

political participation ap gov

political participation ap gov is a fundamental concept in understanding the dynamics of American government and democracy. It encompasses the various ways in which citizens engage in the political process, from voting in elections to participating in protests and civic organizations. This article explores the different forms of political participation, the factors influencing participation rates, and the significance of participation in shaping public policy and government responsiveness. Understanding political participation is essential for AP Government students as it sheds light on how democracy functions and the challenges it faces. The discussion includes an examination of barriers to participation, the role of political efficacy, and the impact of social and demographic variables. The following sections provide a comprehensive overview of political participation, its types, determinants, and consequences in the context of American politics.

- Forms of Political Participation
- Factors Influencing Political Participation
- Barriers to Political Participation
- The Role of Political Efficacy
- Impact of Demographics on Political Participation
- Consequences of Political Participation

Forms of Political Participation

Political participation refers to the various activities through which citizens attempt to influence government policy and leadership. It extends beyond voting to include a wide range of actions that engage individuals in the political process. These activities vary in intensity and frequency but all contribute to the democratic process in meaningful ways.

Voting

Voting is the most common and fundamental form of political participation in the United States. It allows citizens to choose representatives and decide on public policies through elections. Despite its importance, voter turnout fluctuates based on various factors such as election type, voter interest, and legal requirements.

Campaign Involvement

Many citizens engage in political campaigns by volunteering, donating money, or attending rallies. This form of participation supports candidates and parties, helping to shape electoral outcomes and public discourse.

Contacting Public Officials

Individuals may contact elected officials to express opinions, request assistance, or advocate for specific policies. This direct communication is a vital channel for citizens to influence government decisions.

Protests and Demonstrations

Protests, marches, and demonstrations are forms of collective political participation that allow citizens to publicly express their views and demand change. These activities have historically played a crucial role in advancing civil rights and social justice causes.

Civic and Community Involvement

Participation in civic organizations, public meetings, and local government activities also constitutes political engagement. These forms help build community awareness and foster a culture of active citizenship.

Factors Influencing Political Participation

Several factors affect the likelihood and extent of political participation among citizens. These determinants can be individual, social, or institutional in nature.

Socioeconomic Status

Socioeconomic status, including education, income, and occupation, strongly influences political participation. Higher levels of education and income generally correlate with increased participation rates due to greater resources and political knowledge.

Political Socialization

Political attitudes and behaviors are shaped by family, schools, peers, media, and other socializing agents. Early exposure to political discussions and civic education enhances the propensity to engage in political

activities.

Age and Generational Effects

Age is a significant predictor of political participation, with older citizens typically more active than younger ones. However, generational experiences and political contexts can also affect participation patterns.

Political Interest and Efficacy

Individuals who possess a strong interest in politics and believe their participation matters are more likely to engage in political activities. Political efficacy—the belief that one can influence government and politics—is a key motivator for participation.

Institutional Factors

Institutional rules, such as voter registration requirements, election scheduling, and ballot design, can either facilitate or hinder political participation. Electoral systems and party structures also play a role in shaping engagement.

Barriers to Political Participation

Despite the importance of participation, many citizens face obstacles that reduce their involvement in the political process. These barriers can be structural, psychological, or social.

Legal and Procedural Barriers

Restrictions such as voter ID laws, registration deadlines, and limited voting hours can disproportionately affect marginalized groups, leading to lower turnout rates.

Political Disenfranchisement

Certain populations, including convicted felons in many states, are legally barred from voting, which reduces overall participation and representation.

Lack of Political Efficacy

When citizens feel their vote or voice does not matter, they are less likely

to participate in politics. This disillusionment can stem from perceptions of corruption or unresponsiveness.

Social and Economic Constraints

Time constraints, work schedules, and economic hardships can limit opportunities for political involvement, especially among lower-income groups.

The Role of Political Efficacy

Political efficacy is a critical psychological factor that influences political participation. It refers to an individual's belief in their ability to understand and influence political affairs.

Internal Efficacy

Internal efficacy involves confidence in one's own competence to participate effectively in politics. Citizens with high internal efficacy are more likely to vote, engage in discussions, and participate in civic activities.

External Efficacy

External efficacy relates to the belief that government institutions will respond to citizen input. When this sense is strong, political participation tends to increase as people feel their actions can bring about change.

Impact of Demographics on Political Participation

Demographic characteristics play a significant role in shaping political participation patterns. Understanding these trends helps explain disparities in engagement across society.

