

U.S. Government

Focus Questions - Chapter One



In an effort to truly gain from classroom discussion, it is essential that you do assigned readings. To encourage you to read, I will provide five focus questions per reading assignment. I expect that you will answer these questions in detail and in your own words. Assignments are worth 50 points. Answers for each question should be at least 100 words in length. Answers which are copied from the book, will receive a zero credit. Assignment is to be done in ink (pencil minus one grade / typed +5%).

Chapter One - Principles of Government

Section 1 - Government and the State (4 to 10)

1 - Significant Terms

Briefly identify the following political terms in your own words - legislative, executive, judicial, dictatorship, democracy, sovereignty.

2 - Evolutionary, Divine Right, Social Contract

Above are three different theories of government through the ages. Read about each and tell me what are the strengths and weaknesses when each one moves from theory into reality. Which in your opinion is the most effective?

3 - John Locke - Second Treatise of Government

Page 11 highlights an important document. Read the page. Look at some of the quotes on the essay - write them down and tell me what you think about each one.

Section 2 - Forms of Government (12 to 16)

4 - Geographic Distribution of Power

Governments are laid out geographically in three ways - Unitary, Federal, and Confederate. Tell me about each one - strengths and weaknesses. Which in your opinion is the most effective? And what is the USA?

5 - Power Sharing in the Government

Governments are structured in one of two ways - Presidential or Parliamentary. Tell me about each one - strengths and weaknesses. Which in your opinion is the most effective? And what is the USA?