

## 4 Ap Government Free Response Scoring Guidelines

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**AP® U.S. History Crash Course Book + Online AP U.S. Government and Politics Crash Course**  
Cracking the AP U.S. Government & Politics Exam 2019, Premium Edition, provides students with an in-depth review of all AP U.S. Government & Politics topics, including the institutions of government, elections, political parties, interest groups, public policy, civil rights, constitutional underpinnings, and more. It also includes a comprehensive glossary of key U.S. Government & Politics terms and useful techniques for cracking the free-response section. This Premium Edition includes 5 full-length practice tests for the most practice possible (including 4 tests in the book and 1 online).

**Barron's AP U.S. Government and Politics with Online Tests** Princeton Review

Get the AP college credits you've worked so hard for... Our savvy test experts show you the way to master the test and score higher. This new and fully expanded edition examines all AP Statistics areas including in-depth coverage of univariate and bivariate data, measures of dispersion, sampling, and hypothesis testing. The comprehensive review covers every possible exam topic: exploring data, planning a study, anticipating patterns, and statistical inferences. Features 6 full-length practice exams with all answers thoroughly explained. Follow up your study with REA's test-taking strategies, powerhouse drills and study schedule that get you ready for test day. **DETAILS - Comprehensive, up-to-date subject review of every AP Statistics topic used in the AP exam. - Study schedule tailored to your needs - Packed with proven key exam tips, insights and advice - 6 full-length practice exams. All exam answers are fully detailed with easy-to-follow, easy-to-grasp explanations. 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Founded in 1959 with the purpose of disseminating the most recently developed scientific information to groups in industry, government, high schools, and universities, REA has since become a successful and highly respected publisher of study aids, test preps, handbooks, and reference works. REA's Test Preparation series includes study guides for all academic levels in almost all disciplines. Research & Education Association publishes test preps for students who have not yet completed high school, as well as high school students preparing to enter college. Students from countries around the world seeking to attend college in the United States will find the assistance they need in REA's publications. For college students seeking advanced degrees, REA publishes test preps for many major graduate school admission examinations in a wide variety of disciplines, including engineering, law, and medicine. Students at every level, in every field, with every ambition can find what they are looking for among REA's publications. While most test preparation books present practice tests that bear little resemblance to the actual exams, REA's series presents tests that accurately depict the official exams in both degree of difficulty and types of questions. REA's practice tests are always based upon the most recently administered exams, and include every type of question that can be expected on the actual exams. REA's publications and educational materials are highly regarded and continually receive an unprecedented amount of praise from professionals, instructors, librarians, parents, and students. Our authors are as diverse as the fields represented in the books we publish. They are well-known in their respective disciplines and serve on the faculties of prestigious high schools, colleges, and universities throughout the United States and Canada. **Chapter 1 - SUCCEEDING IN AP STATISTICS** The objective of this book is to prepare you for the Advanced Placement Examination in Statistics by providing you with an accurate representation of the test. Toward that end, we provide an extensive review and practice tests that cover the material one would expect to study in a typical Advanced Placement course and see on the exam itself. Six full-length practice Statistics exams are provided. Following each practice exam is an answer key and a detailed explanation for every question. The explanations not only provide the correct response but also explain why none of the remaining answers is the best choice. By studying the appropriate review sections, taking the corresponding exams, and studying the answer explanations, you can discover your strengths and weaknesses, and prepare yourself to score well on the AP Statistics examination. **ABOUT THE ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM** The Advanced Placement program consists of two components: an AP course and an AP exam. Advanced Placement examinations are offered each May at participating schools and multischool centers throughout the world. The Advanced Placement program is designed to provide high school students with the opportunity to pursue college-level studies while still attending high school. In turn, the participating colleges grant credit and/or advanced placement to students who do well on the examination. The AP Statistics course is designed to represent the content of a typical introductory