Race and Ethnicity

Racial and ethnic minorities have historically faced barriers to participation but have also mobilized to increase political influence. Differences in turnout and political activism often reflect social and economic inequalities.

Gender

Gender can affect political participation, with women historically underrepresented in voting and political office. However, recent decades have seen increasing female participation and representation.

Geographic Location

Urban, suburban, and rural areas exhibit distinct participation patterns due to varying access to resources, political climates, and community engagement opportunities.

Consequences of Political Participation

Political participation has significant effects on government accountability, policy outcomes, and the health of democracy. High levels of participation promote greater representation and responsiveness.

Enhanced Representation

When more citizens participate, elected officials are more likely to reflect the diverse interests and needs of the population, leading to more inclusive policymaking.

Government Accountability

Active participation holds public officials accountable by making politicians responsive to constituent demands and increasing transparency in governance.

Strengthening Democracy

Participation fosters civic engagement, political awareness, and social cohesion, all of which are essential for sustaining democratic institutions and norms.

Policy Influence

Through voting, protests, and advocacy, citizens can shape policy priorities and outcomes, influencing issues such as education, healthcare, and civil rights.

1. Voting remains the cornerstone of political participation in American

democracy.

2. Multiple social, economic, and psychological factors determine an individual's likelihood to participate.
3. Barriers such as legal restrictions and low political efficacy reduce political engagement.
4. Demographic variables contribute to disparities in political participation across communities.
5. Effective political participation enhances government accountability and strengthens democratic governance.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is political participation in AP Government?

Political participation refers to the various ways in which citizens engage in the political process, including voting, campaigning, protesting, and contacting elected officials, to influence government policy and decisions.

Why is voter turnout important in political participation?

Voter turnout is crucial because it reflects the level of citizen engagement and legitimacy of elected officials; higher turnout ensures that elected representatives truly represent the will of the people.

What are some barriers to political participation in the United States?

Barriers include voter ID laws, registration difficulties, limited access to polling places, political apathy, disenfranchisement of certain groups, and socioeconomic factors that limit participation.

How does socioeconomic status affect political participation?

Individuals with higher socioeconomic status tend to participate more in politics due to greater access to resources, education, and time, which facilitate activities like voting, campaigning, and advocacy.

What role do political parties play in encouraging political participation?

Political parties mobilize voters by educating them on issues, organizing campaigns, providing information on candidates, and facilitating voter registration and turnout efforts.

How do social movements influence political participation?

Social movements raise awareness about issues, mobilize citizens to take action, and can lead to increased political participation through protests, advocacy, and influencing policy changes.

Additional Resources

1. *"The Civic Culture: Political Attitudes and Democracy in Five Nations"* by Gabriel A. Almond and Sidney Verba

This classic work explores the relationship between political culture and democratic governance by examining citizen participation and attitudes in five different countries. It highlights how political participation varies based on cultural context and the role of civic engagement in sustaining democracy. The book is foundational for understanding the dynamics of political participation in comparative politics.

2. *"Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community"* by Robert D. Putnam

Putnam's influential book analyzes the decline of social capital and its impact on political participation in the United States. He argues that decreased involvement in community organizations has led to lower voter turnout and civic engagement. The work emphasizes the importance of social networks in fostering a politically active citizenry.

3. *"Political Participation in America: The Dynamics of Agenda-Building"* by Robert Y. Shapiro and Lawrence R. Jacobs

This book offers a comprehensive look at the mechanisms behind political participation in the U.S., including voting, protests, and lobbying. It delves into how public opinion shapes the political agenda and how citizens engage with policy issues. The authors provide empirical data to explain trends and patterns of participation.

4. *"Democracy in America"* by Alexis de Tocqueville

A seminal work in political science, Tocqueville's study examines the strengths and weaknesses of American democracy, with a particular focus on political participation. He discusses the role of associations and civic involvement as vital components of a healthy democracy. The book remains essential for understanding the foundations of political engagement in the U.S.

5. *"Get Out the Vote: How to Increase Voter Turnout"* by Donald P. Green and Alan S. Gerber

This practical guide analyzes various strategies to boost voter turnout through field experiments and data-driven approaches. The authors explore methods like canvassing, mailings, and phone calls to engage citizens in the electoral process. Their findings are valuable for anyone interested in increasing political participation.

