

Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics (AP Government) 2022-2023 Summer Reading

The United States Constitution governs the operation and function of the federal government. Understanding its basic contents is vital to any understanding of the democratic process. Moreover, success on the Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics exam requires a thorough knowledge of its structure, contents, and basic principles as the Constitution is one of the 9 required foundational documents for the course. The purpose of this summer assignment is to give you a working knowledge of the Constitution and the basic rules it establishes for the American government.

Your assignment will consist of two parts: reading the Constitution and its amendments and answering a set of guided reading questions about the document.

Part I: Read the Constitution.

As the fundamental law of the United States, copies of the Constitution are readily available. Many websites include the full text of the Constitution and its amendments. It is also available at any library. Become intimately familiar with this document, we'll be referring to it all year.

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution_transcript.html

Part II: Complete the guided reading questions.

Answer the questions in the Constitution Guided Reading section as you read the Constitution. Most questions will require only brief answers. For each answer, record the article, section, and clause of the Constitution in which you found the answer.

Due Date: First day of class

If you have any questions, please contact, Martene Campbell, at mcampbell2@episcopalcollegiate.org

The United States Constitution Guided Reading Questions

****REMEMBER:** Include citations for each question by article, section, and clause.**

1. List the 6 purposes of the Constitution in the Preamble.
2. What is the subject of Article I?
3. What type of power does the Congress have and what are its two parts?
4. How often are elections for the House of Representatives conducted and who gets to vote in these elections?
5. List the formal qualifications for holding a seat in the House of Representatives.
6. How are the number of seats in the House of Representatives apportioned to each state and how often is this done?
7. What powers of Congress are unique to the House of Representatives?
8. How many Senators does each state have and how were they originally chosen?
9. How are the Senators chosen today? Which amendment changed this?
10. How long is a Senator's term? How many are elected in each election year?
11. List the formal requirements for holding a seat in the Senate.
12. Who is the President of the Senate? When does he get to vote in the Senate?
13. What powers of the Congress are unique to the Senate?
14. Who presides over impeachment trials and what is required for a conviction?
15. What are the penalties for being convicted in an impeachment trial?
16. What article and section of the Constitution governs federal elections?
17. What two legal protections does the Constitution guarantee members of Congress?
18. Where do all bills raising revenue begin the legislative process?
19. What is required for the Congress to override a presidential veto?
20. What happens when a President fails to sign or veto a bill passed by both houses of Congress within ten days of passage if Congress is in session at that time?
21. What happens when a President fails to sign or veto a bill passed by both houses of Congress within ten days of passage if Congress is not in session at that time?
22. List 18 powers of the Congress.
23. List 8 powers denied to the Congress.
24. List 8 powers denied to the state governments by the Constitution.
25. List 5 actions states can take that require Congressional approval.
26. What is the subject of Article II?
27. What type of power does the Constitution grant the President?
28. According to Article II and Amendment XII, how many electors does each state receive for President of the United States and how are these electors chosen?
29. List the formal qualifications for the President of the United States defined by the Constitution.
30. What is the President's role in the military, according to the Constitution?
31. List two powers that the President has that require the "Advise and Consent" of the Senate.
32. List 3 duties of the President under Article II, Section 3 of the Constitution.
33. How may a President be removed from office?
34. What is the subject of Article III?

35. What body holds the judicial power of the United States?
36. What branch of government has the power to create “inferior Courts”? Why are they “inferior”?
37. Who appoints and confirms federal judges?
38. How long do federal judges hold office?
39. List five types of cases federal courts may try, according to the Constitution.
40. Over what two types of cases does the Supreme Court have original jurisdiction?
41. What is the constitutional definition of treason?
42. What article of the Constitution governs interstate relations?
43. List three obligations each state has to the other states.
44. What limitations does the Constitution place on the power of Congress to admit new states to the Union?
45. What article of the Constitution governs the amendment process?
46. What are the two stages of the amendment process?
47. How does Article VI define the relationship between the U.S. Constitution, treaties, and federal laws and state constitutions and laws?
48. How many states were required to ratify the Constitution?
49. Identify the two signers of the Constitution from Georgia.
50. Who presided over the Constitutional Convention?

Amendments

1. How many times has the Constitution been amended?
2. What are the first ten amendments of the Constitution collectively known as?
3. Identify the subject of each Amendment.
4. List the 5 freedoms of the 1st Amendment.
5. List 3 protections in the 5th Amendment.
6. List 3 protections in the 6th Amendment.
7. Identify the three amendments passed immediately after the Civil War.
8. Identify 3 amendments that extended suffrage to new groups of people. Identify the group addressed in each.
9. When was the most recent constitutional amendment ratified?