college course in statistics. The full-year course covers the skills and knowledge expected of students in the field of introductory statistics. The course is intended for high school students who wish to complete studies equivalent to a one-semester, non-calculus-based college course in statistics. Additional information about the AP program and the AP Statistics exam is available by contacting: AP Services Educational Testing Service P.O. Box 6671 Princeton, NJ 08541-6671 Phone: (609) 771-7300 Fax: (609) 530-0482 E-mail: apexams@ets.org Website: <http://www.collegeboard.com> **THE AP STATISTICS EXAM** The AP Statistics exam lasts 180 minutes and is divided into two sections: I. Multiple-Choice (50% of your grade): This 90-minute section is composed of 35 questions designed to test your proficiency in a wide variety of topics. The questions test examinees' ability to explore data, plan a statistical study, anticipate patterns, and make statistical inferences. II. Free-Response (a combined 50% of your grade): This 90-minute section requires the student to answer four to seven open-ended questions and to complete one investigative task question involving more extended reasoning. Each open-ended question has been created to be answered in approximately 10 minutes. The longer investigative-task question has been created to be answered in approximately 30 minutes. The questions require students to relate different content areas as they plan an extensive solution to a statistics or probability problem. Students are expected to use their analytical and organizational skills to formulate cogent answers in writing their responses. It will be expected that students will show enough of their work to allow the readers to be able to follow their logic. Note that it is not necessary to write out routine statistical calculations that can be done on a calculator. Each student is expected to bring a calculator with statistical capabilities to the examination. The computational capabilities of the calculator should include common univariate and bivariate summaries through linear regression. The graphical capabilities of the calculator should include common univariate and bivariate displays such as boxplots, histograms, and scatterplots. Most graphing calculators on the market are acceptable; non-graphing calculators are allowed only if they have the computational capabilities described previously. The following, however, are not permitted: powerbooks and portable computers, pocket organizers, electronic writing pads, pen input devices, or devices with typewriter-style, or QWERTY, keyboards. **ABOUT THE REVIEW SECTIONS** As mentioned earlier, this book has a review chapter for each of the four topics covered on the exam. The following are the four review chapters in this book that cover the topics on the AP Statistics: - Exploring Data - Planning a Study - Anticipating Patterns - Statistical Inferences The review chapters provide a thorough discussion of the material tested on the exam. By studying the review chapters and by taking the practice test(s), you can prepare yourself to score high on the AP Statistics exam. **SCORING THE EXAM** The multiple-choice section of the exam is scored by crediting each correct answer with one point and deducting one-fourth of a point for each incorrect answer. Unanswered questions receive neither credit nor deduction. The free-response questions are graded by readers chosen from around the country for their familiarity with the AP Program. Each free-response question is read and scored with the reader providing the score on a 0-to-4 (0 being the lowest and 4 the highest) scale. The free-response questions are scored based on the statistical knowledge and communication the student used to answer the question. The statistical knowledge criteria include identifying the important concepts of the problem and demonstrating statistical concepts and techniques that result in a correct solution of the problem. The communication criteria include an explanation of what was done and why, along with a statement of conclusions drawn. Once the free-response questions have been graded by all of the readers, the scores are converted. The open-ended questions count as 75% of the free-response score; the investigative-task question counts as 25%. **SCORING THE MULTIPLE-CHOICE SECTION** For the multiple-choice section, use this formula to calculate your raw score:  $\text{Number Right} - (\text{Number Wrong} \times 1/4) = \text{Raw Score}$  (round to the nearest whole number) Note: Do not include unanswered questions in the formula. **SCORING THE FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS** For the free-response section, use this formula to calculate your raw score:  $5 \text{ Open-Ended Questions (75\%)} + 1 \text{ Investigative-Task Question (25\%)} = \text{Raw Score}$  **THE COMPOSITE SCORE** To obtain your composite score, use the following method:  $\text{Multiple-Choice Raw Score} + \text{Free-Response Raw Score} = \text{Raw Score}$  AP grades are interpreted as follows: 5-extremely well qualified, 4-well qualified, 3-qualified, 2-possibly qualified, and 1-no recommendation. **SCORES THAT RECEIVE COLLEGE CREDIT AND/OR ADVANCED PLACEMENT** Most colleges grant students who earn at least a "3" college credit and/or advanced placement. You should check with your school guidance office about specific college requirements. **STUDYING FOR YOUR AP EXAMINATION** It is never too early to start studying. The earlier you begin, the more time you will have to sharpen your skills. Do not procrastinate! Cramming is not an effective way to study, since it does not allow you the time needed to learn the test material. It is very important for you to choose the time and place for studying that works best for you. Some students may set aside a certain number of hours every morning to study, while others may choose to study at night before going to sleep. Other students may study during the day, while waiting on a line, or even while eating lunch. Only you can determine when and where your study time will be most effective. But be consistent and use your time wisely. Work out a study routine and stick to it! When you take the practice exam(s), try to make your testing conditions as much like the actual test as possible. Turn your television and radio off, and sit down at a quiet table free from distraction. Make sure to time yourself. Complete the practice test(s), score your test(s) and thoroughly review the explanations for the questions you answered incorrectly. However, do not review too much during any one sitting. Concentrate on one problem area at a time by reviewing the question and explanation, and by studying our review(s) until you are confident that you completely understand the material. Since you will be allowed to write in your test booklet during the actual exam, you may want to write in the margins and spaces of this book when practicing. However, do not make miscellaneous notes on your answer sheet. Mark your answers clearly and make sure the answer you have chosen corresponds to the question you are answering. Keep track of your scores! This will enable you to gauge your progress and discover general weaknesses in particular sections. You should carefully study the reviews that cover the topics causing you difficulty, as this will build your skills in those areas. To get the most out of your studying time, we recommend that you follow the Study Schedule. It details how you can best budget your time. **TEST-TAKING TIPS** Although you may be unfamiliar with tests such as the Advanced Placement exams, there are many ways to acquaint yourself with this type of examination and help alleviate your test-taking anxieties. Listed below are ways to help yourself become accustomed to the AP exam, some of which may also be applied to other standardized tests. Become comfortable with the format of the AP Examination in Statistics. When you are practicing to take the exam(s), simulate the conditions under which you will be taking the actual test(s). You should practice under the same time constraints as well. Stay calm and pace yourself. After simulating the test only a couple of times, you will boost your chances of doing well, and you will be able to sit down for the actual test much more confidently. Know the directions and format for each section of the exam. Familiarizing yourself with the directions and format of the different test sections will not only save you time, but will also ensure that you are familiar enough with the AP exam to avoid anxiety (and the mistakes caused by being anxious). Work on the easier questions first. If you find yourself working too long on one question, make a mark next to it in your test booklet and continue. After you have answered all of the questions that you can, go back to the ones you have skipped. Use the process of elimination when you are unsure

