AP Government/Economics Honors

Summer Reading

May 25, 2026

2026 Summer Reading AP Government/ Economics Honors

Welcome to Honors Economics and AP Government!

- This summer, you will read "American Political Culture" which is Chapter Four in our former AP Government textbook. It's a perfect introduction to the course because it analyzes a number of factors that help to shape the political character of our nation, including history, political philosophy, religion, ECONOMICS, and demographics. This chapter will be relevant to every single unit of Economics and Government.

- There is an accompanying list of vocabulary words and study questions. They will help you study for your first test which is the second week of school . You will not be required to submit the answers to the study questions, but there will be a vocabulary quiz at the end of the first week of school. Please note that many of the vocabulary words are in the chapter, **but will not necessarily be in bold.**

- After this test, we will switch to Economics for a few months, so this will be the only test to gauge your potential success in the course.

- I encourage you to purchase the AMSCO AP Government and Politics review book. You can find it on Amazon. Just make sure you purchase the second edition or later, as the course was redesigned a few years ago. It is a good resource to supplement a lot of information that is not as detailed in our textbook.

- That's it for now. Have a wonderful summer. I look forward to meeting you in a few months.

Chapter 4 Study Questions

*Not to turn in, but If you know the answer to these questions, you will do well on your first exam.

Study Questions:

1. List the dominant aspects of American Political Culture.
2. Discuss differences between political culture vs. political ideology and give an example.
3. What is the primary way culture is preserved over time and transmitted to a new generation?
4. Identify and discuss the five most common beliefs of the American political system.
5. Explain how Americans differ from other democratic nations in the following areas:
    a. Politics
    b. Economy
    c. Religion
6. Identify the sources of American Political Culture.

7. What is the Culture War?
    a. Identify the two sides.
    b. List five areas of disagreement between the two sides.
    c. Is money an issue? Explain.
8. Identify reasons for Americans' distrust of government.
9. Discuss the gradual decline in the trust of our government.
10. What is the significance of Robert Putnam?
11. Explain the significance of political tolerance and why it is a necessary component of a democratic system.

Chapter Four Vocabulary- quiz at the end of the first week of school- <u>you don't have to write out the definitions, but you are required to know what they mean.</u>

American dilemma
Civic Competence
Civic Duty
Civil Society
Class Consciousness
Equality of Opportunity
Equality of Results
Individualism
Liberty
Orthodox
Political Culture
Political Ideology
Political Tolerance
Progressive
Protestant (work) Ethic
Robert Putman
Social Capital