

AP US Government & Politics Intro. to FRQs

Name: _____ P: _____

What are FRQs in AP Government? FRQs are 4 mandatory questions that ask students to demonstrate understanding of specific political processes/concepts & phenomena. You will have 100 minutes to complete all 4 questions (you are in charge of using that 100 minutes appropriately to complete all questions). For each FRQ, it is recommended that you use 5 minutes to plan and 20 minutes to write your response.

- Almost always consists of multiple parts
 - (pt. A, pt. B, pt. C, etc)
- Depending on the question, you will have to write a response that is based on
 - An introductory statement that lists the tasks you are going to answer
 - i.e. give examples that illustrate....; discuss the nature of....
 - Data-based stimulus (graphs, charts, quotes)

What do I need to do to get a good score?

- Immediately read ALL 4 Free Response Questions and start with the ones you are *MOST* confident with.
- DO NOT WRITE YOUR RESPONSES IN FULL ESSAY FORMAT!!
 - Break into sections for each question (A, B, C and possibly more)
- Complete sentences using the S.E.E. Format → State: 1-2 sentences; Thesis that directly answers the prompt; Elaborate: 2-3 sentences; Provide detail and depth that further supports your thesis; Exemplify: 1-3 sentences; if possible, provide an example of a policy, concept/term, historical event, political data or political figure(s) that further support your thesis
- ALWAYS make any data, concepts or theories from the prompt the CENTER of your discussion/arguments
- Broaden your mind-scope to include all relevant terms, concepts, models and theories from lecture and the text
- Name drop: use as many appropriate, relevant and accurate terms, concepts and/or models as possible

FRQ Practice Question: You have 100 minutes to answer all four of the following questions. Unless the directions indicate otherwise, respond to all parts of all four questions. It is suggested that you take a few minutes to plan and outline each answer. Spend approximately one-fourth of your time (25 minutes) on each question. In your response, use substantive examples where appropriate. (official AP Exam instructions)

In The Federalist paper number 10, James Madison expressed concern over the possibility that both majority and minority factions would have too much power over government, and he presented ways of minimizing that danger. The United States Constitution established a democratic government but also contained several provisions that limited majority rule. Throughout the next two centuries, the role of majority rule in the United States government and politics continued to change.

- (a) Identify the part of the national government that was originally most closely tied to citizens and explain how it was tied to citizens.
- (b) Explain two ways the United States Constitution limited majority rule.
- (c) Choose two of the following twentieth-century developments and explain how each moved the United States from a less democratic system to a more democratic system.
 - Primary elections
 - The Seventeenth Amendment
 - Expansion of suffrage

Plan your FRQ response in the graphic organizer below. Planning is **required** for this practice.

A. State (direct definition):

Elaborate (political significance of the term):

Exemplify (if possible):

Name Drop:

