

AP US Government & Politics Content Review

I. Constitutional Beginnings:

A. The Nature of Governments:

1. Describe some of the purposes of 'government'.
2. Compare/contrast a **direct democracy** with an **indirect democracy**.

B. Theories of Democracy:

1. Define and provide examples for each of the following theories of democracy:

	Brief explanation	Examples
Pluralist Theory of Democracy		
Elite Theory of Democracy		
Hyperpluralism Theory of Democracy		

C. The Policy-Making Cycle:

1. From what sources do Americans become **politically socialized**?
2. Summarize the steps of the **policy-making cycle**:

II. American Documents:

A. Declaration of Independence:

1. Explain how the Declaration of Independence incorporated some of the ideas of John Locke.

B. The Articles of Confederation:

2. List some of the powers held by the central government in the Articles of Confederation.
3. Describe some of the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation.
4. How did Shays' Rebellion show some of the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation?

C. The U.S. Constitution:

1. Describe the concept of **factions**.
2. List the features of the **Connecticut (Great) Compromise**.
3. Explain the controversy over the creation of the **Three-Fifths Compromise**.

D. Constitutional Principles:

Principle	Explanation	Example of Principle
Popular sovereignty		
Limited government		
Separation of powers		
Checks and balances		
Judicial review		
Federalism		

Concept	Definition (6 words or less)
Writ of Habeas Corpus	
Bills of Attainder	
Ex Post Facto Laws	

Constitutional Provision	Definition (6 words or less)
“Full Faith and Credit Clause”	
“Supremacy Clause”	

E.. The Purpose and Intent of the Founders:

1. Why did many states want the US Constitution to include a Bill of Rights?

2. Describe how the following court cases shaped the evolution of the Bill of Rights:

- *Barron v. Baltimore* (1833):

- *Gitlow v. New York* (1925):

F. The Bill of Rights:

Bill of Rights	Description of the freedoms contained in each amendment
1 st Amendment	
2 nd Amendment	
3 rd Amendment	
4 th Amendment	
5 th Amendment	
6 th Amendment	
7 th Amendment	
8 th Amendment	
9 th Amendment	
10 th Amendment	

G. Amendments After the Bill of Rights:

Amendment	Explanation of the amendment
11 th Amendment	
12 th Amendment	
13 th Amendment	
14 th Amendment	
15 th Amendment	
16 th Amendment	
17 th Amendment	
18 th Amendment	
19 th Amendment	
20 th Amendment	
21 st Amendment	
22 nd Amendment	
23 rd Amendment	
24 th Amendment	
25 th Amendment	
26 th Amendment	
27 th Amendment	

III. American Federalism:

A. Defining Federalism:

1. What is **federalism**?

2. Compare and contrast **Dual Federalism** and **Cooperative Federalism**.

Dual Federalism	Cooperative Federalism

3. Define the meaning of **decentralization**. How does the US federal system display **decentralization**?

B. Separation of National and State Governments:

1. Define the following types of constitutional powers

Constitutional Powers	Brief Definition	Examples
Enumerated powers		
Implied powers		
Inherent powers		
Reserved powers		
Concurrent power		

2. Why is the “**necessary and proper clause**” commonly called the **elastic clause**?

3. Describe the important precedent set by *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819).

4. Describe the important precedent set by *Gibbons v. Ogden* (1824).

C. Cooperative Federalism:

1. Why is **cooperative federalism** often referred to as **marble cake federalism**?

2. Describe how the US government has become more cooperative.

D. Fiscal Federalism:

1. Describe the meaning of **fiscal federalism**.

2. How does fiscal federalism resemble the “carrot and a stick” metaphor?

3. Define the meaning of the following grants-in-aid:

Grants-in-Aid	Definition
Categorical Grants	
Formula Grants	
Project Grants	
Block Grants	

4. Explain the controversy of the federal government creating **unfunded mandates** for states. How does **No Child Left Behind** exemplify the meaning of an unfunded mandate?