6. *"The Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups"* by Mancur Olson

Olson's influential theory explains why individuals often do not participate in collective political actions, despite shared interests. The book introduces the concept of public goods and the free-rider problem that can hinder group mobilization. It provides a theoretical framework for understanding challenges in political participation and organizing.

7. *"Why Americans Don't Vote: Turnout Decline in the United States, 1960-2000"* by Donald P. Green and Jonathan S. Krasno

This book investigates the causes behind declining voter turnout in the United States across multiple decades. The authors examine demographic, institutional, and psychological factors that influence participation rates. Their analysis sheds light on barriers to voting and potential remedies to increase engagement.

8. *"Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics"* by Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink

Keck and Sikkink explore how transnational advocacy networks influence political participation and policy change beyond national borders. The book highlights the role of activists in shaping global political agendas and mobilizing participation across countries. It expands the understanding of political participation in an interconnected world.

9. *"The Responsible Electorate: Rationality in Presidential Voting, 1936-1960"* by V.O. Key Jr.

Key challenges the notion that voters are irrational by presenting evidence that the American electorate behaves in a rational and informed manner when participating in presidential elections. The book analyzes voting patterns and decision-making processes, offering insights into the motivations behind political participation. It remains a key text in the study of electoral behavior.

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political participation ap gov: CliffsNotes AP U.S. Government and Politics Cram Plan Jeri A. Jones, Lindsay Reeves, 2019-02-26 CliffsNotes AP U.S. Government Cram Plan gives you a study plan leading up to your AP exam no matter if you have two months, one month, or even one week left to review before the exam! This new edition of CliffsNotes AP U.S. Government and Politics Cram Plan calendarizes a study plan for the 214,000 annual AP U.S. Government test-takers depending on how much time they have left before they take the May exam. Features of this plan-to-ace-the-exam product include: • 2-month study calendar and 1-month study calendar • Diagnostic exam that helps test-takers pinpoint strengths and weaknesses • Subject reviews that include test tips and chapter-end quizzes • Full-length model practice exam with answers and explanations

political participation ap gov: *AP Government and Politics* Research and Education Association, Research & Education Association, Jack Hamilton, Robert F Gorman, Robert F. Gorman, Scott J Hammond, Scott J. Hammond, P Babbitt, Elliot Kalner, Wesley Phelan, J Hamilton, Gerald G. Watson, Keith Mitchell, 1992-12-09 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: $(\# \text{ right answers}) - (\# \text{ wrong} \times 1/4) = \text{raw score}$ 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 $\times 1.66$ = raw score
 Response (2) score $\times 1.66$ = raw score
 Response (3) score $\times 1.66$ = raw score
 Response (4) score $\times 1.66$ = raw score

Comparative Exam Response (1) score $\times 1.66$ = raw score
 Response (2) score $\times 1.66$ = raw score
 Response (3) score $\times 3$ = raw score
 Response (4) score $\times 3$ = 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.

political participation ap gov: Digital Democracy: Concepts, Methodologies, Tools, and Applications Management Association, Information Resources, 2012-06-30 This book presents a vital compendium of research detailing the latest case studies, architectures, frameworks, methodologies, and research on Digital Democracy--Provided by publisher.

political participation ap gov: *The Permanence of the Political* Joseph M. Schwartz, 1995-11-13 Why have radical political theorists, whose thinking inspired mass movements for democracy, been so suspicious of political plurality? According to Joseph Schwartz, their doubts were involved with an effort to transcend politics. Mistakenly equating all social difference with the harmful way in which particular interests dominated marketplace societies, radical thinkers sought a comprehensive set of true human interests that would completely abolish political strife. In extensive analyses of Rousseau, Hegel, Marx, Lenin, and Arendt, Schwartz seeks to mediate the radical critique of democratic capitalist societies with the concern for pluralism evidenced in both liberal and postmodern thought. He thus escapes the authoritarian potential of the radical position, while appropriating its more democratic implications. In Schwartz's view, a reconstructed radical democratic theory of politics must sustain liberalism's defense of individual rights and social pluralism, while redressing the liberal failure to question structural inequalities. In proposing such a theory, he criticizes communitarianism for its premodern longing for a monolithic, virtuous society, and challenges the politics of difference for its failure to question the undemocratic terrain of power

on which difference is constructed. In conclusion, he maintains that an equitable distribution of power and resources among social groups necessitates not the transcendence of politics but its democratic expansion.

political participation ap gov: *Congressional Record* United States. Congress, 1990

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