

Name: _____

Government In America, Chapter 1

Big Idea Questions	Guided Notes	Areas of Concern
	<p style="text-align: center;">Politics And Government Matter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Big Ideas:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Many Americans under _____ don't vote or follow politics<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Many Americans over _____ do• Why the discrepancy?<ul style="list-style-type: none">• _____ for young voters• Senior citizens are interested in issues that affect them (_____)• Although there are more news outlets, news itself can be avoided more than in the past<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cable TV, sports, computers, phones, etc.• Nixon averaged a rating of _____ for his addresses; Obama averaged _____ <p style="text-align: center;">Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is government?<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "The institutions that make decisions for a society collectively" (p. 8)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The federal government is made up of Congress, the President, courts, and agencies• What do all governments have in common?<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing a national _____ – US spends \$650 billion a year• Provide public services – roads, libraries, schools, etc.• Preserve order – National Guard could be used in rioting• _____ the young – provide _____• Collect _____ – used to pay for public goods and services <p style="text-align: center;">Politics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is politics?<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Determines whom we select as our government leaders and what policies these leaders pursue." (p. 9)• Media focuses on the "who" of politics:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• _____, parties, etc.• "What" of politics:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Benefits, taxes, etc.• "How" of politics:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ways of participation – _____, etc.• _____-issue groups:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supporters who vote for a candidate usually on the basis of one issue (_____, etc.)	

The Policymaking System

- How do people get involved in a democracy?
 - _____
- Linkage Institutions:
 - Groups that let policymakers in government know the preference of Americans
 - Linkage Institutions include _____, etc.
- Policy Agenda:
 - “Issues that attract the serious attention of public officials and other people actively involved in politics at a given time” (p. 11)
 - Americans tend to vote for candidates that support their major concerns
 - _____ news affects policy agenda
- Policymaking Institutions:
 - Congress, President, Courts, (some argue _____ – government agencies as well)
 - Most policies involve multiple institutions’ involvement

Democracy

- What is democracy?
 - “A system of selecting policymakers and of organizing government so that policy reflects citizens’ preference.” (p. 13)
- Originally, the framers feared giving people many democratic elements we have and know today
- 5 criteria of an “ideal democratic process” (p. 14)
 - Equality in _____
 - Effective _____
 - Enlightened understanding – free press and free speech
 - _____ control of the agenda – 1 group should not control policy
 - Inclusion
- Restraints protecting the minority from the majority:
 - _____
- In a representative government, the officials should reflect the will of citizens
- 3 theories of American Democracy
 - _____:
 - Interest groups _____ (NRA, NOW, UAW)
 - Groups can heavily influence policy (Civil Rights in the 1950s and 1960s) through various government avenues (courts)
 - Critics of pluralism argue that certain groups have too much power
 - _____:
 - Belief that _____ has too much power
 - Argue that a _____ people are the decision makers in government
 - _____:

With which theory of American Democracy do you agree most?

- Belief that the government is _____ due to the many groups
- Too many groups leads to nothing getting done
- Overlapping powers by governments makes it hard to implement policy

Challenges to Democracy

- Increased Complexity of Issues:
 - So many complex issues leads to _____ experts
 - _____ in Government:
 - Low voter turnout by youths can lead to challenges in the future
 - Escalating Campaign Costs:
 - _____ (PAC'S) fund campaigns and are very influential
 - Diverse Political Interests:
 - Can lead to policy _____ in which nothing gets done
- #### American Political Culture and Democracy
- 5 elements
 - Liberty:
 - Immigrants mostly say _____ when asked why they came to America
 - Freedom of _____
 - _____:
 - Equal opportunity due to lack of monarchy or aristocracy
 - Equality is not and cannot be _____, but everyone can have a chance to be successful
 - _____:
 - American has a unique identity, in large part, due to the frontier
 - Frederick Jackson Turner
 - _____:
 - Preference for limited government and free markets
 - Americans pay less taxes than other democracies
 - _____:
 - Advocates the rights of average citizens against the privileged elites
 - William Jennings Bryan

The Scope Of Government In America

- Governments spend about _____
- _____ million Americans are government employees
- Social Security consumes 1/5 of the national budget – _____
- Except for a few Clinton surpluses, the government has run deficits since _____