

AP U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

AP Pacing Guide for Flipped Classrooms: Jan.–April 2021

! Overview

Due to the challenges associated with hybrid and remote learning in 2020–21, a significant amount of the content and skills colleges are requiring for credit will likely need to be assigned to students as homework or independent learning. This guide allows students who are currently behind to complete all course topics from the course and exam description by May. This guide assumes students will complete approximately 30 minutes of AP Daily videos (~10 minutes each) and topic questions each day in lieu of, or addition to, assignments the teacher would ordinarily give.

📅 How to Implement

Here is guidance for implementing this pacing guide:

- Teachers should **assign the AP Daily videos and topic questions** listed below as student assignments each week.
- Using the reports generated by the topic questions, teachers should focus their limited, direct class time on the Learning Objectives where students need more help.
- If students are ahead of the pace indicated below, teachers will be able to incorporate additional days or weeks to spend more time on challenging topics, practicing course skills, or reviewing for the exam.

📅 Week 1: Jan. 4–8

Topic	Recommended Asynchronous Student Assignments	Options for Synchronous Instructional Focus*	Check for Understanding
1.1 Ideals of Democracy	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2 AP Daily Video 3	LOR-1.A: Explain how democratic ideals are reflected in the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.	💡 Topic Questions
1.2 Types of Democracy	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2 AP Daily Video 3	LOR-1.B: Explain how models of representative democracy are visible in major institutions, policies, events, or debates in the U.S.	💡 Topic Questions
1.3 Government Power and Individual Rights	AP Daily Video 1	CON-1.A: Explain how Federalist and Anti-Federalist views on central government and democracy are reflected in U.S. foundational documents.	💡 Topic Questions

*Prioritize the most challenging Learning Objectives for your students for direct, synchronous instruction.

Topic	Recommended Asynchronous Student Assignments	Options for Synchronous Instructional Focus*	Check for Understanding
1.4 Challenges of the Articles of Confederation	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	CON-1.B: Explain the relationship between key provisions of the Articles of Confederation and the debate over granting the federal government greater power formerly reserved to the states.	💡 Topic Questions
1.5 Ratification of the U.S. Constitution	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2 AP Daily Video 3	CON-1.C: Explain the ongoing impact of political negotiation and compromise at the Constitutional Convention on the development of the constitutional system.	💡 Topic Questions

 **Week 2: Jan. 11–15**

Topic	Recommended Asynchronous Student Assignments	Options for Synchronous Instructional Focus*	Check for Understanding
1.6 Principles of American Government	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2 AP Daily Video 3	PMI-1.A: Explain the constitutional principles of separation of powers and “checks and balances.” PMI-1.B: Explain the implications of separation of powers and “checks and balances” for the U.S. political system.	💡 Topic Questions
1.7 Relationship between the States and Federal Government	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2 AP Daily Video 3	CON-2.A: Explain how societal needs affect the constitutional allocation of power between the national and state governments.	💡 Topic Questions
1.8 Constitutional Interpretations of Federalism	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	CON-2.B: Explain how the appropriate balance of power between national and state governments has been interpreted differently over time.	💡 Topic Questions
1.9 Federalism in Action	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	CON-2.C: Explain how the distribution of powers among three federal branches and between national and state governments impacts policy making.	💡 Topic Questions 📌 Personal Progress Check







📅 Week 3: Jan. 18–22

Topic	Recommended Asynchronous Student Assignments	Options for Synchronous Instructional Focus*	Check for Understanding
2.1 Congress: The Senate and the House of Representatives	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2 AP Daily Video 3	CON-3.A: Describe the different structures, powers, and functions of each house of Congress.	💡 Topic Questions
2.2 Structures, Powers, and Functions of Congress	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2 AP Daily Video 3	CON-3.B: Explain how the structure, powers, and functions of both houses of Congress affect the policy-making process.	💡 Topic Questions
2.3 Congressional Behavior	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2 AP Daily Video 3	CON-3.C: Explain how congressional behavior is influenced by election processes, partisanship, and divided government.	💡 Topic Questions
2.4 Roles and Powers of the President	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	CON-4.A: Explain how the president can implement a policy agenda.	💡 Topic Questions
2.5 Checks on the Presidency	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2 AP Daily Video 3	CON-4.B: Explain how the president's agenda can create tension and frequent confrontations with Congress.	💡 Topic Questions





📅 Week 4: Jan. 25–29

Topic	Recommended Asynchronous Student Assignments	Options for Synchronous Instructional Focus*	Check for Understanding
2.6 Expansion of Presidential Power	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	CON-4.C: Explain how presidents have interpreted and justified their use of formal and informal powers.	💡 Topic Questions
2.7 Presidential Communication	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	CON-4.D: Explain how communication technology has changed the president's relationship with the national constituency and the other branches.	💡 Topic Questions
2.8 The Judicial Branch	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2 AP Daily Video 3	CON-5.A: Explain the principle of judicial review and how it checks the power of other institutions and state governments.	💡 Topic Questions
2.9 Legitimacy of the Judicial Branch	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2 AP Daily Video 3	CON-5.B: Explain how the exercise of judicial review in conjunction with life tenure can lead to debate about the legitimacy of the Supreme Court's power.	💡 Topic Questions
2.10 The Court in Action	AP Daily Video 1	CON-5.B: Explain how the exercise of judicial review in conjunction with life tenure can lead to debate about the legitimacy of the Supreme Court's power.	💡 Topic Questions






