

# AP US Government and Politics Alignment Checklist

Lesson	Task	Met (Y/N)	ACOS #	Standard
<b>Skills</b>				
<b>Practice 1: Concept Application</b>				
			1.A	Describe political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors.
			<b>Notes</b>	
			1.B	Explain political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors.
			<b>Notes</b>	
			1.C	Compare political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors.
			<b>Notes</b>	
			1.D	Describe political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors illustrated in different scenarios in context.
			<b>Notes</b>	
			1.E	Explain how political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors apply to different scenarios in context.
			<b>Notes</b>	
<b>Practice 2: SCOTUS Application</b>				
			2.A	Describe the facts, reasoning, decision, and majority opinion of required Supreme Court cases.
			<b>Notes</b>	
			2.B	Explain how a required Supreme Court case relates to a foundational document or to other primary or secondary sources
			<b>Notes</b>	

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			2.C	Compare the reasoning, decision, and majority opinion of a required Supreme Court case to a nonrequired Supreme Court case.
			Notes	
			2.D	Explain how required Supreme Court cases apply to scenarios in context.
			Notes	
Practice 3: Data Analysis				
			3.A	Describe the data presented.
			Notes	
			3.B	Describe patterns and trends in data.
			Notes	
			3.C	Explain patterns and trends in data to draw conclusions.
			Notes	
			3.D	Explain what the data implies or illustrates about political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors.
			Notes	
			3.E	Explain possible limitations of the data provided.
			Notes	
			3.F	Explain possible limitations of the visual representation of the data provided.
			Notes	
Practice 4: Source Analysis				
			4.A	Describe the author's claim(s), perspective, evidence, and reasoning.
			Notes	

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			4.B	Explain how the author's argument or perspective relates to political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors.
			Notes	
			4.C	Explain how the implications of the author's argument or perspective may affect political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors.
			Notes	
			4.D	Explain how the visual elements of a cartoon, map, or infographic illustrate or relate to political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors.
			Notes	
Practice 5: Argumentation				
			5.A	Articulate a defensible claim/thesis.
			Notes	
			5.B	Support the argument using relevant evidence.
			Notes	
			5.C	Use reasoning to organize and analyze evidence, explaining its significance to justify the claim or thesis.
			Notes	
			5.D	Use refutation, concession, and rebuttal in responding to opposing or alternate perspectives.
			Notes	
Learning Objectives				
Constitutionalism (CON) 1: The Constitution emerged from the debate about the weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation as a blueprint for limited government.				
			CON-1.A	Explain how Federalist and Anti-Federalist views on central government and democracy are reflected in U.S. foundational documents.

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			CON-1.B	Explain the relationship between key provisions of the Articles of Confederation and the debate over granting the federal government greater power formerly reserved to the states.
Notes				
			CON-1.C	Explain the ongoing impact of political negotiation and compromise at the Constitutional Convention on the development of the constitutional system.
Notes				
<b>Constitutionalism (CON) 2:</b> Federalism reflects the dynamic distribution of power between national and state governments.				
			CON-2.A	Explain how societal needs affect the constitutional allocation of power between the national and state governments.
Notes				
			CON-2.B	Explain how the appropriate balance of power between national and state governments has been interpreted differently over time
Notes				
			CON-2.C	Explain how the distribution of powers among three federal branches and between national and state governments impacts policy making.
Notes				
<b>Constitutionalism (CON) 3:</b> The republican ideal in the U.S. is manifested in the structure and operation of the legislative branch.				
			CON-3.A	Describe the different structures, powers, and functions of each house of Congress.
Notes				
			CON-3.B	Explain how the structure, powers, and functions of both houses of Congress affect the policy-making process.
Notes				