5. Describe the concept of **devolution**.

IV. Political Parties & Voting Behavior:

A. The Function of Parties in America:

1. List and describe the five functions of **political parties**.
2. Define **partisanship** in six words or less.

B. Third Parties:

1. Describe how and why third parties begin.
2. Explain how the American political system limits the influence of third parties.
3. Describe how third parties can act as “spoilers” in elections. Provide a recent example.

C. Organization of Parties:

1. Describe the organization of American political parties—include information regarding the impact of federalism, **national committees, national chairpersons, national conventions, and state committees**.
2. Explain the purpose of **primary elections**.
3. List the pros and cons of **political machines**.

D. Factors that Lead to Party Identification:

1. Describe the trends of party identification when it comes to religion, education, age, and economics.

E. Party Realignment and Dealignment:

2. What happens during **party realignment**? Provide some examples of realignment occurring.
3. What happens during **party dealignment**? Why do many political scientists feel that the US is in a period of party dealignment—how does “**divided government**” play a role?

F. Intensity:

1. How does **political efficacy** affect voter intensity?
2. What is the difference between **internal efficacy** and **external efficacy**?
3. Based on what you have learned this year, what is the most important factor that determines if a person votes? What demographic groups tend to vote less often? (You will need to use past notes to answer this question)

V. Elections:

A. Cost of Elections:

1. Why did **Political Action Committees** (PACs) begin? What do PACs do?
2. Even though interest groups often have a negative reputation, how do interest groups positively influence the USA?

B. Campaign Finance Reform:

1. Define **soft money**. How did the McCain-Feingold Act (2002) attempt to limit soft money?

2. What important precedent came from the famous *Buckley v. Valeo* (1976) court case?
3. Describe the job of the Federal Elections Commission (FEC).

C. Incumbency:

1. Define the word **incumbent**. Why do members in the House of Representatives tend to have a higher reelection rate than do members in the Senate?
2. List the advantages incumbents have when it comes to winning reelection. Include information about **franking**, **pork-barrel legislation**, **junkets**, and **credit claiming**.

D. House and Senate Elections:

1. List the qualifications to run for the House of Representatives.
2. What factor determines how many members a state receives in the House of Representatives?
3. Define the concept **single-member districts**.
4. Describe the meaning of **marginal districts** and **safe districts**.
5. How did the passage of the 17th Amendment affect senatorial elections?
6. List the qualifications to run for the US Senate.

E. The Electoral College:

1. Discuss why the Framers were hesitant to allow a popular vote to determine who would become president.
2. Briefly explain how the **Electoral College** works. How does the **winner-take-all** feature affect elections?
3. List the pros and cons of using the **Electoral College**.

Pros of the Electoral College	Cons of the Electoral College

F. Primaries, Caucuses, and the Conventions:

1. How do **caucuses** differ from **primaries**?
2. How do **closed primaries** differ from **open primaries**?
3. Why do many states try to hold their primaries/caucuses as early as possible? (this is called "**frontloading**")
4. Describe what occurs at **conventions**.

G. General Elections:

1. Describe the pros and cons of being an incumbent presidential candidate.

Pros of Being an Incumbent President	Cons of Being an Incumbent President

VI. **The Legislative Branch:**

A. Composition of the House:

1. What is the basis for representation in the House of Representatives?
2. What happens during **reapportionment**?
3. What is **gerrymandering**?
4. Identify and explain the precedents from the two Supreme Court case decisions that have ruled on gerrymandering
5. Describe the hierarchy of leadership in the House of Representatives.

B. Committees and the Iron Triangle:

1. Why are **committees** an important element in the House?

2. Define the following types of committees:

Committees	Definition
Standing Committee	
Joint Committee	
Conference Committee	
Select Committee	

3. What is an **iron triangle**?

C. Composition of the Senate:

1. List some of the differences that distinguish the Senate from the House.

D. Power, Committees, and Debates:

2. Describe the hierarchy of leadership in the Senate. Who has the "real power"?

3. Identify and describe the distinguishing powers of the Senate.

4. What is a **filibuster**? Why do **filibusters** only happen in the Senate, but not the House? How can a filibuster be broken?