 **Week 5: Feb. 1–5**

Topic	Recommended Asynchronous Student Assignments	Options for Synchronous Instructional Focus*	Check for Understanding
2.11 Checks on the Judicial Branch	AP Daily Video 1	CON-5.B: Explain how the exercise of judicial review in conjunction with life tenure can lead to debate about the legitimacy of the Supreme Court’s power. CON-5.C: Explain how other branches in the government can limit the Supreme Court’s power.	 Topic Questions
2.12 The Bureaucracy	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	PMI-2.A: Explain how the bureaucracy carries out the responsibilities of the federal government.	 Topic Questions
2.13 Discretionary and Rule-Making Authority	AP Daily Video 1	PMI-2.B: Explain how the federal bureaucracy uses delegated discretionary authority for rule making and implementation.	 Topic Questions
2.14 Holding the Bureaucracy Accountable	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	PMI-2.C: Explain how Congress uses its oversight power in its relationship with the executive branch. PMI-2.D: Explain how the president ensures that executive branch agencies and departments carry out their responsibilities in concert with the goals of the administration.	 Topic Questions
2.15 Policy and the Branches of Government	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	PMI-2.E: Explain the extent to which governmental branches can hold the bureaucracy accountable given the competing interests of Congress, the president, and the federal courts.	 Topic Questions  Personal Progress Check

 **Week 6: Feb. 8–12**

Topic	Recommended Asynchronous Student Assignments	Options for Synchronous Instructional Focus*	Check for Understanding
3.1 The Bill of Rights	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	LOR-2.A: Explain how the U.S. Constitution protects individual liberties and rights. LOR-2.B: Describe the rights protected in the Bill of Rights.	 Topic Questions
3.2 First Amendment: Freedom of Religion	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2 AP Daily Video 3	LOR-2.C: Explain the extent to which the Supreme Court’s interpretation of the First and Second Amendments reflects a commitment to individual liberty.	 Topic Questions
3.3 First Amendment: Freedom of Speech	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	LOR-2.C: Explain the extent to which the Supreme Court’s interpretation of the First and Second Amendments reflects a commitment to individual liberty.	 Topic Questions
3.4 First Amendment: Freedom of the Press	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	LOR-2.C: Explain the extent to which the Supreme Court’s interpretation of the First and Second Amendments reflects a commitment to individual liberty.	 Topic Questions

 **Week 7: Feb. 15–19**

Topic	Recommended Asynchronous Student Assignments	Options for Synchronous Instructional Focus*	Check for Understanding
3.5 Second Amendment: Right to Bear Arms	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	LOR-2.C: Explain the extent to which the Supreme Court’s interpretation of the First and Second Amendments reflects a commitment to individual liberty.	 Topic Questions
3.6 Amendments: Balancing Individual Freedom with Public Order and Safety	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2 AP Daily Video 3	LOR-2.D: Explain how the Supreme Court has attempted to balance claims of individual freedom with laws and enforcement procedures that promote public order and safety.	 Topic Questions
3.7 Selective Incorporation	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	LOR-3.A: Explain the implications of the doctrine of selective incorporation.	 Topic Questions
3.8 Amendments: Due Process and the Rights of the Accused	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	LOR-3.B: Explain the extent to which states are limited by the due process clause from infringing upon individual rights.	 Topic Questions
3.9 Amendments: Due Process and the Rights to Privacy	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2 AP Daily Video 3	LOR-3.B: Explain the extent to which states are limited by the due process clause from infringing upon individual rights.	 Topic Questions







📅 Week 8: Feb. 22–26

Topic	Recommended Asynchronous Student Assignments	Options for Synchronous Instructional Focus*	Check for Understanding
3.10 Social Movements and Equal Protection	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	PRD-1.A: Explain how constitutional provisions have supported and motivated social movements.	💡 Topic Questions
3.11 Government Responses to Social Movements	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	PMI-3.A: Explain how the government has responded to social movements.	💡 Topic Questions
3.12 Balancing Minority and Majority Rights	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	CON-6.A: Explain how the Court has at times allowed the restriction of the civil rights of minority groups and at other times has protected those rights.	💡 Topic Questions
3.13 Affirmative Action	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	CON-6.A: Explain how the Court has at times allowed the restriction of the civil rights of minority groups and at other times has protected those rights.	💡 Topic Questions 📝 Personal Progress Check