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			CON-3.C	Explain how congressional behavior is influenced by election processes, partisanship, and divided government.
			Notes	
<b>Constitutionalism (CON) 4:</b> The presidency has been enhanced beyond its expressed constitutional powers.				
			CON-4.A	Explain how the president can implement a policy agenda.
			Notes	
			CON-4.B	Explain how the president's agenda can create tension and frequent confrontations with Congress.
			Notes	
			CON-4.C	Explain how presidents have interpreted and justified their use of formal and informal powers.
			Notes	
			CON-4.D	Explain how communication technology has changed the president's relationship with the national constituency and the other branches.
			Notes	
<b>Constitutionalism (CON) 5:</b> The design of the judicial branch protects the Supreme Court's independence as a branch of government, and the emergence and use of judicial review remains a powerful judicial practice				
			CON-5.A	Explain how Federalist and Anti-Federalist views on central government and democracy are reflected in U.S. foundational documents.
			Notes	
			CON-5.B	Explain how the exercise of judicial review in conjunction with life tenure can lead to debate about the legitimacy of the Supreme Court's power
			Notes	
			CON-5.C	Explain how other branches in the government can limit the Supreme Court's power
			Notes	

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<b>Constitutionalism (CON) 6:</b> The Court's interpretation of the U.S. Constitution is influenced by the composition of the Court and citizen-state interactions. At times, it has restricted minority rights and, at others, protected them.				
			CON-6.A	Explain how the Court has at times allowed the restriction of the civil rights of minority groups and at other times has protected those rights.
Notes				
<b>Liberty and Order (LOR) 1:</b> A balance between governmental power and individual rights has been a hallmark of American political development.				
			LOR-1.A	Explain how democratic ideals are reflected in the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.
Notes				
			LOR-1.B	Explain how models of representative democracy are visible in major institutions, policies, events, or debates in the U.S.
Notes				
<b>Liberty and Order (LOR) 2:</b> Provisions of the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights are continually being interpreted to balance the power of government and the civil liberties of individuals.				
			LOR-2.A	Explain how the U.S. Constitution protects individual liberties and rights.
Notes				
			LOR-2.B	Describe the rights protected in the Bill of Rights.
Notes				
			LOR-2.C	Explain the extent to which the Supreme Court's interpretation of the First and Second Amendments reflects a commitment to individual liberty
Notes				
			LOR-2.D	Explain how the Supreme Court has attempted to balance claims of individual freedom with laws and enforcement procedures that promote public order and safety.
Notes				

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<b>Liberty and Order (LOR) 3:</b> Protections of the Bill of Rights have been selectively incorporated by way of the Fourteenth Amendment's due process clause to prevent state infringement of basic liberties.				
			LOR-3.A	Explain the implications of the doctrine of selective incorporation.
			Notes	
			LOR-3.B	Explain the extent to which states are limited by the due process clause from infringing upon individual rights
			Notes	
<b>Methods of Political Analysis (MPA) 1:</b> Citizen beliefs about government are shaped by the intersection of demographics, political culture, and dynamic social change.				
			MPA-1.A	Explain the relationship between core beliefs of U.S. citizens and attitudes about the role of government.
			Notes	
<b>Methods of Political Analysis (MPA) 2:</b> Public opinion is measured through scientific polling, and the results of public opinion polls influence public policies and institutions.				
			MPA-2.A	Describe the elements of a scientific poll.
			Notes	
			MPA-2.B	Explain the quality and credibility of claims based on public opinion data.
			Notes	
<b>Methods of Political Analysis (MPA) 3:</b> Factors associated with political ideology, efficacy, structural barriers, and demographics influence the nature and degree of political participation.				
			MPA-3.A	Describe the voting rights protections in the Constitution and in legislation.
			Notes	
			MPA-3.B	Describe different models of voting behavior.