of an answer. If you can eliminate three of the answer choices, you have given yourself a fifty-fifty chance of getting the item correct since there will only be two choices left from which to make a guess. If you cannot eliminate at least three of the answer choices, you may choose not to guess, as you will be penalized one-quarter of a point for every incorrect answer. Questions not answered will not be counted. Be sure that you are marking your answer in the oval that corresponds with the correct item in the test booklet. Since the multiple-choice section is graded by machine, marking the wrong answer will throw off your score.

#### **Barron's AP U.S. Government and Politics** Princeton Review

REA's Crash Course for the AP® U.S. Government & Politics Exam - Gets You a Higher Advanced Placement® Score in Less Time Crash Course is perfect for the time-crunched student, the last-minute studier, or anyone who wants a refresher on the subject. Are you crunched for time? Have you started studying for your Advanced Placement® U.S. Government & Politics exam yet? How will you memorize everything you need to know before the test? Do you wish there was a fast and easy way to study for the exam AND boost your score? If this sounds like you, don't panic. REA's Crash Course for AP® U.S. Government & Politics is just what you need. Our Crash Course gives you: Targeted, Focused Review - Study Only What You Need to Know The Crash Course is based on an in-depth analysis of the AP® U.S. Government & Politics course description outline and actual AP® test questions. It covers only the information tested on the exam, so you can make the most of your valuable study time. Our easy-to-read format gives you a crash course in the major ideas and concepts in government and politics, including constitutional underpinnings of the U.S. government, political culture, federalism, civil rights/civil liberties, elections & campaigns, congress, the presidency & the executive branch, and more. Expert Test-taking Strategies Written by a former AP® teacher, the author's question-level strategy and advice explains how to handle the multiple-choice and free-response questions so you can raise your overall point score! Key Terms You Must Know Mastering AP® vocabulary terms is an easy way to increase your total score. Our AP® expert gives you the key terms all AP® U.S. Government & Politics students must know before test day. Take REA's FREE Practice Exam After studying the material in the Crash Course, go to the online REA Study Center and test what you've learned. Our free practice exam features timed testing, detailed explanations of answers, and automatic scoring analysis. The exam is balanced to include every topic and type of question found on the actual AP® exam, so you know you're studying the smart way. Whether you're cramming for the test at the last minute, looking for extra review, or want to study on your own in preparation for the exams - this is the study guide every AP® U.S. Government & Politics student must have. When it's crucial crunch time and your Advanced Placement® exam is just around the corner, you need REA's Crash Course for AP® U.S. Government & Politics! About the Author Larry Krieger earned his B.A. and M.A.T. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his M.A. from Wake Forest University. In a career spanning more than 40 years, Mr. Krieger has taught a variety of AP® subjects including American History, World History, European History, American Government, and Art History. His popular courses were renowned for their energetic presentations, commitment to scholarship, and helping students achieve high AP® exam scores.