E. Route of a Bill through Congress:

1. outline the steps needed for a bill to become law. Include the role of the House Rules Committee, conference committees, and possible filibuster.

F. Veto Power and Judicial Review:

1. Identify and explain the four options the president can take after Congress has passed a bill.

2. How can the Supreme Court affect a law?

VII. The Executive Branch:

A. Qualifications and Qualities:

1. List the constitutional qualifications needed to become president.

B. Rules and Contingencies:

1. Explain the purpose of the **25th Amendment**.

2. Provide a historical example illustrating the Presidential Succession Act being used.

3. Specifically explain how a president can be removed from office. Provide at least one historical example of this process being used.

C. Express Roles:

1. Describe the **expressed** roles of the president (as laid out in the Constitution):

Role	Explanation of Role	Example of Role
Commander in Chief		
Chief Executive		
Head of State		
Role	Explanation of Role	Example of Role
Chief Diplomat		
Chief Legislator		

2. Describe the **expressed** role of the vice president (as laid out in the Constitution):

D. Traditional Roles and Special Powers:

1. How can the president help other candidate via his/her "**coattails**"?

2. Provide an example showing how the president sometimes might not be leading his political party.

3. Define **pardon** and **reprieve**. What is the most *infamous* pardon in US political history?

E. Executive Offices and Staff:

1. Describe the roles of the following White House offices.

White House Office	Responsibilities of office
Office of Management and Budget (OMB)	
National Security Council	
Council of Economic Advisors	

F. Approval Ratings and Public Perception:

1. Why is the beginning of a president's term considered to be the "**honeymoon**" phase?
2. Describe factors that often cause a president to have positive public opinion poll figures.
3. Provide historical examples showing how presidential public opinion figures can dramatically decline.

G. Surpluses, Deficits, and the National Debt:

1. Describe what happens when the government runs a **budget surplus**.
2. Describe what happens when the government runs a **budget deficit**. How is the **national debt** related?
3. What items take up the largest percentage of the annual federal budget? Why are entitlements and interest on the national debt considered *fixed spending*?

H. Budget Timetable:

1. In as few words as possible, describe how the federal budget process exemplifies the principle of **checks and balances**.

VIII. The Bureaucracy:

A. Organization of the Federal Bureaucracy:

1. Describe the composition of the federal bureaucracy.
2. Why are regulatory agencies considered **quasi-legislative, executive, and judicial**?
3. How do **regulatory agencies** differ from **executive agencies**? Provide examples of each type of bureaucratic agency.

B. Bureaucratic Reform:

1. How were most jobs in government filled before the 1880s? What tragic event took place that changed the staffing of the federal bureaucracy?

2. List the major provisions of the **Hatch Act**.
3. List the responsibilities of the **Office of Personnel Management (OPM)** and the **Merit Systems Protection Board**.
4. Why is the federal government a necessary entity?

C. The Origin of the Cabinet:

1. Describe the role of each of the following cabinet departments:

Cabinet Department	Responsibilities/Job of Department
Department of State	
Department of Defense	
Department of the Treasury	
Department of Justice	
Department of Homeland Security	

D. The Cabinet in Practice:

1. Who must confirm any leader of a cabinet department?
2. Describe the responsibilities of a cabinet leader.

E. Regulatory Agencies:

1. Describe the functions of the following regulatory agencies:

Regulatory Agency	Responsibilities/Job of Agency
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)	
Federal Trade Commission (FTC)	
Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)	
Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)	
National Security Council (NSC)	
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	
The Federal Reserve System (FED)	

F. Government Corporations:

1. What is a **government corporation**?

2. List the responsibilities of the following government corporations:

Government Corporation	Responsibilities/Job of Corporation
United States Postal Service (USPS)	
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)	
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)	
Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)	

G. Legislative and Executive Constraints:

1. Describe how the following laws limit the power of bureaucracies:

Law	Explain how these laws limit the federal bureaucracy
The Administrative Procedure Act (1947)	
The Freedom of Information Act (1966)	
The National Environmental Policy Act (1969)	
The Privacy Act of 1974	
The Open Meeting Law (1976)	

2. List some actions the president can take to limit the power of bureaucratic agencies.

H. Congressional and Judicial Constraints:

1. List and describe the powers Congress can use to limit bureaucratic agencies.

2. How can the judicial branch limit the power of bureaucratic agencies?

8. Define **issue networks**. Why do some political scientists believe “**issue networks**” are more prevalent than “**iron triangles**”?

