

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 provide at this link; (click on “The Constitution”) [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 (12 questions)** will be given on any two parts of this assignment sometime within the first 10 days of school (I will explain your quiz options in class).

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

You will read the entire U.S. Constitution, including the Preamble and Bill of Rights and complete the 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
- C. You are to complete the subsequent questions which follow the chart included in the Constitution Study Guide.

Constitution Study Guide PART 1

Directions: Read each article of the Constitution. Summarize the general purpose or subject of each article in *one sentence* in the chart below. *(14pts)*

Article I	
Article II	
Article III	

Article IV	
Article V	
Article VI	
Article VII	

PART 2- ARTICLES 1-3. THE THREE BRANCHES. Answer the following 8 questions (28pts)

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

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

3. 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.

4a. Identify two express powers of the President. _____

4b. Identify two express powers of Congress. _____

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

5a. A power that the executive branch holds over the legislative branch: _____

5b. A power that the executive branch holds over the judicial branch. _____

5c. A power that the legislative branch holds over the executive branch. _____

5d. A power that the legislative branch holds over the judicial branch. _____

5e. A power that the judicial branch holds over the executive branch. _____

5f. A power that the judicial branch holds over the legislative branch. _____

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.

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

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

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

PART 3. Important Clauses in the Constitution (10pts)

1. Explain the "Commerce Clause" _____

2. Explain the "Necessary and Proper Clause" _____

3. Explain the "Supremacy Clause" _____

4. How might these clauses above have impacted the power of the federal government? _____

5. What does "due process" of law imply? _____

PART 4- MAJORITY AND SUPERMAJORITY (24pts)

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.

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

1b. What margin is required to override a presidential veto? _____

2a. Which legislative body has the power to ratify treaties? _____

2b. What margin is required to ratify treaties? _____

To impeach means "to bring charges against" or "to indict".

3a. What legislative body has the power to impeach the president? _____

3b. What vote is required to impeach? _____

3c. What body has the power to convict the president of charges brought against him in the impeachment process and thereby remove him from the presidency? _____

3d. What vote is required to convict and remove a president? _____

4. Which legislative body has the power to accept or reject a president's nominations to the Supreme Court? _____

5. If no candidate for the presidency wins a simple majority of the total number of electoral votes, what body has the power to choose the president? _____

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

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

PART 5- THE BILL OF RIGHTS/OTHER AMENDMENTS (24pts) The first ten amendments to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights protect citizens from gov't 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 _____

1. The 14th Amendment of the Constitution has two important clauses in it, the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses. Briefly explain the difference between the clauses _____

2. List at least 5 Amendments that deal in some form with the right to suffrage?

ENJOY THE REST OF YOUR SUMMER!!