#### **Private Government** Princeton Review

A NEWER EDITION OF THIS TITLE IS AVAILABLE. SEE ISBN: 978-0-7386-0625-5 Get the AP college credits you've worked so hard for... Our savvy test experts show you the way to master the test and score higher. This new and fully expanded edition includes a comprehensive review course of all the topics covered on the exam: the Colonial Period, the American Revolution, the U.S. Constitution, Westward expansion, the Civil War, Reconstruction, Industrialism, World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, the Vietnam Era, Watergate, Carter, and the New Conservatism. Features 6 full-length practice exams with all answers thoroughly explained. Follow up your study with REA's test-taking strategies, powerhouse drills and study schedule that get you ready for test day. DETAILS - Comprehensive, up-to-date subject review of every US history topic used in the AP exam - Study schedule tailored to your needs - Packed with proven key exam tips, insights and advice - 6 full-length practice exams. All exam answers are fully detailed with easy-to-follow, easy-to-grasp explanations. TABLE OF CONTENTS ABOUT RESEARCH & EDUCATION ASSOCIATION ABOUT THE BOOK ABOUT THE TEST ABOUT THE REVIEW SECTION SCORING THE EXAM CONTACTING THE AP PROGRAM AP U.S. HISTORY STUDY SCHEDULE AP UNITED STATES HISTORY COURSE REVIEW 1 The Colonial Period (1500-1763) 2 The American Revolution (1763-1787) 3 The United States Constitution (1787-1789) 4 The New Nation (1789-1824) 5 Jacksonian Democracy and Westward Expansion (1824-1850) 6 Sectional Conflict and the Causes of the Civil War (1850-1860) 7 The Civil War and Reconstruction (1860-1877) 8 Industrialism, War, and the Progressive Era (1877-1912) 9 Wilson and World War I (1912-1920) 10 The Roaring Twenties and Economic Collapse (1920-1929) 11 The Great Depression and the New Deal (1929-1941) 12 World War II and the Post-War Era (1941-1960) 13 The New Frontier, Vietnam, and Social Upheaval (1960-1972) 14 Watergate, Carter, and the New Conservatism (1972-2001) AP UNITED STATES HISTORY PRACTICE TESTS Test 1 Answer Sheet Answer Key Detailed Explanations of Answers Test 2 Answer Sheet Answer Key Detailed Explanations of Answers Test 3 Answer Sheet Answer Key Detailed Explanations of Answers Test 4 Answer Sheet Answer Key Detailed Explanations of Answers Test 5 Answer Sheet Answer Key Detailed Explanations of Answers Test 6 Answer Sheet Answer Key Detailed Explanations of Answers AP US HISTORY EXCERPT ABOUT THE BOOK This book gives you all the tools you'll need to master the Advanced Placement Examination in United States History. REA's concise review is the perfect companion to your textbook readings and classroom discussion. And our six full-length practice tests, all based on the current format of the AP exam, mirror the actual test-taking experience. We don't stop there, however. Following each exam you'll find an answer key complete with detailed explanations that tell you not just what's correct but why. By studying our review section, completing all six practice exams, and carefully checking the answer explanations, you'll be able to completely inventory your strengths and weaknesses. Follow our study schedule (see page x) and when test day rolls around, you'll have everything you need to be completely at ease with the material. Teachers, too, will find this book an excellent resource for the Advanced Placement course in U.S. History. In fact, many AP instructors use it as a supplementary text because it so comprehensively supports and addresses specific curriculum objectives for the course and exam. ABOUT THE TEST The Advanced Placement Program is designed to allow high school students to pursue college-level studies while attending high school. The three-hour five-minute AP U.S. History exam is usually given to high school students who have completed a year's study in a college-level U.S. History course. The test results are then used to determine the awarding of course credit and/or advanced course placement in college. According to the College Board, students taking this exam are called upon to demonstrate "systematic factual knowledge" and bring to bear critical, persuasive analysis of the full sweep of U.S. history. This is why we make every effort to establish and build upon context for you, rather than encouraging rote memorization of disconnected facts. The AP U.S. History Exam is divided into two sections: 1) Multiple-Choice: This section is composed of 80 multiple-choice questions designed to gauge your ability to understand and analyze U.S. history from the Colonial period to the present. The majority of the questions, however, are based on 19th- and 20th-century history. This section tests factual knowledge, scope of preparation, and knowledge-based analytical skills. You'll have 55 minutes to complete this section, which accounts for 50 percent of your final grade. 2) Free-Response: This section is composed of three essay questions designed to measure your ability to write coherent, intelligent, well-organized essays on historical topics. The essays require you to demonstrate mastery of historical interpretation and the ability to express views and knowledge in writing. The essays may relate

