

STUDY GUIDE FOR CHAPTERS 1-3

1. Describe California's economic and political situation. (1)
2. What is the future population of California? Why is this significant? (1-2)
3. What is the significance of California's two-tier society? (1-2)
4. What is California's political status in relation to the other 49 states? (2-3)
5. Describe some areas of daily life which are controlled by state politics. (3)
6. What are three factors that determine the outcome of initiatives? (4)
7. Define federalism. Which powers belong to the national government and which to the states? (4-5)
8. Define unitary government. Discuss the authority of local government. (4)
9. What are some impacts of federal government decisions on California? (4)
10. Explain the duties of California to other states. (4)
11. Discuss the issues of inequality and competition between states. (5)
12. How large is California geographically? How does it compare to other states and other countries? (8)
13. Explain why there are periodic efforts to divide California into two or three states. Are any of these ideas currently being considered? (8)
14. Discuss the economic and political impacts of California's location. (8-9)
15. Discuss the major industries in California based on natural resources and their political influence. How much of the land in California is owned by various levels of government? (9)
16. Explain the characteristics of California's diverse population. (9-11)
17. Define political culture. Discuss that of California. (12)
18. What are some of the state's problems? How are their effects manifested in the political process? (12-13)
19. Define conservative, liberal. Which political party is linked to which political philosophy? (13)
20. Why do we have so little information on the way of life of the state's original residents? (16)
21. Who colonized California? How did they treat the native people? (16-17)
22. Define manifest destiny. Explain how the U.S. gained control of California from Mexico. What happened to the Californios? (17-19)
23. What is the legacy of the Spanish and Mexican periods in California? (17)
24. Explain why, how and when California became a state. What was the importance of the compromise enacted by Congress? (17)
25. Discuss the role of scapegoating in California history. (19)

26. Discuss the legacy of the Progressive movement in California. Define nonpartisan and direct democracy. (19)
27. Describe key political and economic events of the twentieth century and their impact on California. (19-20)
28. Explain how the elected lawmakers share power with voters. (20-21)
29. Compare/contrast California's constitution with the federal one. (20-21)
30. How can the voters of California amend the state constitution? (21)

STUDY GUIDE FOR CHAPTERS 4-6

1. Define civil liberties. What is their relationship to government? (23)
2. Discuss the difference between civil liberties and civil rights. (23)
3. Explain the conflicts between personal freedoms, corporate profits and public safety. Give examples. (23-24)
4. Give a brief history of ethnic discrimination in California. (24-25)
5. Define demographic shift. Explain its connection to term limits. What is the role of the franchise in ethnic empowerment efforts? (27-28)
6. Why are some ethnic communities less effective politically? (28)
7. Explain how “majority” groups can be underrepresented. (27-29)
8. How did the election of Gov. Schwarzenegger link media to politics? (31)
9. How do people form their political attitudes? (31)
10. Why/how do newspapers inform us more fully than TV news? (31-32)
11. Describe image-making and its importance in California politics. (32)
12. Define interest groups. What are some of the larger private sector pressure groups? What can you learn from the table on page 33? (32-33)
13. Explain the difference between interest groups and PACs. (34)
14. Give examples of less affluent interest groups. (34)
15. How and why does government lobby government? (34)
16. What activities does lobbying include? (35-36)
17. How have term limits for legislators changed lobbying? (36)
18. How can individuals track the influence of lobbying? (36)
19. Give examples of some lobbies that anyone can join. (36, Appendix A)
20. Describe some ways in which Californians are politically active without direct involvement in political parties. (38)
21. Discuss the party affiliations and loyalty of elected officials. (38-39)
22. Why are political parties weaker in California than in other states? (39)
23. How many offices are elected in California? How many are partisan? (39)
24. Discuss party affiliation, loyalty and the role of swing voters. (39)
25. Define the civil service system and how it impacts the power of political parties. (39)
26. How are the major parties different from each other? (39)
27. Discuss the pattern of changing party affiliation. (40, Table 6.1)
28. Define ballot status. Which minor parties in California have official ballot status? How do they retain this status? (40)
29. Discuss voter registration and turnout issues. (40-41)
30. Define blanket primary, semi-open primary. (41, 44)

31. Describe how nonpartisan, issue-oriented organizations create opportunities for Californians to participate in politics. (42-43)

STUDY GUIDE FOR CHAPTERS 7-9

1. Explain the purpose of primary elections, both partisan and nonpartisan. (45-46)
2. What is the difference between a plurality and a majority? (45)
3. Which elections are held in spring and which in November? (45-46)
4. Why do more and more voters prefer absentee ballots? (46)
5. Why do incumbents have an advantage in elections? How is an open seat different than a race with an incumbent? (47)
6. How do candidates spend their campaign dollars? (47)
7. To what does the term “decline to state” refer? (47)
8. What is the most recent effort in campaign finance reform? (51)
9. What is the function of the FPPC? How was it created? (47, 50)
10. Contrast representative democracy with direct democracy. (48)
11. What is the most commonly used form of direct democracy? (48)
12. How does a direct democracy ballot item get on the ballot? (48-49)
13. What was the original intention of direct democracy? (48)
14. What are some of the pros and cons of direct democracy today? (50)
15. What is the monocultural electorate? How might it change? (51)
16. Describe the membership of the Assembly and Senate and the terms of office of each body. (53)
17. Which has more population, a Senate district or an Assembly district? (53)
18. Explain Proposition 140 and why it was passed. (53)
19. Discuss some of the pros and cons of term limits. (53-54)
20. Define redistricting and gerrymandering. What is the difference? (55)
21. How do gerrymandered districts impact the role of primary elections? (55)
22. What is a safe district? How does it impact the election of “extremes”? (55)
23. Describe the legislative process. What are some key moments for a piece of legislation? (55-57)
24. Describe the titles and functions of Assembly and Senate leaders. (57-58)
25. Describe the roles of standing committees and conference committees. (58)
26. In what circumstances does the legislature function at its worst? (59-60)
27. Which are some of the governor's most important powers? Which are some of the less-used or less important powers? (60-63)
28. Describe the veto and override powers. (61)
29. What is the item veto and when can it be used? (62)
30. Describe the governor's role in initiating the budget process. (61-62)
31. Define executive clemency. (62-63)

