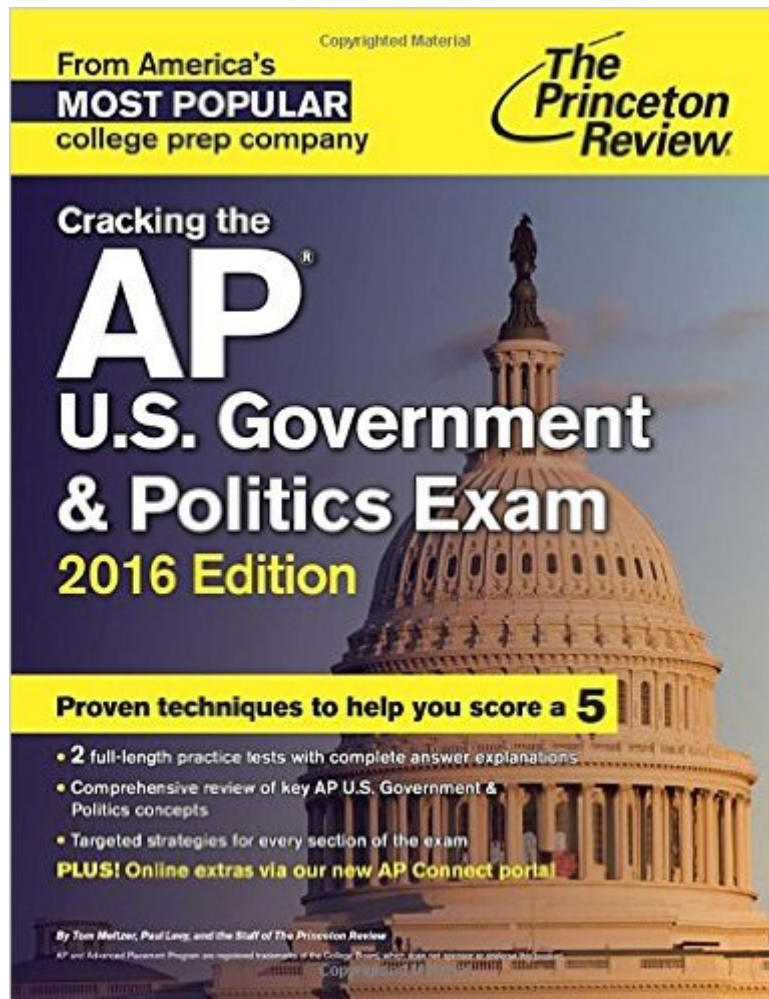


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Cracking The AP U.S. Government & Politics Exam, 2016 Edition (College Test Preparation)



Synopsis

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO HELP SCORE A PERFECT 5. Equip yourself to ace the AP U.S. Government & Politics Exam with The Princeton Review's comprehensive study guide—including thorough content reviews, targeted strategies for every question type, access to our AP Connect portal online, and 2 full-length practice tests with complete answer explanations. We don't have to tell you how tough AP U.S. Government & Politics can be to master—or how important getting a stellar exam score can be to your chances of getting into your top-choice college. Written by the experts at The Princeton Review, *Cracking the AP U.S. Government & Politics Exam* arms you to take on the test and achieve your highest possible score.

Techniques That Actually Work. • Tried-and-true strategies to help you avoid traps and beat the test • Tips for pacing yourself and guessing logically • Essential tactics to help you work smarter, not harder

Everything You Need to Know to Help Achieve a High Score. • Comprehensive content review for all test topics • Up-to-date information on the 2016 AP U.S. Government & Politics Exam • Engaging activities to help you critically assess your progress • Access to AP Connect, our online portal for helpful pre-college information and exam updates

Practice Your Way to Excellence. • 2 full-length practice tests with detailed answer explanations • Glossary for quick reference of the most important topics, dates, cases, and information • Helpful practice drills at the end of every content review chapter

