

AP US Government and Politics Summer Homework - 2023

This is due on the first day of school

1st - Get a class binder ready with 8 tabs using the unit titles listed below.

Title Page/Front Cover of class binder: Choose a quote from a founding father from the link. Including the speaker/author, and date. Type or write the quote on your title page.

[Quotes from the Founders](#)

Table of Contents: create a table of contents page using the listed units.

Unit 1- Roots of American Democracy

Unit 2- Constitutional Foundations

Unit 3 - Federalism

Unit 4 - Congress, the Federal Budget, Social and Economic Policy

Unit 5 - Presidency and Bureaucracy

Unit 6 - Judiciary and Landmark Supreme Court Cases

Unit 7 - Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Unit 8 - Political Culture and Linkage Institutions

- Write the quote including the speaker/author, and date. What founding principle discussed on the website does the quote exemplify: write a sentence explaining how so.

Class Assignments: Once completed, place both of the listed assignments behind your Unit 1 tab.

1st - Identify and define founding American principles and virtues. Make a glossary using the terms from the Bill of Rights Institute and HIGHLIGHT 3 principles and 3 virtues that you think are most important to the foundation of the United States.

[Principles and Virtues](#)

2nd - Read the linked essay discussing the vision of the founders and its relevance today. Make a copy of these questions in a google doc to type your answers, or write them out to answer in a class spiral. You will need to bring your assignment with you the first day of class **behind the unit 1 tab in your class binder**. Remember, this is an analysis of the essay as written by this particular author, and not a discussion of your opinion. Keep your answers expository and remember that the opinions from the 18th century do not have to be inline with modern opinions, or your opinion.

Reading: The American Founders and their Relevance Today, By Robert P. Kraynak
June 15, 2015 Founders [The American Founders and Their Relevance Today - Intercollegiate Studies Institute](#)

Questions for comprehension and analysis:

Part 1: The American Founders

1. Describe the two explanations given for why each generation rediscovers the American Founders.
2. What does the author mean when stating that, “the founding period of a nation is a time when the fundamental principles of a new political order are ...established.”
3. How is the founding period “authoritative”?
4. Describe the two schools of thought in history and law with regards to the ideals of the founding. Are they as cut and dry as different points of view?
5. While reading the discussion of the moral vision of the founding fathers, list the four major tenets.
6. Describe “republican liberty.”
7. Why was America’s founding seen as a “test”? A test of what and why? Discuss in historical context.
8. How is the founder's idea of American liberty a complicated one?
9. What aspects of elitism were embedded into America’s constitutional structure?
10. Why did the founders embrace constitutionalism? List the key features of the US Constitution discussed in the essay.
11. How did the founders view, define, and put Natural Law into practice?
12. What serves as the moral and theological(religious) underpinning of the Constitution? Why is this the case?
13. Where did the American founders believe freedom of the individual came from?
14. List and explain the three traditions that form the roots of American culture.
15. How does liberty mean more than “mere self-expression”?
16. How is the founder's vision of a responsible and ordered liberty different from the contemporary notion of libertarianism?
17. In what ways did the founders intend Americans to exercise freedom?
18. What is “American exceptionalism”? How can it lead to both good and bad natures?

Part 2: Founders Relevance to Today

Read the second part of the essay that addresses three major topics of modern political discourse and debate. Address how the founders ideals would apply to each topic today using three examples or points from the essay for each.

1. How big or how limited should the government be? How do you balance liberty and security? What about a welfare state? How do you manage a national debt in a free society? (discuss three points from the essay)

2. What is America's role in the world? Do we have a duty to lead the world to freedom and self-government? (discuss three points from the essay)
3. Is freedom the same as libertarianism or moral relativism? Or, does freedom require virtue and cultural traditions? (discuss three points from the essay)

Conclusion

1. What does the author mean when describing the founders as "enlightened traditionalists"?
2. How is the confusion of freedom with moral relativism a threat to our modern republic?