documents to different areas, analyze common themes of different time periods, or compare individual and group experiences which reflect socioeconomic, racial, gender, and ethnic differences. Part A consists of a mandatory 15-minute reading period, followed by 45 minutes during which you must answer a document-based question (DBQ), which changes from year to year. In Part B the student chooses to answer on two of the topics that are given. You will have 70 minutes to write these essays. The free-response section counts for 50 percent of your final grade. These topics are broken down into thirds: - Political Institutions (1/3rd) - Social and Economic Change (1/3rd) - Behavior and Public Policy, Diplomacy and International Relations, Intellectual and Cultural Development (1/3rd) The time periods covered are as follows: - Pre-Colonial through 1789 (1/6th of exam) - 1790-1914 (1/2 of exam) - 1915-present (1/3rd of exam) ABOUT THE REVIEW SECTION This book begins with REA's concise yet thorough 230-page review of U.S. history designed to acquaint you with the exam's scope of coverage. Our review covers these topics and historical time periods: - The Colonial Period (1500-1763) - The American Revolution (1763-1787) - The United States Constitution (1787-1789) - The New National (1789-1824) - Jacksonian Democracy and Westward Expansion (1824-1850) - Sectional Conflict and The Causes of the Civil War (1850-1860) - The Civil War and Reconstruction (1860-1877) - Industrialism, War, and the Progressive Era (1877-1912) - Wilson and World War I (1912-1920) - The Roaring Twenties and Economic Collapse (1920-1929) - The Great Depression and the New Deal (1929-1941) - World War II and the Post-War Era (1941-1960) - The New Frontier, Vietnam, and Social Upheaval (1960-1972) - Watergate, Carter, and the New Conservatism (1972-2001) SCORING THE EXAM The multiple-choice section of the exam is scored by crediting each correct answer with one point and deducting one-fourth of a point for each incorrect answer. You will neither receive a credit nor suffer a deduction for unanswered questions. The free-response essays are graded by instructors and professors from across the country who come together each June for a week of non-stop AP essay grading. Each essay booklet is read and scored by several graders. Each grader provides a score for the individual essays. The DBQ is scored on a scale from 0 to 15, 0 being the lowest and 15 the highest. Each topic-based essay receives a score from 0 to 9. These scores are concealed so that each grader is unaware of the previous graders' assessments. When the essays have been graded completely, the scores are averaged-one score for each essay-so that the free-response section generates three scores. The total weight of the free-response section is 50 percent of the total score. Your work in the multiple-choice section counts for the other 50 percent. Each year, grades fluctuate slightly because the grading scale is adjusted to take into account the performance of the total AP U.S. History test-taker population. When used with the corresponding chart, the scoring method we present here will strongly approximate the score you would receive if you were sitting for the actual AP U.S. History exam. SCORING THE MULTIPLE-CHOICE SECTION For the multiple-choice section, use this formula to calculate your raw score: Number right - (number wrong x 1/4) = raw score (round to the nearest whole number) SCORING THE FREE-RESPONSE SECTION For the free-response section, use this formula to calculate your raw score: DBQ + Essay #1 + Essay #2 + = raw score (round to the nearest whole number) You may want to give your essays three different grades, such as a 13, 10, and an 8, and then calculate your score three ways: as if you did

#### **AP Government and Politics** Research & Education Assoc.

A NEWER EDITION OF THIS TITLE IS AVAILABLE. SEE ISBN: 978-0-7386-0267-7 Get the AP college credits you've worked so hard for... Our savvy test experts show you the way to master the test and score higher. This new and fully expanded edition examines all AP US & Comparative Government & Politics areas including in-depth coverage of branches of the US government and US voting behaviors. The comprehensive review covers every possible exam topic: the entire US Federal government; a comparative review of the governments of England, France, the former Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China; US political institutions, public opinion, voting behavior and more. Features 3 full-length practice exams with all answers thoroughly explained. Follow up your study with REA's test-taking strategies, powerhouse drills and study schedule that get you ready for test day. DETAILS - Comprehensive, up-to-date subject review of every US & Comparative Government & Politics area used in the AP exam - 3 Full-Length Practice Exams: All exam answers are fully detailed with easy-to-follow, easy-to-grasp explanations - Study schedule tailored to your needs - Packed with proven exam tips, insights and advice TABLE OF CONTENTS About Research & Education Association Study Schedules Study Schedule for the AP Exam in U.S. Government & Politics Study Schedule for the AP Exam in Comparative Government & Politics Chapter 1 - Succeeding on the AP Government & Politics Exams About the Advanced Placement Program The AP United States Government & Politics Exam The AP Comparative Government & Politics Exam About the Review Sections Scoring the Exam Scoring the Multiple-Choice Section Scoring the Free-Response Section The Composite Score Scores that Earn College Credit and/or Advanced Placement Studying for Your AP Examination Test-Taking Tips Chapter 2 - United States Government & Politics Review Constitutional Framework The Federal Government Public Policy Political Institutions and Special Interests Public Opinion and Voter Behavior Civil Rights and the Supreme Court Answer Key Chapter 3 - Comparative Government & Politics Review Britain France The Former Soviet Union (Commonwealth of Independent States) The People's Republic of China Answer Key Practice Test 1 - AP Examination in U.S. Government & Politics Answer Key Detailed Explanations of Answers Practice Test 2 - AP Examination in U.S. Government & Politics Answer Key Detailed Explanations of Answers Practice Test 3 - AP Examination in Comparative Government & Politics Answer Key Detailed Explanations of Answers GLOSSARY ANSWER SHEETS APPENDICES "including Annotated Articles of Confederation and United States Constitution " Chapter 1 - Succeeding on the AP Government & Politics Exams This book will prepare you for the Advanced Placement Examinations in Government and Politics by giving you, first and foremost, an accurate and complete representation of the actual exams for both United States Government and Politics and Comparative Government and Politics. But REA doesn't stop there: we give you thorough yet concise topical reviews, a series of targeted drills, and an up-to-date glossary that comprises the full range of terminology with which you should be familiar. If you are taking the United States Government and Politics exam, you'll want to concentrate on the first part of this book. The second part of the book is devoted to the Comparative Government and Politics exam. In both cases, you'll find a lively course review keyed to exactly the material you'll need to know to score well on the test, complemented by our handy glossary to help you get the most out of your study time. Two complete practice exams are provided for U.S. Government and Politics, while one full-length practice exam is provided for Comparative Government and Politics. Each REA practice exam features an answer key and detailed explanations for every question. The explanations not only provide the correct response but also tell you why the remaining answers shouldn't be chosen. By going over the appropriate review section(s), taking the corresponding exam(s), and studying our detailed explanations, you will discover your strengths and weaknesses and prepare yourself to score well on the AP Government and Politics exams. About the Advanced Placement Program The Advanced Placement Program is designed to provide high school students with the opportunity to pursue college-level studies while still attending high school. The program consists of two components: an AP course and an AP exam. In addition, the AP in Government and Politics curriculum is divided into two courses: United States Government & Politics and Comparative Government & Politics. If you wish to pursue an Advanced Placement in Government and Politics course you may enroll in the United States course, the Comparative course, or both. You will be expected to leave the course(s) with college-level writing skills and knowledge of government and politics. Upon completion of the course(s), you may then take the corresponding AP exam(s). Test results are then used to grant course credit and/or determine placement level in the subject when you enter college. AP exams are administered every May. The exam schedule has been designed to allow you the opportunity to take both exams, if you are enrolled in both courses. If the United States exam is given during the morning administration, the Comparative exam will be given during the afternoon administration. The AP United States Government & Politics Exam The United States exam is 145 minutes in length and is divided into two sections: I. Multiple-Choice (50% of your grade): This 45-minute section is composed of 60 questions designed to measure your understanding of facts, concepts, and theories pertinent to United States government and politics. Your ability to analyze and understand data, and the patterns and consequences involved with political processes and behaviors will also be tested. In addition you must have knowledge of the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas relevant to United States government and politics. II. Free-Response (50% of your grade): This 100-minute section consists of four mandatory questions, each of which accounts for one-fourth of your total free-response score. You should allot roughly 25 minutes - or one-quarter of the total time in the free-response segment - for each essay. Each question normally asks you to interrelate ideas from different content areas from among the topics listed below. In addition, you may also be asked to evaluate and define fundamental concepts in the study of United States politics, and possibly to analyze case studies that bear on political relationships and events in the United States. You will be required to demonstrate mastery of political interpretation, and analytic and organizational skills through writing. In addition, you

