

AP American Government and Politics / Mr. Lipman

The following questions are to be answered after reading the Lanahan readings which are posted on my teacher web page. Each reading has 4 questions. Type out the questions (**IN BOLD**) and then your answers.

Robertson reading on the Constitution (starts page 90)

1. Why does Robertson argue that the Constitutional founding fathers were politicians and not philosophers?
 2. Explain the key reasons that Robertson feels the founding fathers were successful in forming a new government in 1787.
 3. Describe the "state interests" that he argues were crucial for understanding why a balance between Federal and State Governments was necessary.
 4. Explain how the interests of the different representatives (house and senate) would be varied and why that was considered crucial for the success of the Constitution.
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Rimmerman reading on the Presidency (starts page 220)

1. Why did the founding fathers assume the legislative branch would become the key policy makers for the nation?
 2. Describe the characteristics of what Rimmerman asserts is behind the modern plebiscitary president.
 3. Explain why Rimmerman believes that other presidential scholars "failed to recognize" the danger of their theories.
 4. Describe the 2 key roles that Rimmerman feels presidents perform that in other nations are preformed by two different individuals. Do you feel this is a good or bad thing for government?
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Fallon reading on the Constitution and the Supreme Court (starts page 310)

1. Describe the argument behind the belief that the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment can be used to bar racial discrimination by Congress instead of merely against the states.
2. Describe Fallon's view that the court establishes its own rules to help implementation of its decisions rather than interpretation of the constitution.
3. Why is the Supreme Court's power to decide which cases to hear so important to its role in government and the expansion of its power?
4. Describe the theory of original understanding ("originality") as compared to interpretive methodology as practiced by the court today.

Nownes reading on Interest Groups (starts page 435)

1. Describe who profited from the "BP Disaster" and why they profited.
 2. Explain why Madison warned about the dangers of interest groups. Do you feel that the political world today has proven him correct?
 3. Explain what Nownes' argues is the most effective means of lobbying in today's political world.
 4. Explain why Nownes asserts that lobbyists have such bad reputations in the eyes of American voters.
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Nielsen reading on campaigns (starts page 528)

1. Describe what can be considered "mistakes" by support staffer Paula in her telephone contact in support of a candidate.
 2. According to Nielsen, how has the concept of "voter solicitation" changed in the computer age.
 3. Explain why political scientists feel that the "ground floor" political campaigning does not, by itself, decide elections.
 4. Describe what Nielsen observes about the attitudes of campaign staffers when it comes to "phones and doors".
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Bishop reading on political parties (starts page 558)

1. Describe how American's have "sorted themselves" around the nation. Do you feel you will pick a college in the same way?
2. Describe the differences Bishop sees between what Democratic voters do and Republican voters do? Do you feel he is accurate?
3. How does the political scientist Donald Green describe the selection of party affiliation?
4. Explain how Bishop uses the Texas vote on same sex marriage to prove his argument about "sorting".