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			MPA-3.C	Explain the roles that individual choice and state laws play in voter turnout in elections.
			Notes	
<b>Competing Policy-Making Interests (PMI) 1:</b> The Constitution created a competitive policy-making process to ensure the people's will is represented and that freedom is preserved.				
			PMI -1.A	Explain the constitutional principles of separation of powers and "checks and balances."
			Notes	
			PMI -1.B	Explain the implications of separation of powers and "checks and balances" for the U.S. political system.
			Notes	
<b>Competing Policy-Making Interests (PMI) 2:</b> The federal bureaucracy implements federal policies				
			PMI -2.A	Explain how the bureaucracy carries out the responsibilities of the federal government.
			Notes	
			PMI -2.B	Explain how the federal bureaucracy uses delegated discretionary authority for rule making and implementation.
			Notes	
			PMI -2.C	Explain how Congress uses its oversight power in its relationship with the executive branch.
			Notes	
			PMI -2.D	Explain how the president ensures that executive branch agencies and departments carry out their responsibilities in concert with the goals of the administration.
			Notes	
			PMI -2.E	Explain the extent to which governmental branches can hold the bureaucracy accountable given the competing interests of Congress, the president, and the federal courts.



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<b>Competing Policy-Making Interests (PMI) 3:</b> Public policy promoting civil rights is influenced by citizen-state interactions and constitutional interpretation over time.				
			PMI-3.A	Explain how the government has responded to social movements
			Notes	
<b>Competing Policy-Making Interests (PMI) 4:</b> Widely held political ideologies shape policy debates and choices in American policies.				
			PMI-4.A	Explain how ideologies of the two major parties shape policy debates.
			Notes	
			PMI-4.B	Explain how U.S. political culture (e.g., values, attitudes, and beliefs) influences the formation, goals, and implementation of public policy over time.
			Notes	
			PMI-4.C	Describe different political ideologies on the role of government in regulating the marketplace.
			Notes	
			PMI-4.D	Explain how political ideologies vary on the government's role in regulating the marketplace.
			Notes	
			PMI-4.E	Explain how political ideologies vary on the role of the government in addressing social issues.
			Notes	
			PMI-4.F	Explain how different ideologies impact policy on social issues
			Notes	
<b>Competing Policy-Making Interests (PMI) 5:</b> Political parties, interest groups, and social movements provide opportunities for participation and influence how people relate to government and policy-makers.				
			PMI-5.A	Describe linkage institutions
			Notes	

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			PMI-5.B	Explain the function and impact of political parties on the electorate and government.
			Notes	
			PMI-5.C	Explain why and how political parties change and adapt.
			Notes	
			PMI-5.D	Explain how structural barriers impact third-party and independent candidate success.
			Notes	
			PMI-5.E	Explain the benefits and potential problems of interest-group influence on elections and policy making.
			Notes	
			PMI-5.F	Explain how variation in types and resources of interest groups affects their ability to influence elections and policy making.
			Notes	
			PMI-5.G	Explain how various political actors influence public policy outcomes.
<b>Civic Participation in a Representative Democracy (PRD) 1:</b> The Fourteenth Amendment's equal protection clause as well as other constitutional provisions have often been used to support the advancement of equality				
			PRD -1.A	Explain how constitutional provisions have supported and motivated social movements.
			Notes	
<b>Civic Participation in a Representative Democracy (PRD) 2:</b> The impact of federal policies on campaigning and electoral rules continues to be contested by both sides of the political spectrum.				
			PRD -2.A	Explain how the different processes work in a U.S. presidential election.
			Notes	
			PRD -2.B	Explain how the Electoral College facilitates and/or impedes democracy
			Notes	

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			PRD -2.C	Explain how the different processes work in U.S. congressional elections.
Notes				
			PRD -2.D	Explain how campaign organizations and strategies affect the election process.
Notes				
			PRD -2.E	Explain how the organization, finance, and strategies of national political campaigns affect the election process.
Notes				
<b>Civic Participation in a Representative Democracy (PRD) 3:</b> The various forms of media provide citizens with political information and influence the ways in which they participate politically				
			PRD-3.A	Explain the media's role as a linkage institution.
Notes				
			PRD-3.B	Explain how increasingly diverse choices of media and communication outlets influence political institutions and behavior.
Notes				