may be presented with graphs, charts and tables from whose data you would be asked to draw logical conclusions. Here's a breakdown of coverage on the United States exam: Topics / % of Exam I. Constitutional Underpinnings of United States Government / 5-15% II. Political Beliefs and Behaviors / 10-20% III. Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Mass Media / 10-20% IV. Institutions of National Government: The Congress, the Presidency, the Bureaucracy, and the Federal Courts / 35-45% V. Public Policy / 5-15% VI. Civil Rights and Civil Liberties / 5-15% The AP Comparative Government & Politics Exam The Comparative exam is 145 minutes long and is divided into two sections: I. Multiple-Choice (50% of your grade): This 45-minute section is composed of 60 questions designed to measure your understanding of facts, concepts, and theories pertinent to Comparative government and politics. Your ability to analyze and understand data, and the patterns and consequences involved with political processes and behaviors will also be tested. The countries normally tested in the multiple-choice questions include Great Britain, France, the former Soviet Union (Commonwealth of Independent States), and China; these are referred to as the core countries tested on the exam. For certain questions, basic knowledge of the United States will be assumed. II. Free-Response (50% of your grade): This 100-minute section consists of four mandatory questions, each of which accounts for one-fourth of your total free-response score. You should allot roughly 25 minutes - or one-quarter of the total time in the free-response segment - for each essay. Comparative Free-Response questions may require you to compare one or two of the core countries (Great Britain, France, China, and the former Soviet Union) with the developing nations of either India, Mexico, or Nigeria. To do this, you must be able to demonstrate knowledge of the politics of one of these developing nations. Here's a breakdown of coverage on the Comparative exam: Topics / % of Exam I. The Sources of Public Authority and Political Power / 5-15% II. Society and Politics / 5-15% III. The Relationship Between Citizen and State / 5-15% IV. Political and Institutional Frameworks / 35-45% V. Political Change / 15-25% VI. The Comparative Method / 5-10% About the Review Sections As mentioned earlier, this book includes two reviews: one for United States Government and Politics, the other for Comparative Government and Politics. The United States Government and Politics Review covers all of the key information you'll need to score well on the United States exam. These topics include: - Constitutional Framework - The Federal Government - Political Institutions and Special Interests - Public Opinion and Voter Behavior - Civil Rights and the Supreme Court We also provide a glossary for the United States Government and Politics exam. Included are the key historical figures, court cases, programs, laws, etc., that often appear on this AP exam. The Comparative Review provides a thorough discussion of the material most often tested on the Comparative exam. Special emphasis is placed on the governments and politics of: - Britain - France - The former Soviet Union - The People's Republic of China A glossary for the Comparative Government and Politics exam enables you to brush up on terms that you are likely to encounter on this test. Scoring the Exam After the AP administrations, more than 1,700 college professors and secondary school teachers are brought together to grade the exams during the first two weeks of June. These readers are chosen from around the United States for their familiarity with the AP program. The Multiple-Choice sections of the Comparative Government & Politics and U.S. Government & Politics exams are scored by granting one point for each correct answer and deducting one-fourth of a point for each incorrect answer. Unanswered questions receive neither credit nor deduction. The Free-Response answers are read and scored using a specific set of objective criteria, but the actual points available for each question may vary from administration to administration. For purposes of this discussion - and REA's practice tests - the Comparative exam questions will yield a score between 0 and 9 (with 0 being the lowest and 9 the highest) on Free-Response Part I, and a score of between 0 and 5 (with 0 being the lowest and 5 the highest) on Free-Response Part II. All four Free-Response items on our U.S. Government practice exam are scored on the 0-to-9 scale. Once the responses are graded, the scores can be converted. The AP Government and Politics exam is based on a 120-point scale. The breakdown of the percentages and points is as follows (note that the available free-response points will vary): Once raw scores have been obtained for each section, they are weighted to produce a composite score. Then the composite scores for each section are added together to form a total composite score for the exam. The range for the composite score is from 0 to 120. Finally, the composite score is translated into a range of from 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest. Scoring the Multiple-Choice Section Use this formula to calculate your raw score for the multiple-choice section: (# right answers) - (# wrong x 1/4) = raw score "round off to nearest whole number; if the number is less than zero, enter zero" Scoring the Free-Response Section The following guide explains typical free-response scoring criteria: Score Explanation of Score 8-9 The thesis is extremely well developed and is supported with concrete evidence; all aspects of the question have been addressed thoroughly; discussions presented are balanced. 6-7 The thesis is defined and supported; the evidence provided is very organized; the essay may be slightly imbalanced with one strong argument and one weak argument and/or discuss one topic more thoroughly than the next; sporadic factual errors may appear. 5 A basic argument or thesis is provided; evidence given supports the argument or thesis, but does not clearly connect with the argument or thesis; only the formal facets of the question are dealt with, and informal facets are not adequately covered; not all aspects of the question are discussed. 4 The thesis is not organized and is not referred to in the essay; the essay is little more than a recounting of facts and events; the essay may be overloaded with data; only one facet of the questions may be discussed; numerous factual errors may appear. 3 The thesis is weak; evidence provided in support does not apply to the thesis; factual errors are apparent. 2 The thesis is very weak; little or no factual evidence is provided to support the thesis; irrelevant and inaccurate information appears. 1 An attempt is made to answer the question, but the support given is insignificant and the coverage of topics is incomplete. 0 The question is not answered with any significance. Free-Response Part II (Comparative only) Score Explanation of Score 5 The thesis is extremely well developed and is supported with concrete evidence; all aspects of the question have been addressed thoroughly; discussions are presented in a balanced way. 4 The thesis is defined and supported; the evidence provided is very organized; the essay may be slightly imbalanced, with one strong argument and one weak argument; likewise, one topic may be more thoroughly explored than another; may be marred by sporadic factual errors. 3 A basic argument or thesis is presented; evidence given supports the argument or thesis, but does not clearly connect with the argument or thesis; only the formal facets of the question are dealt with, and informal facets are not adequately covered; not all aspects of the question are discussed. 2 The thesis is weak; evidence provided in support does not apply to the thesis; factual errors are apparent. 1 An attempt is made to answer the question, but the support given is insignificant and the coverage of topics is incomplete. 0 The question is not answered with any significance. It would be extremely helpful to find someone who is willing to score your essay - your teachers or anyone who is familiar with the test material. If you do, ask the person to assign each of your U.S. and Comparative (Part I) essays a score of 0 to 9. For your Comparative (Part II) essays, use the 0-to-5 scale. If you must grade your own essays, try to be objective! In addition, you may want to give your essays three different grades. For instance, if you feel you did well, try giving the essay a score of 5, 6, or 7 to represent the various scores you may receive. By underestimating what your score may be, you are more likely to receive a better score on the actual exam. Use the following formulae to determine your raw score for the Free-Response section: United States Exam (Free-Response) Response (1) score x 1.66 = raw score Response (2) score x 1.66 = raw score Response (3) score x 1.66 = raw score Response (4) score x 1.66 = raw score Comparative Exam Response (1) score x 1.66 = raw score Response (2) score x 1.66 = raw score Response (3) score x 3 = raw score Response (4) score x 3 = raw score The Composite Score Once you have obtained your raw scores for both the Multiple-Choice and the Free-Response sections, add the scores together to get your composite score: United States Exam Multiple-Choice raw score + Free-Response raw score = composite score (round to nearest whole number) Score Essay 1 + Score Essay 2 + Score Essay 3 + Score Essay 4 = raw score Comparative Exam Multiple-Choice raw score + Free-Response raw score = composite score (round to nearest whole number) Now compare your composite score with the scale below: Composite Score / AP Grade 88 - 120 / 5 74 - 87 / 4 54 - 73 / 3 35 - 53 / 2 0 - 34 / 1 AP grades are interpreted as follows: 5-extremely well qualified, 4-well qualified, 3-qualified, 2-possibly qualified, and 1-no recommendation. Scores that Earn College Credit and/or Advanced Placement Most colleges grant students who earn a 3 or above college credit and/or advanced placement. You should check with your school guidance office about specific college requirements. Studying for Your AP Examination It is never too early to start studying. The earlier you begin, the more time you will have to sharpen your skills. Do not procrastinate! Cramming is not an effective way to study, since it does not allow you the time needed to learn the test material. It is very important for you to choose the time and place for studying that works best for you. Some students may set aside a certain number of hours every morning to study, while others may choose to study at night before going to sleep. Other students may study during the day, while waiting on a line, or even while eating lunch. Only you can determine when and where your study time will be most effective. But, be consistent and use your time wisely. Work out a study routine and stick to it! When you take the practice exam(s), try to make your testing conditions as much like the actual test as possible. Turn your television and radio off, and sit down at a quiet table free from distraction. Make sure to time yourself. As you complete the practice test(s), score your test(s) and thoroughly review the explanations to the questions you answered incorrectly, but do not review too much during any one sitting. Concentrate on one problem area at a time by reviewing the question and explanation, and by studying our review(s) until you are confident that you completely understand the material. Since you will be allowed to write in your test booklet during the actual exam, you may want to write in the margins and spaces of this book when practicing. However, do not make miscellaneous notes on your answer sheet. Mark your answers clearly and make sure the answer you have chosen corresponds to the question you are answering. Keep track of your scores! By doing so, you will be able to gauge your progress and discover general weaknesses in particular sections. You should carefully study the reviews that cover the topics causing you difficulty, as

