

Social Studies: Advanced Placement Government & Politics: U.S.

UNIT/ Weeks	Timeline/Topics	Essential Questions
5	<p><u>Constitutional Underpinnings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Study of American Government • The Constitution • Federalism • American Political Culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How have theory, conflict, and compromise influenced the United States constitutional system? • Is federalism a viable form of government today? • Is the concept of “separation of powers” a reality today?
5	<p><u>Political Beliefs and Behaviors</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Opinion • Political Participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the American “mosaic” define our political beliefs and shape our political behaviors?
5	<p><u>Political Parties, Interest Groups, Mass Media</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political Parties • Elections and Campaigns • Interest Groups • The Media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the political party an effective linkage institution? • Why is there a proliferation of interest groups in the United States? • What is the role of the media as a linkage institution?
11	<p><u>Institutions of National Government</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Congress • The Presidency • The Bureaucracy • The Judiciary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the presidency, as an institution, become too powerful? • Is there effective legislative oversight of the bureaucracy? • Where does the “real” work of Congress occur? • How does the organization of the three branches of government affect legislation and policy interpretation?
5	<p><u>Public Policy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Policy • Economic Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the factors that impact policy making in America? •
5	<p><u>Civil Rights and Liberties</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Liberties • Civil Rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are civil rights? • What are civil liberties? • How are civil rights and liberties different? • How did the American Civil Rights Movement and Women’s Rights Movement develop?

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What policies and practices are in place to protect the civil rights and liberties of the American people.
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