

AP U.S. Government and Politics Summer Assignment

Due: First day of class in August! Will be counted late (50% off) if turned in after that.

Assignment Overview, Rationale, and Relationship to the Course:

This assignment will serve as an introduction to three of the nation's founding documents which you will analyze in greater depth during our first unit of study. This assignment will also introduce you to the type of primary sources you will be analyzing during the semester. Your goal is to read and analyze the foundational documents, using the questions and tasks to guide your efforts. **This assignment must be handwritten!**

Directions: Look up the documents listed below and use them to complete this packet. This assignment **must be HANDWRITTEN!**

[John Locke's: Second Treatise on Government](#)

[The Declaration of Independence](#)

[Articles of Confederation](#)

[Articles of Confederation Video Lecture](#)

[The Constitution of the United States](#)

Part I: Declaration of Independence Analysis

Introduction: In the early 1770's, many American colonists began to think Britain, led by King George III, intended to take away many of the freedoms they had previously enjoyed. On July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress voted to declare independence from Britain. Two days later, Congress approved the text of the ***Declaration of Independence***. The text reflected many ideas of the Enlightenment thinker **John Locke**.

Directions: Answer the following questions based upon your reading of the *Declaration of Independence*, as well as John Locke's *Second Treatise on Government*. Outside research may be utilized-just make sure it is a credible source.

1. Identify John Locke and briefly explain background information.

2. Explain Locke's views on human nature and government including his ideas about natural rights, sources of government political power (popular sovereignty) and the Social Contract theory.

4. What powers did the Articles of Confederation deny to the national government?

5. The Articles of Confederation did not allow the government the power to tax. How or why could this be problematic for the new government?

6. Why do you think the government established by the Articles of Confederation did not have an executive, such as a president?

7. In your opinion, did the Articles of Confederation establish an effective system of government? Explain your reasoning.

Part 3: Constitutional Scavenger Hunt - Directions: Complete all the tasks of Part 3.

The Constitution is an EXTREMELY important document for everyone in this country. Understanding it will provide the foundation for our class. Therefore, you will READ IT, KNOW IT and LOVE IT by the time you enter our class in August.

Task 1

1. The Preamble states the Constitution's purposes. List the 6 basic purposes of government stated in the Preamble.

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2. Read each article of the Constitution. Summarize the general subject and purpose of each article--include any important details.

ARTICLE I	
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ARTICLE II	
ARTICLE III	
ARTICLE IV	
ARTICLE V	
ARTICLE VI	
ARTICLE VII	

3. How does the House of Representatives determine the rules of proceedings (the ability to have debates, amendments, 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?
8. The powers of the Constitution that are specifically granted to the branches of government or office holders are called *enumerated or expressed* powers.
- a. Identify two expressed powers of the president.
 - b. What are the expressed powers of the vice president?
 - c. Identify three expressed powers of Congress.
9. 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 type of checks and balances. Identify where each power is listed in the Constitution.
- d. A power that the executive branch has over the legislative branch:
 - i. This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution
 - e. A power that the executive branch has over the judicial branch:
 - i. This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution
 - f. A power that the legislative branch has over the executive branch:
 - i. This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution
 - g. A power that the legislative branch has over the judicial branch:
 - i. This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution
 - h. A power that the judicial branch has over the executive branch:
 - i. This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution
 - i. A power that the judicial branch has over the legislative branch:

i. This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution

10. 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 court of original jurisdiction in certain kinds of cases. What are those cases?

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

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

Task 2: Important Clauses

1. Where is the **“Commerce Clause”** and what does it say?

2. Where is the **“Necessary and Proper Clause”** and what does it say?

3. Where is the **“Supremacy Clause”** and what does it say?

4. Where is the **habeas corpus** clause?

5. What is **habeas corpus**?

6. Where are the bills **of attainder** discussed?

7. What is a **bill of attainder**?

8. Where are **ex post facto laws** discussed?

9. What is an **ex post facto law**?

10. Where is the **full faith and credit clause** and what does it say?

11. There are two “**due process**” clauses. Where are they? What does “due process” of law imply?

12. Where is the “**equal protection clause**”? What does it imply?

Task 3: Majority and Supermajority

1. Vetoes:

a. What bodies have the power to override a presidential veto?

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

c. Where in the Constitution is the veto power described?

2. Treaties

a. What body has the power to ratify treaties?

b. What margin is required to ratify treaties?

c. Where in the Constitution is the ratification power described?

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

a. What body has the power to impeach the president?

b. What vote is required to impeach?

c. What is the process for impeachment?

d. Where in the Constitution is the impeachment power described?

4. Presidential Elections

a. 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?

b. Where in the Constitution is the Electoral College described (Hint: there are 2 parts)

6. The Constitution has comparatively little to say about the structure and **composition of the Supreme Court**. Identify two aspects of the Court’s structure and composition that the Constitution does NOT specify. (The Constitution does specify these two basic aspects of structure and composition for the other two branches)

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

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

Task 4: The Amendments to the Constitution - Read each amendment to the Constitution and answer the questions below.

1. Outline the general purpose of all 27 Amendments:

AMENDMENT 1	
AMENDMENT 2	
AMENDMENT 3	
AMENDMENT 4	
AMENDMENT 5	
AMENDMENT 6	
AMENDMENT 7	
AMENDMENT 8	
AMENDMENT 9	
AMENDMENT 10	
AMENDMENT 11	
AMENDMENT 12	

AMENDMENT 13	
AMENDMENT 14	

AMENDMENT 15	
AMENDMENT 16	
AMENDMENT 17	
AMENDMENT 18	
AMENDMENT 19	
AMENDMENT 20	
AMENDMENT 21	
AMENDMENT 22	
AMENDMENT 23	
AMENDMENT 24	
AMENDMENT 25	

AMENDMENT 26	
AMENDMENT 27	

2. What are the first 10 Amendments to the Constitution collectively known as and why were they added to the Constitution.

3. Identify the 3 Amendments that were passed in the years immediately after the Civil War. What were the goals of these Amendments?

4. Describe three Amendments that extended suffrage to new groups of people. Briefly explain the historical context/events that likely led to the passage of these events.

5. 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.