IX. The Judiciary:

A. Constitutional and Legislative Courts:

1. Describe how checks and balances plays a role in naming federal judges. Why do presidents often follow the unwritten rule of **senatorial courtesy** when nominating state-level judges?

2. How do **grand juries** differ from **petit juries**?

3. Compare and contrast **federal district courts** with **federal courts of appeal**:

	Federal District Courts	Federal Courts Of Appeal
Type of jurisdiction		
What is the Job of this type of court?		
# of Courts		

4. How do **legislative courts** differ from **constitutional courts**?

B. The United States Supreme Court:

1. In what types of cases does the US Supreme Court hold original jurisdiction?

2. How many cases are appealed to the Supreme Court each year? How many cases does the court usually hear? How many justices is necessary for a case to be granted **writ of certiorari**?

3. Why does the Supreme Court often refuse to hear certain cases?

4. Describe the meaning of the principle **stare decisis**.

5. If the Supreme Court accepts an appellate case, what must each party then do? How much time does each side receive when they argue their case at the Supreme Court?

6. Define the following types of Supreme Court Opinions:

Court Opinion	Definition
Majority Opinion	
Concurring Opinion	
Dissenting Opinion	
Per Curium Opinion	

7. How can **dissenting opinions** play a role after a case is decided? Provide an example.

8. Describe the importance of the following court cases:

Court Case	Importance of Case
Marbury v. Madison (1803)	
McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)	
Court Case	Importance of Case

Gibbons v. Ogden (1824)	
Scott v. Stanford (1857) → “Dred Scott decision”	

D. Earl Warren:

1. What is the *Warren Court* known for?

2. Describe the importance of the following court cases:

Court Case	Importance of Case
Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka (1954)	
Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)	
Engel v. Vitale (1963)	
Miranda v. Arizona (1963)	
Court Case	Importance/Precedent of Case
Roe v. Wade (1973)	
Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey (1992)	
Regents of University of California v. Bakke (1978)	
Grutter v. Bollinger (2001)	
Gratz v. Bollinger (2001)	

E. Judicial Activism and Restraint:

1. Describe the meaning of both **judicial activism** and **judicial restraint**.

2. Which philosophy applies to the famous case, *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954)?

Why?

3. Why does the Supreme Court try to avoid **political questions**?

F. Judicial Review and Construction:

1. Describe the court's power of **judicial review**.

2. Fill in the chart below that deals with different interpretations of the constitution.

	Strict Construction	Loose Construction
Definition		

G. The Selection Process:

1. List the qualifications to be a justice on the Supreme Court. Actually, don't. There aren't any.

2. What types of characteristics do presidents usually look for when they nominate a justice to the Supreme Court?

3. Explain the purpose of using a political "**litmus test**" when selecting possible federal judges.

H. The Confirmation Process:

1. Describe what happens at the **confirmation hearing**. Why did the Senate nearly vote against the confirmation of Clarence Thomas?

2. What role do interest groups play in the selection/confirmation of potential Supreme Court justices?

X. Civil Liberties: The Bill of Rights Today

A. Unalienable Rights:

1. Define the concept of **unalienable rights**. Provide examples.

2. What is the purpose of the **privileges and immunity clause** that is located in the Constitution? How did the Supreme Court interpret this clause in the infamous *Dred Scott* decision?

3. Why did the Federalists eventually decide to include a national Bill of Rights in order to get the Constitution ratified?