32. Which agency heads comprise the governor's cabinet? (63, Figure 9.1)
33. What are some of the checks and balances regarding the governor's appointment powers? (66, Table 9.1)
34. Describe the plural executive, their terms, term limits and duties. (67-68)
35. Why is California considered to be efficient in serving its people? (69)

STUDY GUIDE FOR CHAPTERS 10-12

1. How does government provide services? Raise revenues? (70)
2. When does the Governor present his budget proposal each year? (70)
3. Which Cabinet agency provides the data for the Governor's budget? (71)
4. Which legislative office evaluates the Governor's budget? (71)
5. Why is April 15 an important day for the state budget process? (71)
6. What is the "May revise"? (71)
7. What is the deadline for the legislature to vote on the budget? By what margin must the legislature approve the budget? Could this change? (71)
8. Explain the role of the item veto in the budget process. (71)
9. What are the major sources of state revenues? (73, Figure 10.1)
10. What are the major expenditures of the state? (74, Figures 10.2, 10.3)
11. Explain the role of bonds. How are bonds approved by voters? (74)
12. Describe the root causes of Proposition 13. What major changes in property taxation were created by Proposition 13? (75)
13. Describe some long term political and budget changes caused by Proposition 13. (75)
14. Why did the U.S. Supreme Court call Proposition 13 "unwise"? (75)
15. Describe the origins and purposes of Proposition 98. (76)
16. What portion of the state budget is mandated by the federal government or by voter approved initiatives? (76)
17. How does the economy impact the role and potential of government? (76)
18. How does the process of federal judge selection contrast with California's methods for judge selection? (78)
19. What is the role of trial courts? (78-79)
20. Discuss the role of arbitration and mediation in the judicial system. (79)
21. How and why can an individual appeal a trial court decision? (79)
22. What is the highest court in the state? How many justices sit on it? (81)
23. How do most trial court judges begin their judicial careers? (81)
24. What are the basic requirements to become a California judge? (81)
25. How are the appellate and Supreme Court justices chosen in California? (81)
26. What is the role of the electorate in California's judicial branch? Distinguish between trial court judges and appeals judges and justices. (81-82)
27. Describe the causes and consequences when voters removed three state Supreme Court justices in the 1980s. (82)

28. Explain the nonelectoral method for removing a judge from office. (82)
29. What is the judicial council? (83)
30. What is the current political philosophy of the state supreme court? (83)
31. What is the link between the governor and the quality of justice? (83-84)
32. What are the two basic types of legal procedures? (85)
33. What are the three types of crimes? How do penalties differ for each? (85)
34. Define the “three strikes” constitutional amendment passed by voters. What have been its impacts on our justice system? (85-86)
35. Describe the costs to taxpayers of the state prison system. (85-86)
36. How do communities attempt to stay free of crime? (87)
37. Which crime rates have declined in recent years? Which increased? (87)
38. What are some examples of white-collar crime? (87)
39. Explain relative state spending on prisons, colleges and schools. (87-88)
40. Describe the system through which an alleged criminal moves from arrest to possible conviction. Include the practice of plea bargaining. (88)
41. What proportion of a jury is required to convict a criminal? (88)
42. What are some examples of civil cases? How are most resolved? (88-89)
43. Define the terms plaintiff, defendant. (89-90)
44. Explain the privatization of the judicial system. Who benefits most? (90)
45. Describe grand juries. How do they differ from trial juries? (90)
46. Describe criticisms of the jury system and some recent improvements. (90)

STUDY GUIDE FOR CHAPTERS 13-15

1. What are California's three types of local government? (92)
2. If there is an area that is not part of a city, what is that area called? (92)
3. Explain the process of incorporation. (92-93)
4. What services do cities provide for their residents? (93)
5. What are some revenue sources for cities? (93)
6. Describe the two basic forms of city government. (94)
7. Discuss the gerrymandering of the Los Angeles City Council districts. What factors might cause gerrymandering in city government? (95, Figure 13.1)
8. Describe some of the groups that might seek influence in city politics. (97)
9. Explain the difference between at-large and district-based city elections. (95)
10. Contrast a full-time City Council member with a part-time one. (95-96)
11. Describe the Brown Act and its purpose. (97)
12. Explain why land use and open space are major issues in city politics. (97)
13. How many counties does California have? Which is the largest in area? In population? (99)
14. Which services do counties provide for unincorporated areas? (99)
15. What services do counties provide for all residents? (100)
16. What are the sources of county funds? (100)
17. Discuss the size and functions of Boards of Supervisors. (100)
18. What are special districts? Who governs them? (100-101)
19. Discuss the role of education districts in California. (101)
20. What are some issues in education funding? (101)
21. What is the role of community colleges? (102)
22. Describe the two types of regional agencies. (103)
23. What are some issues of the multi-issue regional agency? (103)
24. Give examples of some single-issue regional agencies. (103)
25. What problems face California today? (105-109)
26. Define underclass, class gap. (107)
28. What are regressive taxes? Give examples. (107)
29. Discuss acculturation and ethnocentrism. (108)
30. What challenges face California's agricultural regions? (109, Figure 15.2)
31. What environmental issues face all Californians? (109-110)
32. How is everyone impacted by California government decisions? (111)