Chapter 1

Section 1: What is government and what is its purpose?

Section 2: What are some forms of government today? How are they different from Democracy?

Section 3: What are the basic concepts of democracy?

Chapter 2

Section 1: What traditions and ideas influenced the American government?

Section 3: Identify weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation.

Section 4: What compromises enabled the framers to create the Constitution?

Section 5: What issues aroused the vigorous debate over ratification?

Chapter 3

Section 1: What are the main principles upon which the Constitution is based?

Section 2: Explain and describe the formal amendment process.

Section 3: How can the Constitution be changed by other means?

Chapter 5

Section 1: What are political parties and how do they function in our two party system? How does our system compare to One-Party and Multi-Party systems?

Section 3: What are they different types of minor parties? Why are minor parties important?

Chapter 6

Section 1: Describe the 5 stages of expanding suffrage in our nation’s history

Section 2: What are the universal qualifications for voting?

Section 3: Understand the tactics used to bar African Americans from voting and the laws that eliminated those barriers

Section 4: Why don’t people vote (cannot voters v do not voters)? What factors are most significant in determining how people will vote?

Chapter 10

Section 1: Why do we have a bicameral legislature?

Section 2: How are the seats in the House distributed? What qualifications must members meet?

Section 3: How does the Senate differ from the House?

Section 4: What roles and functions do members of Congress perform?

Chapter 11

Section 3: What are the implied powers of Congress? How have these given Congress more power?

Section 4: What are the express powers of Congress?

Chapter 13

Section 1: What are the roles and qualifications for POTUS?

Section 3: How did the process of choosing POTUS change over time?

Section 4: Describe the nominating system.

Chapter 14

Section 1: What factors have contributed to the growth or presidential power?

Section 2: What are the executive powers of POTUS?

Section 3: How does POTUS implement foreign policy? How is he limited?

Section 4: How can POTUS check the policies of the other two branches?

On ***Tuesday May 13th*** you will take your 60 point final consisting of 6 short answer questions (5pts each) you will prepare before your final and one essay (30 pts) to be determined on the day of the final. All possible short answer questions are below. You will choose one from each category. On the day of the final you may come to class with an *outline* of your answer prepared for each *short answer question*. You may also come with an *outline* for each essay.

Foundations of the Nation:

1. How did the Articles of Confederation represent a confederacy?
2. What specific weaknesses in the AofCs lead the framers of our current Constitution to create federal form of Government?
3. Explain how the US is really a Republic and not a pure Democracy.

Federalism:

1. How does federalism work? How does it slow down the governing process at times?
2. The 10th Amendment to the Constitution discusses “delegated” and “reserved” powers; why is this amendment in a federal form of government?
3. Explain exclusive, reserved and concurrent powers. Provide an example of all three

The Political Process:

1. Explain the importance of our two major parties in the political process; what role do they play in elections, how do they function in our government, how do they effect the political efficacy of the electorate?
2. Voter turnout is low in the US; why? Provide specific reasons people don’t vote and specific solutions to these problems…that means you need to discuss “do not voters” not “cannot voters”.
3. One major criticism of our Republic is, ironically, that the choice/voice of the people is not represented in the government. Use issues such as gerrymandering, the Electoral College, two party system and winner-take-all to either refute or agree with this criticism.

Legislative Branch:

1. How is our current congress a work of compromise? Explain the Virginia, New Jersey and Connecticut compromises.
2. Explain explicit, implicit and implied powers of congress. Why is it important to allow congress non-explicit powers. Provide an example
3. Explain apportionment and gerrymandering and how each effects the political process (NOTE: if you choose to write #3 above you *may not choose this option*)

Executive Branch:

1. There are certain ways POTUS can exercise legislative powers. Explain.
2. Explain one way POTUS can check the power of the Legislature and one power PUTUS has over the Judicial Branch
3. What are the qualifications for becoming president? Add one more you think should be included and explain why you would add this. Tie the new qualification to part of POTUS’s job description (his expressed powers)

Judicial Branch:

1. Explain how SCOTUS has legislative powers through the power of Judicial Review.
2. SCOTUS is insulated from the people. This is very un-democratic; why must SCOTUS be protected from politics?
3. Explain judicial activism and judicial restraint. Which philosophy makes a better Supreme Court Justice? Why?

**Possible essay questions:**

1. **Are you a liberal or a conservative? Explain each philosophy. Provide two specific reasons you define yourself one or the other.**
2. **Name the three branches of government and their role in creating, enforcing and or interpreting the law. Give a specific power of each (the most ‘powerful’ power) and how it allows the branch to fulfill its duty to the law.**
3. **Why is separation of powers necessary in a federal form of government? Explain one check each branch has over another.**