this will build your skills in those areas. To get the most out of your studying time, we recommend that you follow the Study Schedule which corresponds to the exam you are taking. It details how you can best budget your time. If you are taking both exams, do not try to study for each at the same time. Try alternating days by studying for the United States exam one day and the Comparative exam the next. Test-Taking Tips Although you may be unfamiliar with tests such as the Advanced Placement exams, there are many ways to acquaint yourself with this type of examination and help alleviate your test-taking anxieties. Listed below are ways to help yourself become accustomed to the AP exam, some of which may also be applied to other standardized tests. Become comfortable with the format of the AP Examination in Government and Politics that you are taking. When you are practicing to take the exam(s), simulate the conditions under which you will be taking the actual test(s). You should practice under the same time constraints as well. Stay calm and pace yourself. After simulating the test only a couple of times, you will boost your chances of doing well, and you will be able to sit down for the actual test much more confidently. Know the directions and format for each section of the exam. Familiarizing yourself with the directions and format of the different test sections will not only save you time, but will also ensure that you are familiar enough with the AP exam to avoid nervousness (and the mistakes caused by being nervous). Work on the easier questions first. If you find yourself working too long on one question, make a mark next to it in your test booklet and continue. After you have answered all of the questions that you can, go back to the ones you have skipped. Use the process of elimination when you are unsure of an answer. If you can eliminate three of the answer choices, you have given yourself a fifty-fifty chance of getting the item correct since there will only be two choices left from which to make a guess. If you cannot eliminate at least three of the answer choices, you may choose not to guess, as you will be penalized one-quarter of a point for every incorrect answer. Questions not answered will not be counted. Be sure that you are marking your answer in the circle that corresponds to the number of the question in the test booklet. Since the multiple-choice section is graded by machine, marking the wrong answer will throw off your score.

