

American Government: Stories of a Nation for the AP® Course

Guided Reading

Section 1.2: American Political Culture

Name _____
Date _____ Class _____

 **Before you read**

Before reading this section, take a moment to read the Learning Target and vocabulary terms you will encounter.

Learning Target: Describe American political culture.

AP® Key Concepts

democracy
natural rights
social contract
American political culture

popular sovereignty
republicanism
inalienable rights
liberty

 **While you read**

Use the following table to take notes as you read the section.

Historical models for American government	Impact on American political culture

American Government: Stories of a Nation for the AP® Course

Guided Reading

Section 1.2: American Political Culture

--	--

 **After you read**

Once you've finished reading the section, answer the following questions.

1. All of the following ideas were affirmed as "self-evident" in the Declaration of Independence, making them part of the country's DNA EXCEPT that:
 - A. God ordained a constitutional republic for the United States.
 - B. all men are created equal.
 - C. the Creator endowed all men with certain unalienable rights.
 - D. all men are entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
2. In its most basic form, power in a democracy is held by:
 - A. elected officials.
 - B. the president.
 - C. Congress.
 - D. the people.
3. According to John Locke, per the terms of the _____, people give to their governments the ability to rule over them to ensure an orderly and functioning society.
4. You and your classmates have had enough of your AP U.S. government teacher's tyranny and seek to remove yourself from his or her autocratic rule. You intend to write a manifesto, as did Thomas Jefferson in 1776, because that seemed to stir up public opinion so well. As a result of your affinity for Jefferson and his declaration, your manifesto should include all the following EXCEPT a(n):
 - A. pledge between your classmates to stick together through the crisis.
 - B. list of grievances against your tyrannical AP U.S. government teacher.
 - C. explanation of the natural rights of AP U.S. government students.
 - D. plan for a future and better A.P. U.S. government teacher.
5. The concept of popular sovereignty implies that the government's right to rule comes from:
 - A. a small group of connected people.
 - B. God or a deity of some type.
 - C. the people.
 - D. the wealthy.

American Government: Stories of a Nation for the AP® Course

Guided Reading

Section 1.2: American Political Culture

6. Your principal has selected you to become chairperson of planning for your senior prom. You want to make decisions about the prom in a republican manner. Which course of action should you take as a result?
- A. collect all seniors in the auditorium and make decisions by a simple majority vote
 - B. ask each group of twenty seniors to select people to speak on their behalf on prom matters
 - C. select a small group of friends to serve as the prom committee to make all decisions
 - D. make all pertinent decisions about the dance personally
7. What makes inalienable rights *inalienable*?
- A. They only apply to property-owning males.
 - B. They are God-given.
 - C. They cannot be taken away by government.
 - D. They are ceded by government.
8. Which of the following statements demonstrates the tensions inherent in the two visions of liberty?
- A. It deals with the ability to *produce* ideas but not to *consume* them.
 - B. It may mean freedom *from* government interference or freedom *to* pursue one's dream.
 - C. It applies only to situations in *private* but not those in *public*.
 - D. It concerns only *men* and not *women*.
9. Which of the following is the BEST archetype of the American Dream?
- A. a middle-class suburbanite who works as a middle manager in a company his father founded
 - B. a poor immigrant who becomes a wealthy and happy CEO by working two jobs and attending night school
 - C. the scion of a rich family who uses his father's money and influence to get into good schools and eventually to run for political office
 - D. an impoverished factory worker who perished in an industrial accident at the age of thirty