**AP Government & Politics/Honors Civics Midterm Review Guide**

**WARNING: This review guides is NOT all inclusive!!**

1. **Introductory Information**
	1. Role of government & citizens
	2. Duties, rights & responsibilities
	3. Citizenship and immigration process & trends
	4. Different types of governmental and economic institutions
	5. Definition and role of democracy
	6. Identify how the definition of democracy has changed/increased over time
2. **Colonial Events**
	1. Establishment of colonies
	2. Early (important) colonial documents that set a precedent
	3. Events/issues leading to Revolution
	4. Weaknesses of America’s first gov’t under the Articles of Confederation
3. **U.S. Constitution**
	1. Issues and compromises from the Constitutional Convention
	2. Content (particularly with respect to the differences between and powers allocated to the three different branches of government)
	3. Important “clauses” of the Constitution (full faith & credit, elastic, supremacy, commerce, establishment, free exercise, privileges and immunities)
	4. Amendment process
	5. Content and significance of all Amendments (including Supreme Court’s interpretation of them and limitations to them)
	6. Six principles of the Constitution (identification & application)
	7. Federalist Papers (particularly #10)
	8. Federalism (distinguish between concurrent, enumerated & delegated powers, dual vs. cooperative federalism, identify ways in which fed. Gov’t can influence actions of state gov’t - including fiscal influence through grants)
4. **Court Cases**
	1. Facts & significance
5. **Civil Rights & Civil Liberties**
	1. Applicable court cases
	2. Trends
	3. Identification of rights and liberties – including how those are applied to citizens, states and applicable limitations
	4. Laws, cases, actions taken to specifically protect the rights of minorities.
	5. Ways in which the rights of minorities have been limited over time.
	6. Incorporation of Bill of Rights
6. **Political Culture, Beliefs & Behavior**
	1. Polling and measuring public opinion
	2. Political ideology – define, give examples, and make generalizations about
	3. Impact of public opinion
	4. Beliefs that both unite and divide Americans
7. **Voting, Campaigns & Elections**
	1. Voter turnout and trends
	2. Party identification
	3. Functions of elections
	4. Steps to the presidency/presidential campaign
	5. Open vs. Closed primaries, caucuses (how it works, criticisms & advantages)
	6. Campaign financing (trends, limitations, regulations, hard vs. soft money, sources of contributions, …)
	7. Advantages of incumbents
	8. Things which influence the way people vote
	9. Trends on the way people vote
8. **Linkage Institutions - Political Parties, Interest Groups & Media (and Elections)**
	1. Generalizations of the two major parties (ideology, supporters, features favoring a two party system in America…)
	2. Third parties (advantages, disadvantages, examples from history, single-issue parties)
	3. Identify and explain critical elections/realignment in history
	4. Impact of agenda setting by the media and government
	5. Trends in news sources and methods
	6. PACs and campaign financing, regulations and impact