

## **Government Basics & Federalism Study Guide**

1. Why is politics necessary?
2. Is politics good or bad? Defend your response.
3. Why does the definition of government include the word “enforce”? Why is this important?
4. What is the difference between a nation and a state?
5. How do the definitions of a nation and a state help explain many of the world’s political conflicts and wars?
6. What theory of state evolution would apply to the United States? Why?
7. Why do theories of state evolution tell us that anarchy is not a long-term possibility?
8. Why do we form governments?
9. Where do you fall on the political spectrum? Identify at least three reasons and why you connect them with a particular ideology.
10. Why is the system of government a country chooses important?
11. What is the role of division of power and checks and balances in a democracy?
12. What is the “elastic clause” and why is it so controversial?
13. How do we know what powers are inherent?
14. What are the pros and cons of autocracy?
15. What are the pros and cons of constitutional monarchy?
16. What are the pros and cons of theocracy?
17. What are the pros and cons of oligarchy?
18. What’s the difference between a presidential and parliamentary system of democracy?
19. What type of democracy do we have in the United States and why?
20. What fundamentals are required for a democracy to function properly?