each review quiz will consist of twelve (12) AP-style questions and will be worth a total of 20 points.
- Each quiz grade will be recorded as follows:

Score of 12 = 20pts	Score of 8 = 16pts	Score of 4 = 10pts
Score of 11 = 19pts	Score of 7 = 15pts	Score of 3 = 8pts
Score of 10 = 18pts	Score of 6 = 14pts	Score of 2 = 6pts
Score of 9 = 17pts	Score of 5 = 13pts	Score of 0 or 1 = 4pts
- If you are absent for a review quiz, you must make it up within **TWO (2)** school days of your return. This can be done before or after school or during one of my available conference periods. **After two days, the score will be a zero.**

Final Exam

- The final exam for AP Government will be given on Friday, April 21. Periods 1 and 3 will take the exam in the morning; periods 5 and 9 will take the exam in the afternoon. (More details will be provided as the date approaches.)
- The exam will be comprehensive, meaning it will cover all material since the beginning of the year (Units 1-8).
- The exam will be structured and graded in identical fashion as the AP exam. This is done so students can have a “trial-run” before taking the actual test on May 4.
- The final exam will be graded just like the midterm was: “5” earns an A; “4” earns a B; “3” earns a C; “2” earns a D; “1” earns an F. Failure to take the final exam will result in a failing grade. **Students should do everything possible to be in attendance on the day the final exam is given.**
- Taking the final exam in advance of the AP exam has three advantages:
 - It has proven to be beneficial to student scores, and can help ease the anxiety of taking the AP exam one or two weeks later. Students will now know exactly what to expect.
 - The test can then be used the following week as the basis for review, and students can evaluate how they approached the final exam and make adjustments for the AP exam.
 - It relieves the burden on students to study twice – once for the AP exam in early May and again for a final exam in late May or early June.

College Board Advanced Placement U.S. Government & Politics Exam

- The AP exam is the morning of **Thursday, May 4, 2017**. (More details will be provided as the date approaches.)
- The test consists of two sections: multiple-choice and free-response. Each part is 50% of the grade.
 - The multiple-choice section consists of 60 questions. Students will have 45 minutes.
 - The free-response section consists of four mandatory free-response essays. Students will have 100 minutes.
- Remember...
 - A score of “3” or better will likely earn you college credit or advanced placement.
 - A score of “3” or better looks great on college applications, transcripts, and resumes.
 - Students who score a “4” will be entered into the Honorable Mention section of the APGOV Hall of Fame.
 - Students who score a “5” will be entered into the Hall of Fame and be forever immortalized in the hallway of Room 242 with their picture and name.
 - Students earning their second “5” (the first coming in AP U.S. History) will be further recognized in the Hall of Fame with a paw print.

Master Review Schedule

Note: All dates and planned activities are subject to change. An announcement will be made in class or through email.

Thursday, March 23	Review Session: Units 1 & 2	After school
Friday, March 24	Review Quiz: Unit 1	In class
<i>March 27 through March 31</i>	<i>Spring Break</i>	
<i>Monday, April 3*</i>	<i>First practice test submission deadline</i>	<i>At home</i>
Monday, April 3	Review Quiz: Unit 2	In class
Thursday, April 6	Review Session: Units 3 & 4	After school
Friday, April 7**	Practice Test #1	After school
Monday, April 10	Review Quiz: Unit 3	In class
Thursday, April 13**	Practice Test #2	After school
<i>April 14 through April 17</i>	<i>Easter Break</i>	
<i>Tuesday, April 18*</i>	<i>Second practice test submission deadline</i>	<i>At home</i>
Tuesday, April 18	Review Quiz: Unit 4	In class
Thursday, April 20	Review Session: Unit 5 & Court Cases	After school
Friday, April 21	Final Exam	Room 127
Monday, April 24	Review Quiz: Unit 5	In class
Friday, April 28**	Practice Test #3	After school
<i>Monday, May 1*</i>	<i>Third practice test submission deadline</i>	<i>At home</i>
Monday, May 1	Review Quiz: Court Cases	In class
Thursday, May 4	COLLEGE BOARD AP EXAM	Room 127 (morning)

* Earns three bonus points per test, if you submit your answer sheet and your “stuff I don’t know” sheet no later than this date. See website for more information and to access these practice tests.

** Earns five bonus points, if you sit for the entire test and scoring. Test begins at 2:35 and test/scoring should be complete by 3:35. Must sign up in advance for these as seats are limited.