

## 2008 A.P. GOVERNMENT/ AP GEM SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

Welcome to A.P. Government! Your summer assignment is to carefully read and then answer questions from excerpts from two important Supreme Court cases, the Preamble and two readings from *The Federalists Papers*. You will also need to complete a hand-written two-page FRQ answer. Failure to complete this assignment by the first day of class may result in a leveling down to regular government.

**You will NOT need a government to complete this summer assignment. This assignment is all Internet-based.**

**The readings are difficult**, probably the hardest material for the entire class. So, my advice is to print-out the readings and then to take your time to slowly read the material. By completing this assignment over the summer, we will be able to get a head-start with the material. **You have all summer to do this!**

**Part 1. a. Read *Marbury v. Madison* (1803):** Available at:

[www.landmarkcases.org/marbury/home.html](http://www.landmarkcases.org/marbury/home.html)

**b. Read *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819):** Available at:

[www.landmarkcases.org/mcculloch/opinion.html](http://www.landmarkcases.org/mcculloch/opinion.html)

**Part 2. Read Federalist Papers # 10 and #51:** Available at:

[www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/federal/fed](http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/federal/fed)

or [thomas.loc.gov/home/histdox/fedpapers.html](http://thomas.loc.gov/home/histdox/fedpapers.html)

**Part 3. Read the Preamble to the Constitution: Available at:**

[caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/data/constitution/preamble/](http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/data/constitution/preamble/)

**Answer the following questions:**

### ***Marbury v. Madison***

1. Who was Chief Justice Marshall more likely to side with, Marbury or Madison? Why?
2. What conflict did Marshall see with the Judiciary Act of 1789 and Article III of the Constitution?
3. What did Marshall finally decide in this case?
4. What two essential powers did Marshall assume that the Supreme Court had?
5. What do you think Marshall means by the following? "The constitution is either a superior, paramount law, unchangeable by ordinary means, or it is on a level with ordinary legislative acts, and, like other acts, is alterable when the legislature shall please to alter it."

### ***McCulloch v. Maryland***

1. How did Chief Justice John Marshall justify the power of the federal government to establish a bank? What phrases in the Constitution does he use to support his argument?
2. How does one determine that a power is "implied" when it is not specifically stated in the Constitution?
3. In the Court's opinion, Chief Justice Marshall says, "the power to tax involves the power to destroy". Explain.
4. In making this decision, the Supreme Court of the United States helped to determine the relationship of the federal and state governments to one another. Which is supreme? What impact did this decision have on the future of the United States? If the decision had

been different-that the states had power to regulate or tax the national government-how might our lives be different now?

### ***The Preamble***

1. What is the purpose of the Preamble to the Constitution?
2. From your knowledge of US History, why were the words, “in order to form a more perfect union” added to the Preamble?
3. In your opinion, how important is the phrase ‘We the People’ in today’s American political environment?

### **Federalist # 10**

1. How does James Madison define “faction”?
2. What are two methods of curing mischiefs caused by factions?
3. What are two ways of eliminating the causes of factions? Why are both of these unacceptable?
4. According to Madison, what is the primary cause of a conflict?
5. What are two remedies for controlling the effects of factions?
6. Why are factions more easily controlled in large republics?
7. According to Madison, how does federalism control factions?
8. Do you think Madison has an optimistic or pessimistic view of human nature?

### **Federalist # 51**

1. What are the main points covered in Federalist #51?
2. What did Madison/Hamilton mean by “if men were angels, no government would be necessary?”
3. Give three examples of how the Constitution protects the proper balance of power.
4. According to Federalist #51, which branch of the government is the strongest? Why?
5. Why are large republics more capable of self-government?

### **Part 4. The 2008 Presidential Election FRQ**

The AP Government exam requires 4 FRQ short essays. The format and the writing style used for these FRQs are very different than those found in the AP US History exam. For Part 4 of this assignment, answer all four parts of the following FRQ. Your answer must be **hand-written** and be two pages total in length. (Be sure to label your answer, a. b. c. etc.) To answer this FRQ, you may need to complete some Internet research.

The upcoming 2008 presidential election has been highly publicized by the media for many months. Many Americans see this election as a “critical election”, an election that will have a major impact on the future of the USA.

- a. Discuss three major differences between the Republican Party and the Democratic Party
- b. The 2008 Presidential primary election process has been a long battle so far for the Democrats. Why has it not been possible so far, (as of May 30), for one Democrat candidate to become the official candidate for the general election in November?
- c. John McCain has secured the Republican candidacy for the presidency. Discuss three reasons why McCain won on the Republican side.
- d. If you could vote in November who you would vote for? Why?