

# AP United States Government and Politics Constitution Assignment

This summer assignment has two parts associated with it. You will be asked to review the Constitution of the United States and answer the questions below. The second part will ask that you review some of the most pivotal Supreme Court Cases in our nation and analyze their long-term effects.

## Part I – The Constitution

You can find the text of the Constitution in many places. I recommend the following site.

<http://ratify.constitutioncenter.org/constitution>

**Unless otherwise instructed**, you do not need to write in complete sentences, but make sure your meaning is clear.

Write in your own words. **Do not quote the Constitution**. I know what it says, I want to know if you understand the words of the document. If you do not understand what a word or phrase means, look it up. Some words, like ratify, have specific, legal meanings and should not be substituted.

1. Read the 7 articles of the Constitution. In **one sentence** for each, summarize the general topic covered in each article. If you use the recommended website, the phrase that pops up when you scroll over the article's box is not sufficient.

Article I

Article II

Article III

Article IV

Article V

Article VI

Article VII

2. Preamble: **In your own words**, list the general purposes of the Constitution.

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

F.

3. *Article I*

*1) What are the formal job requirements for the House of Representatives?*

A.

B.

C.

*2) What is the term length for a Representative?*

*3) How are States represented in the House of Representatives?*

*4) How are States represented in the Senate?*

*5) What is the term length for a Senator?*

*6) What are the formal job requirements for the Senate?*

A.

B.

C.

*7) What is the Vice President's role in the Senate?*

8) *List the House and Senate offices specifically stated in the Constitution.*

A.

B.

C.

9) *In Article I, section 3, what power of the Senate is listed?*

10) *What determines when, where, and how Congressional elections are held?*

11) *Revenue bills always originate in which house?*

12) According to the Constitution, what two actions can the President take on a bill?

A.

B.

13) With what two methods can a law be passed without the President's signature?

A.

B.

14) List the expressed powers of Congress, found in Article I, section 8. (23 by my organization – as long as all the information is found below it's ok if you have more or fewer answers)

15) List the powers denied to Congress, found in Article I, section 9. (8 by my organization)

16) List the powers denied to the States, found in Article I, section 10. (16 by my organization)

#### 4. *Article II*

1) What is the length of a presidential term?

2) Describe how the President is chosen, according to the current Constitution.

3) If no presidential candidate receives a majority of Electoral College votes, how is the President chosen?

4) What are the formal job requirements for the President?

A.

B.

C.

5) If for any reason the President cannot maintain his duties as President, who takes over the position?

6) List the powers the Constitution grants the President. (12)

7) How can Presidents, Vice Presidents, and other civil officers of the U.S. be removed from office?

### 5. Article III

1) What bodies exercise the nation's judicial power?

2) In what kinds of cases does the Supreme Court have original jurisdiction?

A.

B.

3) What other type of jurisdiction does the Supreme Court have?

### 6. Article IV

1) Explain the Full Faith and Credit Clause (Article IV, section 1) **in your own words**.

2) Summarize Article IV, section 2 **in your own words**.

3) What two restrictions does the Constitution place on the creation of new States?

4) What guarantees does the Constitution promise the States?

A

B.

C.

7. Article V

1) *How can a constitutional amendment be proposed?*

A.

B.

2) *How can a proposed amendment be ratified?*

A.

B.

8. Article VI

1) *What does the Constitution describe as the “supreme law of the land?” (The Supremacy Clause)*

A.

B.

C.

2) *What job requirement does the Constitution prevent from being applied to public offices and federal employment?*

9. Article VII

1) *How many states needed to ratify the Constitution in order to put it into effect?*

2) *The Constitution was signed in 1787. In what year was it ratified by the required number of states? (This answer is not found in the Constitution itself.)*

10. Amendments

1) The Bill of Rights is made up of which amendments?

2) In four or fewer **sentences** summarize the main ideas of each amendment to the Constitution. Most can easily be done in just one sentence. (Once we return to school, I will ask you to memorize the content of the amendments and your answers here will be a great study resource; respond carefully.)

1. (1791)

2. (1791)
3. (1791)
4. (1791)
5. (1791)
6. (1791)
7. (1791)
8. (1791)
9. (1791)
10. (1791)
11. (1795)
12. (1804)
13. (1865)
14. (1868)
15. (1870)
16. (1913)
17. (1913)
18. (1919)
19. (1920)
20. (1933)
21. (1933)
22. (1951)
23. (1961)
24. (1964)

25. (1967)

26. (1971)

27. (1992)

## Part II – The Court Cases

For part two, you will be analyzing these 15 pivotal court cases. Research the 15 court cases listed below and answer the following for each case listed in complete sentences:

- 1) Background information. What is the case about? (summarize in a paragraph for each)
- 2) The “Constitutional Question” brought up by the case.
- 3) Opinion of the court? What was their reasoning for their decision?
- 4). What Precedent was set? What long term impact did the precedent have?

Please complete these in paragraph form and in your own words!

Street Law is a great resource for you to learn the key pieces of information for these supreme court cases. There are other resources out there for you to use, but street law has everything you need in one place. We will be using resources from street law on these cases throughout the year. And the best part. Its FREE! <https://store.streetlaw.org/15-case-summaries-for-ap-govt-politics-combined-into-single-word-document/>

### List of Case

1. *McCulloch v. Maryland* 2. *US v. Lopez*
3. *Engel v. Vitale*
4. *Wisconsin v. Yoder*
  
5. *Tinker v. Des Moines* 6. *New York Times v. US* 7. *Schenck v. US*
  
8. *Gideon v. Wainwright*
9. *Roe v. Wade*
10. *McDonald v. Chicago*
11. *Brown v. Board of Education* 12. *Citizens United v. FEC*
  
13. *Baker v. Carr* 14. *Shaw v. Reno*
  
15. *Marbury v. Madison*