

AP Government Ch 3 Federalism reading questions pages 49-59

Answer the following thoroughly and in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Describe the structure of a federal-style government. What specifically makes a government federal in structure? What has kept the federalist structure alive and strong in the United States?
2. Federalism decentralizes power. What does this mean?
3. Compare the federalist system to the unitary system.
4. One of the most obvious effects of federalism is the increased opportunities for political participation of ordinary citizens. How can this be practiced on the local level?
5. Explain why a federation as created by the Framers was a “bold, new plan.”
6. What is the purpose of the so-called “elastic clause” (also called the necessary and proper clause) and why was it included in the Constitution?
7. Which side of the debate on the meaning of federalism did the Supreme Court’s decision in *McCulloch v. Maryland* support? How?
8. Does the doctrine of nullification support a nationalist or states right view of federalism? Explain.
9. Explain the doctrine of dual federalism, and how it is practiced.

Paragraph. Write this on a separate sheet of paper to be turned in.

Since the writing of the Constitution and up to today, politicians and scholars have argued over two interpretations of what federalism means, based on the first three words of the document, “We the people...” One view states that the people of the country as a whole created the Constitution and so it is naturally the supreme law of the land and the federal government’s powers should be broad. The other view states that the federal government is a creation not of the people directly but of the people through their states, and is thus a product of an agreement between the state legislatures.

Consequently, the powers of the federal government should be limited. Choose the interpretation that best relates to your view and explain your reasons.

Reading questions pages 60-66

1. How do grants-in-aid illustrate the concept of federalism?
2. What are four reasons why grants-in-aid are attractive to state leaders?
3. What important change in the administration of grants-in-aid occurred in the 1960s? How might this alter (or not) the concept of federalism?
4. Why were intergovernmental lobbies formed? What has been their purpose?
5. Explain the difference between a categorical grant and a block grant.
6. How does revenue sharing differ from block grants?
7. How does the census impact federal distribution of funds? Why is the census at times a controversial issue?

Paragraph: Explain was, in the opinion of many, a method for the federal government to exert unconstitutional control over state and local governments, and how block grants and revenue sharing were intended to reverse this trend.

Reading questions for pages 66-72

1. With federal aid to states has come increased federal control over state affairs/activities. In your opinion, how would state leaders respond to this?
2. What do federal mandates basically require states to do? Mandates primarily concern what two issues?
3. In theory, some would say, the Tenth Amendment would protect the states against most if not all mandates. In practice has this been the case? Explain, including examples.
4. Read the examples of conditions the federal government often puts on states when accepting federal money. Recall the economic and social goals from Ch. 2 in the Economics book. Which of these goals is the federal government attempting to meet with these conditions?

5. Since the federal government is giving money back to the states, in effect to the states' citizens who paid the money to the federal government in the first place in the form of federal taxes and fees, are the strings attached to this money fair? Explain your answer.
6. Explain the concept of "devolution." What is its goal?
7. What are the three forces driving devolution? How would you characterize the status of devolution now?

Paragraph. In your opinion, are federal mandates and conditions of aid proper uses and interpretation of the elastic clause? Or are they excessive, if not outright unconstitutional, exercises of federal power?