

AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

1st Exam: Essay Review Questions, Chapters 1 - 5

DIRECTIONS

- *Two* of these four review questions will appear on your exam. **Your essay may address *either one*.**
- To receive full credit, your exam essay should be written in well-organized paragraphs, composed of complete sentences, and expressed in standard English.
 - **BEGIN YOUR ESSAY WITH AN INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH (SIMPLY REWRITE THE ESSAY QUESTION IN YOUR OWN WORDS). THIS PARAGRAPH SHOULD LIST ALL THE MAJOR POINTS THAT YOUR ESSAY WILL ADDRESS.**
 - **CONTINUE WITH A BODY OF PARAGRAPHS (ANSWERING EACH OF THE MAJOR POINTS RAISED IN THE ESSAY QUESTION).**
 - **END WITH A CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH (SUMMARIZING THE MAJOR POINTS COVERED). THIS PARAGRAPH SHOULD LIST ALL THE MAJOR POINTS THAT YOUR ESSAY ADDRESSED.**
- You may *not* use any notes or dictionaries to assist you in your essay writing. However, I *will* be happy to answer during the exam any questions you may have about spelling, punctuation, grammar, and syntax.
- You will *not* need to bring a "blue book" -- a test booklet will be provided.

STUDY HINTS

- **INSTEAD OF TRYING TO MEMORIZE A COMPLETE ESSAY FOR ANY OF THE four TOPICS, MEMORIZE AN OUTLINE.** Locate the section of the chapter outline that addresses each of the four topics and construct an outline for each. Review your textbook readings and class notes to expand the detail in each essay's outline.
- Make sure that each outline addresses each point raised in its respective essay question. Each of the four essay questions raises four to six major points.
- The first thing to do during the exam is to choose one of the two essay topics. The second thing to do is to write down as complete an outline as possible -- making sure that it addresses every major point raised. **IT IS A BIG MISTAKE TO BEGIN TO WRITE YOUR ESSAY WITHOUT FIRST WRITING A GOOD OUTLINE.**

GRADING

- The essay portion of the exam is worth a total of 50 points. A maximum of 40 points will be awarded for *content*. **IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO ADDRESS EVERY POINT RAISED IN THE ESSAY TOPIC YOU SELECT THAN IT IS TO COVER FEWER POINTS IN GREATER DETAIL.**
- A maximum of 10 points will be awarded for *presentation*. **MAKE SURE TO BUDGET ADEQUATE TIME TO THOROUGHLY PROOF READ YOUR ESSAY BEFORE TURNING IT IN.** Significant points will be subtracted for obvious errors such as subject-verb disagreement, confusion of plurals and possessives, and misspelling of commonly used words. Don't forget to include an introductory paragraph and a concluding paragraph.

ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. **(Chapter 1)** Discuss **representative democracy** by addressing each of the following points --
 - Begin the body of your essay by giving definitions for parliamentary and presidential systems of democracy.
 - For each of these two forms of representative democracy, name at least three nations that use that system.
 - Discuss (don't just list but also explain) at least three major *advantages* of each system – presidential & parliamentary.
 - Discuss (don't just list but also explain) at least three major *disadvantages* of each system – presidential & parliamentary.
 - Which system is the most common around the world? Why? Which is most common in the Western Hemisphere? Why?

2. **(Chapter 2)** Discuss **major features of the Constitution** by answering the following questions.
 - Begin the body of your essay by identifying and explaining (don't just list) the three *internal* controls that the founding fathers proposed to safeguard against the abuse of the new national government's power. Cite an example of each *internal* control.
 - Identify and explain (don't just list) the two *external* controls that the founding fathers proposed to safeguard against the abuse of the new national government's power. Cite an example of each *external* control.
 - Discuss (don't just list but also explain) the three problems that we complain about today that inevitably result from that structure of government. Did the founding fathers anticipate or intend for these problems to occur? Why?
 - Discuss (don't just list but also explain) at least three examples from U.S. history in which the founding fathers' constitutional safeguards against tyranny clearly failed to work effectively.

3. **(Chapter 3)** Discuss the **establishment clause of the 1st Amendment** to the U.S. Constitution by addressing the following points:
 - Begin the body of your essay with the exact wording of the establishment clause.
 - Continue with two paragraphs that discuss the *strict-* and *loose-construction* interpretations of the establishment clause.
 - For each interpretation, identify its goal and rationale.
 - For each interpretation, discuss (don't just list) at least four U.S. Supreme Court decisions that illustrate that interpretation.
 - Identify the four judicial principles used to resolve establishment-clause disputes and discuss (don't just list) USSC decisions that illustrate the application of each.

4. **(Chapter 5)** Discuss **federalism** by responding to the following.
 - Begin the body of your essay by defining federalism. How does it compare to unitary and confederal systems? Give two examples of nations that have (or had) federal, unitary, and confederal systems.
 - Define and give examples of enumerated, implied, and inherent powers granted to the federal government. Which president first claimed an inherent power? What was it? Which Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court first claimed an inherent power? What was it?
 - Powers prohibited to the *federal* government are listed in what two parts of the Constitution? Give at least two examples of each.
 - Identify and give examples of the powers enumerated and reserved to the *state* governments. Where are the reserved powers granted to the state governments?
 - Powers prohibited to the *state* governments are listed in what two parts of the Constitution? Give at least two examples of each.
 - Define and give at least two examples of the major *concurrent* powers.