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Customer Reviews

I had 5 other AP classes that semester and AP GOV't class quickly became a place to finish up homework in other classes. I barely paid any attention to lectures and honestly never really got time to read the book. I became concerned when second semester rolled along and the AP Exams were looming. I got the Princeton Review book and basically read the whole book through in about a week before the exam. I learned a semester's worth of information in about 3-4 hours. Trust me it's possible, the AP exam can test you on only so much. You don't have to religiously memorize this book but you have to know the book quite well. The test was notoriously easy and I got a 5 - end of story. As long as you come just a step short of memorizing this book, you WILL get a five - even if you never paid attention in class. Don't tell me that this book is not enough - it's written by the chief AP Grader for crying out loud - it gives you just exactly what you need to know, nothing more - don't go with Barrons and spare yourself extra time and effort.

I recommended that my AP US Government students buy this book because I think it is the best with regards to the curriculum alignment. I especially think that the practice tests are more aligned with real AP multiple choice exams than 5 Steps. Two things that could be better: 1. Some of the information (even in the practice tests) is random and not likely to appear on the AP exam. 2. The free response questions are not configured or scored the way real AP free response questions are done. They aren't written in the format that is always used. A student is much better off completely disregarding the free response questions in the book and using the actual, released FRQS (plus rubrics) found on the Collegeboard website.

Impeccable. Need I say more? Whether you need a study guide to use in conjunction with the class, or last minute resource for the AP exam, this is the book for you. While I didn't use it for the former, I did use it extensively for the latter. Thus, this review will speak of my experience using this book to study for the AP US Government and Politics Exam. Unlike the AP textbook you'll likely receive in class, this book is terse and to the point. Though it's pithy, it still contains EVERY key term you need to know for the exam; all of which are in bolded text and include a structured, well-organized outline of what each term entails. For example, the chapter on the Judiciary delineates the process by which the Supreme Court hears an appellate case and breaks it down into distinct steps. Not only does each step elucidate the seemingly esoteric process, but it also catalogs the salient terms of each step. Such terms include: amicus curiae brief, rule of four, writ of certiorari, judicial conference, solicitor general, attorney general, etc. The point is, this book provides a comprehensive guide to

the course yet still manages to exclude any futile or excess information. As for the 2 included practice exams, I would contend that their rigor is on par with that of the actual AP exam. After having thoroughly read and memorized the book, a process which took about 8 straight hours, I took each practice exam. First of all, time was not an issue at all: I finished each test in 15 of the allotted 45 minutes. Secondly, I scored 59/60 on the first test, and 60/60 on the second one. My only issue with this book is, as another review previously stated, the practice exams' free response questions are not really representative of those of the real exam's. However, because obtaining actual past free responses is as easy as going to collegeboard.com, this issue is not really an issue at all. Though I only took this test a few days ago and have, therefore, not yet received my score, I am COMPLETELY confident that I earned a 5. Thus, for all you students enticed by the prospect of earning a 5, look no further: this book is the panacea to your studies, the only tool you need to succeed. UPDATE: I got a 5 on the ap test

I am so thankful for this book. I basically used government class as a study hall the entire year, so without this book I would have failed. Luckily, our classroom tests happened to be very closely aligned with the AP exam, so before every unit test I would read the corresponding chapter in this book while highlighting key information, and then read the chapter again. That's it. Compared to the (busy) work assigned in most classes, this book is great; it weeds out the important stuff, gives you a handy glossary (know all those terms and you'll get half the questions on the AP test right), gives you TWO practice tests (I only had time to complete one, but I recommend at least doing both sets of FRQ's), and basically saves you a load of time and worry. What I love most about this book is that the information is concise, but it doesn't skimp on words when explaining concepts; everything I had trouble wrapping my brain around suddenly "clicked" when I read this book. I will say that rushing through this book the week before the test doesn't guarantee you a five; what you put into it is what you get out of it. For me, it was especially useful to highlight and sometimes take notes in the (huge) margins, since I tend to skim passages without absorbing anything. Needless to say, without this book I wouldn't have gotten a five.

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