B. Selective Incorporation:

1. Why did the Bill of Rights originally only apply to the national government?

2. How did the case *Gitlow v. New York* (1925) affect the interpretation of the Bill of Rights?

3. Compare and contrast the concepts **procedural due process** and **substantive due process**.

C. Wall of Separation:

1. Describe the meaning of the phrase "**wall of separation**" when it comes to freedom of religion.

2. What is the purpose of the First Amendment's **establishment clause**?

D. The Establishment Clause in Court:

1. According to the famous case, *Lemon v. Kurtzman* (1971), what three criteria must be met in order for the government to provide aid to religious institutions (aka 'The Lemon Test')?

E. Free Exercise of Religion:

1. List the constitutional basis that allows people to practice their religion.

F. The Free Exercise Clause in Court:

178. Describe how the precedents of these cases have shaped the interpretation of the "Free Exercise Clause":

Court Case	Importance/Precedent of Case
<i>Reynolds v. United States</i> (1879)	
<i>Wisconsin v. Yoder</i> (1972)	
<i>Employment Division v. Smith</i> (1990)	

G. Significance of Free Speech:

1. Define the following types of speech:

Type of Speech	Definition	Examples
Pure Speech		
Speech Plus		
Symbolic Behavior		

H. Rights and Limitations of Free Speech:

1. Why was the **Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798** considered to be controversial?

2. Describe how the following court cases have limited free speech rights:

Court Case	Importance/Precedent of Case
<i>Schenck v. United States</i> (1919)	
<i>Gitlow v. New York</i> (1925)	
<i>Johnson v. Texas</i> (1989)	

<i>Tinker v. Des Moines School District (1969)</i>	
<i>Miller v. California (1973)</i>	
<i>New York Times v. Sullivan (1964)</i>	
<i>Chaplinsky v. State of New Hampshire (1942)</i>	

I. Rights and Limitations on Free Press:

1. How did the court case ***Near v. Minnesota (1931)*** affect the concept **prior restraint**?
2. Describe the circumstances that led to the “**Pentagon Papers**” case. How did the Supreme Court decide this conflict?
3. How did the precedent of ***Branzburg v. Hayes (1972)*** negatively affect members of the press?

J. Reasonable Searches and Seizures:

1. What led the constitutional framers to protect people from unreasonable searches and seizures by the government?
2. Define **probable cause**.
3. Define **warrant**.
4. Define the **exclusionary rule**.
5. Why did civil libertarians praise the court for the ***Mapp v Ohio (1961)*** decision?
6. How did ***United States v Leon (1984)*** alter the Mapp ruling?

K. Self-incrimination:

1. List the protections included in the 5th Amendment that help the accused.
2. Explain how ***Miranda v Arizona (1966)*** shapes the modern interpretation of the 5th Amendment?

L. Speedy and Public Trials:

3. List the protections included in the 6th Amendment that help the accused.

M. The Right to Counsel:

1. What is the importance of the court case ***Gideon v Wainwright (1963)***?

XI. Civil Rights:

A. Civil War Amendments:

1. What was the purpose of the **13th Amendment**?

2. What was the original purpose of the **14th Amendment**?
3. How was the “equal protection clause” of the 14th Amendment used to decide *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896)? Describe the “**separate but equal doctrine**”.
4. How did the Supreme Court justify the decision in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* (1954)?
5. What was the intent of the **15th Amendment**? Explain how the Voting Rights Act (1965) strengthened the 15th Amendment.
6. Describe how Eisenhower’s appointment of Earl Warren played a vital role in the *Brown* decision. How did cities in the South respond to the *Brown* decision?
7. Define **de jure segregation**.

B. The Kennedy - Johnson Era:

1. What are the provisions of the **Civil Rights Act of 1964**?
2. List the protections provided under the **24th Amendment**. Describe the relationship between the 24th Amendment and the **Voting Rights Act of 1965**.
3. What protections are included in the **Civil Rights Act of 1968**?

