

Sacramento State University

American & California Government Challenge Exams

U.S. Constitution and National Government - including California (Challenge Exam for GOVT 1)  
California State and Local Government (Challenge Exam for GOVT 180)

The Department of Political Science offers two challenge examinations. The first examination fulfills the state requirements for proficiency and knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, National Government, **and** California State and Local Government. The second examination **only** fulfills the state requirements for proficiency and knowledge of California's constitution and government. Both waiver exams are administered by Sacramento State's Department of Political Science to any currently enrolled CSUS student who wishes to demonstrate proficiency instead of through classes.

*These waiver examinations do not constitute a challenge to the actual courses. Successful passage of the exam satisfies the American Institution's government requirement only, no grades or units are awarded. Political Science majors cannot take the challenge exams.* GOVT 1 or GOVT 150 (or their equivalent) is required for the major.

Each exam is comprised of 100 multiple-choice questions and is two hours in length. A passing score is correctly answering 60 or more questions. No student will be allowed to take either examination more than once.

There are no specific dates for these exams. Examinations are scheduled on an individual basis through [Sac State's Testing Center](#). Results will be emailed to students usually within 2 weeks of taking the exam, although this may vary. Questions about the exam itself should be directed to Professor Wesley Hussey at [whussey@csus.edu](mailto:whussey@csus.edu).

Suggested Reading List

**I. United States National Government** (Includes U.S. Constitution & California Government)

The challenge examination for American National Government covers American political and Constitutional history, federalism, civil liberties, political parties, elections, interest groups, the three branches of government at the national level as well as the bureaucracy.

A thorough reading of one of the texts below plus the additional readings should be adequate preparation for most students. Text editions should be no more than 4 or 5 years old.

- 1) Bianco and Cannon, *American Politics Today*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition.
- 2) Barbour and Wright, *Keeping the Republic*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition. **(Suggested)**

Additional readings: Federalist Papers #10,15,51,78. Brutus, Anti-Federalist #1. These can be found on the Internet.

Since the U.S. Constitution exam also includes questions about state and local government, students should also review the readings below.

**II. California State and Local Government**

The challenge examination solely for California State and Local Government encompasses political and state Constitutional history, political parties and interest groups, elections, direct democracy, California's three branches of government, and local government.

A thorough reading of one of the texts below should be adequate preparation for most students. Text editions should be no more than 4 or 5 years old.

- 1) Gerston, *California Politics & Government*, 14<sup>th</sup> edition.
- 2) Lawrence and Cummins, *California: The Politics of Diversity*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition. **(Suggested)**