📅 Week 9: Mar. 1–5

Topic	Recommended Asynchronous Student Assignments	Options for Synchronous Instructional Focus*	Check for Understanding
4.1 American Attitudes About Government and Politics	AP Daily Video 1	MPA-1.A: Explain the relationship between core beliefs of U.S. citizens and attitudes about the role of government.	💡 Topic Questions
4.2 Political Socialization	AP Daily Video 1	MPA-1.B: Explain how cultural factors influence political attitudes and socialization.	💡 Topic Questions
4.3 Changes in Ideology	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	MPA-1.B: Explain how cultural factors influence political attitudes and socialization.	💡 Topic Questions
4.4 Influence of Political Events on Ideology	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	MPA-1.B: Explain how cultural factors influence political attitudes and socialization.	💡 Topic Questions
4.5 Measuring Public Opinion	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	MPA-2.A: Describe the elements of a scientific poll.	💡 Topic Questions



 **Week 10: Mar. 8–12**

Topic		Recommended Asynchronous Student Assignments	Options for Synchronous Instructional Focus*	Check for Understanding
4.6	Evaluating Public Opinion Data	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	MPA-2.B: Explain the quality and credibility of claims based on public opinion data.	 Topic Questions
4.7	Ideologies of Political Parties	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	PMI-4.A: Explain how ideologies of the two major parties shape policy debates.	 Topic Questions
4.8	Ideology and Policy Making	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	PMI-4.B: Explain how U.S. political culture (e.g., values, attitudes, and beliefs) influences the formation, goals, and implementation of public policy over time.	 Topic Questions
4.9	Ideology and Economic Policy	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	PMI-4.C: Describe different political ideologies on the role of government in regulating the marketplace. PMI-4.D: Explain how political ideologies vary on the government’s role in regulating the marketplace.	 Topic Questions
4.10	Ideology and Social Policy	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	PMI-4.E: Explain how political ideologies vary on the role of the government in addressing social issues. PMI-4.F: Explain how different ideologies impact policy on social issues.	 Topic Questions  Personal Progress Check

 **Week 11: Mar. 15–19**

Topic	Recommended Asynchronous Student Assignments	Options for Synchronous Instructional Focus*	Check for Understanding
5.1 Voting Rights and Models of Voting Behavior	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2 AP Daily Video 3	MPA-3.A: Describe the voting rights protections in the Constitution and in legislation. MPA-3.B: Describe different models of voting behavior.	 Topic Questions
5.2 Voter Turnout	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	MPA-3.C: Explain the roles that individual choice and state laws play in voter turnout in elections.	 Topic Questions
5.3 Political Parties	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2 AP Daily Video 3	PMI-5.A: Describe linkage institutions. PMI-5.B: Explain the function and impact of political parties on the electorate and government.	 Topic Questions
5.4 How and Why Political Parties Change and Adapt	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	PMI-5.C: Explain why and how political parties change and adapt.	 Topic Questions
5.5 Third-Party Politics	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	PMI-5.D: Explain how structural barriers impact third-party and independent candidate success.	 Topic Questions

 **Week 12: Mar. 22–26**

Topic	Recommended Asynchronous Student Assignments	Options for Synchronous Instructional Focus*	Check for Understanding
5.6 Interest Groups Influencing Policy Making	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	PMI-5.E: Explain the benefits and potential problems of interest-group influence on elections and policy making. PMI-5.F: Explain how variation in types and resources of interest groups affects their ability to influence elections and policy making.	 Topic Questions
5.7 Groups Influencing Policy Outcomes	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2 AP Daily Video 3	PMI-5.G: Explain how various political actors influence public policy outcomes.	 Topic Questions

Topic	Recommended Asynchronous Student Assignments	Options for Synchronous Instructional Focus*	Check for Understanding
5.8 Electing a President	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2 AP Daily Video 3	PRD-2.A: Explain how the different processes work in a U.S. presidential election. PRD-2.B: Explain how the Electoral College facilitates and/or impedes democracy.	💡 Topic Questions
5.9 Congressional Elections	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	PRD-2.C: Explain how the different processes work in U.S. congressional elections.	💡 Topic Questions

 **Week 13: Mar. 29–Apr. 2**

Topic	Recommended Asynchronous Student Assignments	Options for Synchronous Instructional Focus*	Check for Understanding
5.10 Modern Campaigns	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	PRD-2.D: Explain how campaign organizations and strategies affect the election process.	💡 Topic Questions
5.11 Campaign Finance	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	PRD-2.E: Explain how the organization, finance, and strategies of national political campaigns affect the election process.	💡 Topic Questions
5.12 The Media	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	PRD-3.A: Explain the media’s role as a linkage institution.	💡 Topic Questions
5.13 Changing Media	AP Daily Video 1 AP Daily Video 2	PRD-3.B: Explain how increasingly diverse choices of media and communication outlets influence political institutions and behavior.	💡 Topic Questions 📌 Personal Progress Check