C. Affirmative Action:

1. What are the goals of **Affirmative Action** programs?
2. List some of the arguments against the use of **Affirmative Action** programs.
3. What were Allan Bakke’s arguments against the use of **Affirmative Action**? Describe how the Supreme Court decided the Bakke case

Monster Vocabulary Test

1. An officeholder who is running for reelection
2. Face-to-face meetings of party members at the local or state level to determine their party's candidate for office
3. Ordinary citizens raising awareness for a cause and pushing the government to adopt a particular policy
4. An organization that advocates for policies through lobbying, electioneering, grassroots mobilization and protesting
5. Expenditures that the federal government is obligated to make, like entitlements and interest on the national debt
6. Congressional committee hearings held to determine how well an agency is doing its job
7. When voters no longer identify with one of the two major parties and become independent voters
8. Impacting the economy through taxing and spending in the budget
9. An election to select the person who will hold office.
10. A vote by party members to determine their party's candidate for office, which is restricted to those who are registered to the party.
11. A vote by 60 senators to end a filibuster.
12. The power of the Supreme Court to overturn a law or executive action as unconstitutional
13. A system of government where power is shared between the national government and the states in which the states have some protected powers
14. The process by which an individual develops his or her political beliefs
15. Powers that are given to an institution of government directly in the Constitution, such as Congress's power to tax
16. The time during which a president who has lost an election or has ended a second term is still in office before the new president serves.
17. The right to vote
18. The free mail and electronic signature system used by members of Congress.
19. Efforts by an interest group or individual to contact a member of Congress and advocate for a particular policy
20. When political parties move farther away from each other ideologically and also move away from the center
21. A process by which the national government gives more power and authority to the states
22. A philosophy that the Supreme Court should make bold new policy
23. The tendency of the media to focus on which candidate is ahead in the polls rather than focusing on the issues
24. When congressional staff help a constituent solve a problem
25. A relationship between interest groups, agencies, and congressional committees in a certain policy area
26. A group of individuals who organize to run candidates for office
27. Drawing congressional district boundaries to benefit a group, usually a political party
28. The president's personal assistants and advisors
29. A procedure used in the Senate to talk a bill to death
30. A presidential directive
31. An election in which voters select members of Congress but not the president

32. An election where new coalitions of voters have formed, beginning a new party era
33. A provision in a bill that benefits a specific congressional constituency
34. Promises made by the government to an identifiable group of people who are guaranteed benefits
35. Making judicial decisions by considering what the founding fathers meant in the Constitution
36. When members of Congress trade votes for favors in order to get the bills they support passed
37. Influencing the economy through federal interest rates, reserve rates, and the amount of money in circulation
38. The process by which the Bill of Rights has been applied to the states on a case-by-case basis through the Fourteenth Amendment
39. The use of spending by the national government through the grant process to influence state policies
40. A document issued by the Supreme Court if it has agreed to hear a case
41. A lawsuit
42. Expenditures that the federal government cannot realistically reduce because they are required by law
43. An individual's belief that his or her political participation can make a difference.
44. The tendency of men to support candidates from the Republican party at greater rates than women
45. The electoral system used to select members of the House of Representatives
46. When a president does not sign a bill within 10 days when Congress is not in session
47. Changing congressional district boundaries based on a new census
48. Money spent on ads that are not sponsored by a candidate or party
49. Problems that have the attention of the government and the public
50. A system where the federal government and the states work together in funding and administering programs
51. An argument filed with a court by an individual or group who is not a party to a lawsuit
52. When a court follows precedent by letting a previous decision stand
53. The statistical characteristics of a population
54. The shared political values of a society
55. When the president is from one political party and one or both houses of Congress are controlled by the opposing political party
56. An election to determine a party's candidate for office in which that party's members and unaffiliated voters may vote
57. An organization, which need not disclose its members, that can spend a vast and unlimited amount of money on a political campaign
58. An organization that is registered with the Federal Election Committee and donates money to a candidate or campaign
59. Federal money given to the states with few restrictions about how it should be spent
60. Money given by the federal government to the states to be used for a narrowly defined purpose
61. A theory of government in which many groups compete for policy
62. A federal requirement that forces the states to spend their own money

63. Powers that are naturally derived from the duties of a specific government position, such as Thomas Jefferson's power as president to purchase the Louisiana Territory
64. Powers that are necessary to carry out an expressed power in the Constitution, like the power of Congress to establish a bank
65. The process through which voters leave one of the major party coalition and join the other major party's coalition

KEY LEGISLATION

Hatch Act, 1939:

Limits political activities of civil service employees.