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Get ready to ace your AP U.S. Government & Politics Exam with this easy-to-follow, multi-platform study guide The immensely popular test prep guide has been updated and revised with new material and is now accessible in print, online and mobile formats. 5 Steps to a 5: AP U.S. Government & Politics 2020 introduces an easy to follow, effective 5-step study plan to help you build the skills, knowledge, and test-taking confidence you need to reach your full potential. The book includes hundreds of practice exercises with thorough answer explanations and sample responses. You ' ll learn how to master the multiple-choice questions and achieve a higher score on this demanding exam. Because this guide is accessible in print and digital formats, you can study online, via your mobile device, straight from the book, or any combination of the three. This essential guide reflects the latest course syllabus and includes five full-length practice exams, plus proven strategies specific to each section of the test. 5 Steps to a 5: AP U.S. Government & Politics 2020 features: • 5 Practice Exams • Access to the entire Cross-Platform Prep Course in AP U.S. Government & Politics • Hundreds of practice exercises with thorough answer explanations • An interactive, customizable AP Planner app to help you organize your time • Powerful analytics to assess your test readiness • Flashcards, games, and more

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Fenton is also a College Board consultant and has served as a reader for AP® Psychology since 2008 and a table leader since 2017. She has a bachelor's degree in history and holds two master's degrees, one in psychology and one in curriculum and instruction technology.

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