

AP Summer Assignment Course: AP United States Government

Assignment title:

Examining the United States Constitution (Preamble and Bill of Rights)

Date due: Second day of class

Resources needed to complete assignment: Access to the U.S. Constitution (an interactive one is at -- [constitution](#))

How the assignment will be assessed:

- a. **The written assignment itself will be assessed as a quiz grade (100pts)**
- b. **An objective multiple choice quiz (15 questions/30pts)** will be given on any two parts of this assignment (your choice of which ones) sometime within the first 10 days of school.

Assignment: You are to create a ***U.S. Constitution Study Guide***

You will read the entire U.S. Constitution, and complete a Constitution Study Guide. The Constitution Study Guide is a graphic organizer that will be used to summarize the general purpose and subjects of the articles in the Constitution.

Understanding and recalling this document will be essential to your success throughout this course!

A. Your Constitution Study Guide must explain the complex subjects in as simple language as possible.

B. Your guide must address all seven articles of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, all subsequent amendments

Constitution Study Guide PART 1- THE SEVEN ARTICLES

Directions: Read each article of the Constitution. Summarize the general purpose or subject of each article in *one sentence* below. (7pts)

ARTICLE I _____

ARTICLE II _____

ARTICLE III _____

ARTICLE IV _____

ARTICLE V _____

ARTICLE VI _____

ARTICLE VII _____

PART 2. THE THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT (20pts)

1. Compare Article I with Article II. Which article is longer and more detailed? _____

2. Identify two powers DENIED from Congress in the Constitution. _____

3. How does the House of Representatives determine the rules of proceedings (the ability to have debates, riders, etc)

4. Identify two powers the Constitution PROHIBITS from the States. _____

5. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for members of the House?

6. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for members of the Senate?

7. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for the President?

The powers of the Constitution that are specifically granted to the branches of government or to office holders are called express powers.

8. Identify two express powers of the president.

9. State one expressed power for the vice president? _____

10. Identify two expressed powers of Congress. _____

According to the principle of checks and balances, each branch of the government must have control over the other branches. Look at the first three articles of the Constitution and identify one of each type of checks and balances. Indicate where each power is listed in the Constitution.

11. A power that the executive branch has over the legislative branch: _____

12. A power that the executive branch holds over the judicial branch. _____

13. A power that the legislative branch holds over the executive branch. _____

14. A power that the legislative branch holds over the judicial branch. _____

15. A power that the judicial branch holds over the executive branch. _____

16. A power that the judicial branch holds over the legislative branch. _____

17. Why do you think the framers created a government with checks and balances? _____

The court of original jurisdiction is the first court that hears a case. Appellate courts hear cases on appeal from lower courts. Although the Supreme Court functions primarily as an appellate court, it is the courts of original jurisdiction in certain kinds of cases. Look at Article III for #18.

18. When is the Supreme Court a court of original jurisdiction? _____

19. According to Article I of the Constitution, who has the power to declare war? _____

20. What power does the Constitution give the President in the area of war? _____

PART 3. IMPORTANT CLAUSES IN THE CONSTITUTION (20pts)

1. What does the "Commerce Clause" state? _____

2. What does "Necessary and Proper Clause" state? _____

3. State one positive of Congress having the necessary and proper clause? _____

4. State one negative of Congress having the necessary and proper clause?

5. What does the "Supremacy Clause" state? _____

6. How might all three clauses in questions 1-5 have impacted the power of the federal government?

5. What does the "habeas corpus clause" state? _____

6. Since there are no bills of attainders, what is the government not allowed to do ?

7. What does “due process” of law imply? _____

8. What does the “equal protection clause” imply? _____

PART 4- MAJORITY AND SUPERMAJORITY (28pts)

The Constitution requires a simple majority for some actions and a supermajority for others. A simple majority means more than half, while supermajority requirements can involve a 2/3 majority or a 3/4 majority. Most elections in the United States require a plurality, or the most votes, but not necessarily a majority.

1. Who has the power to override a presidential veto? _____

2. What margin is required to override a presidential veto? _____

3. Who has the power to ratify treaties? _____

4. What margin is required to ratify treaties? _____

To impeach means “to bring charges against” or “to indict”.

5. Who has the power to impeach the president? _____

6. What vote is required to impeach? _____

7. Who has the power to convict the president of charges brought against him in the impeachment process and thereby remove him from the presidency?

8. What vote is required to convict and remove a president? _____

9. Explain how the impeachment of a president is an example of checks and balances

10. Who has the power to accept/reject a president's nominations to the Supreme Court?

11. If no candidate for the presidency wins a simple majority of the total number of electoral votes, how is the presidency decided?

12. The Constitution specifies a three-fourths majority for just one process. Name it.

13. What are two ways that amendments to the Constitution can be proposed?

14. What are two ways that amendments to the Constitution can be ratified?

PART 5- THE BILL OF RIGHTS/OTHER AMENDMENTS (25pts)

The Bill of Rights are the first ten amendments to the Constitution. They were added to protect citizens from government abuse.

1. Outline the general purpose of each Amendment of the Bill of Rights

Amendment 1 _____

Amendment 2 _____

Amendment 3 _____

Amendment 4 _____

Amendment 5 _____

Amendment 6 _____

Amendment 7 _____

Amendment 8 _____

Amendment 9 _____

Amendment 10 _____

2. How were U.S. Senators chosen before the Seventeenth Amendment? _____

3. The Twenty-Fifth Amendment describes the sequence of events that would install the vice president as acting president against the will of the president. Outline that sequence of events.

4. How many times is the word privacy mentioned in the Constitution (articles and amendments)?

ENJOY THE REST OF YOUR SUMMER!!