Civil Rights Act of 1964:

Title II bans discrimination in public places on basis of race, color, national origin, or religion.

Title VII:

- Prohibits employment discrimination on basis of all of the above plus sex.
- Allows employers to give racial preferences in hiring.
- Executive Order #11246 required federal contractors to adopt affirmative action programs.
- Allowed class action suits.
- Enforced by EEOC.

Voting Rights Act of 1965:

Suspended literacy tests.

Empowered federal officials to register voters.

Empowered federal officials to ensure that citizens could vote.

Empowered federal officials to count ballots.

Prohibited states from changing voting procedures without federal permission.

Age Discrimination in Employment Act, 1967:

Bans age discrimination for jobs unless age is related to job performance.

Air Quality Act, 1967 and various Clean Air Acts, 1960s-1990s:

Established emissions standards for cars and factories. Established minimum standards for states.

Federal Election Campaign Acts, 1971-1974:

Created FEC.

Required *disclosure* of contributions and expenditures.

Provided *limitations* on contributions and presidential election expenditures.

Provided *subsidies* for presidential candidates.

Title IX of Education Act of 1972:

Prohibited gender discrimination in federally subsidized education programs.

War Powers Act, 1973:

President could send troops overseas to an area where hostilities were imminent only if:

- He notified Congress within 48 hours.
- He withdrew troops within 60-90 days.
- He consulted with Congress if troops were to engage in combat.

Congress can pass resolution to have troops withdrawn at any time.

Freedom of Information Act, 1974:

Allows public access to nonclassified federal documents.

Budget and Impoundment Control Act, 1974:

Established congressional budget committees.

Established CBO.

Extended budget process by three months.

Allows either house to override temporary impoundment (*deferral*).

Automatically voids permanent impoundment (*rescission*) unless both houses approve within 45 days.

Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Bill, 1985:

Set gradual budget reduction targets to lead to a balanced budget.

Across-the-board budget cuts (sequestering of funds) to kick in if targets not met.

Loopholes -> abandonment in late 80s.

Americans with Disabilities Act, 1990:

Bans job discrimination against disabled if "reasonable accommodation" can be made.

Requires access to facilities for handicapped.

National Voter Registration Bill ("Motor Voter Act"), 1993:

Requires states to allow people to register to vote when applying for driver's licenses applications or completing license renewal forms. (Has not fulfilled its promise – voting rates did not rise significantly after its passage.)

Religious Freedom Restoration Act, 1993:

Restored compelling purpose guideline for courts to use when states restrict religious liberty. Struck down by Supreme Court in *Boerne v. Flores*.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995:

- Requires CBO to analyze impact of unfunded mandates on states.
- Requires separate congressional vote on bills that impose unfunded mandates.

Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (Welfare Reform Act of 1996):

- Ended federal entitlement status of welfare.
- In its place, federal govt. gave block grants to states to administer welfare.
- “Strings” attached to these grants:
 1. Recipients must work within 2 years.
 2. Recipients cannot receive benefits for more than 5 years.

Defense of Marriage Act, 1996:

- States need not recognize same-sex marriages

No Child Left Behind Act, 2001:

States must adopt education accountability standards

States must annually test students

Sanctions against schools that fail to meet adequate yearly progress

USA Patriot Act, 2001:

Strengthens the federal government’s power to conduct surveillance, perform searches, and detain individuals in order to combat terrorism.

McCain-Feingold Bill (Campaign Finance Reform Act of 2002):

- Raised hard money limits to \$2000
- Banned soft money contributions to national political parties