

June 2024

Dear Student:

The Social Studies Department of the Bergenfield High School has already begun to make plans for a stimulating and challenging program for the 2024-2025 school year. A major emphasis of the curriculum is our commitment to making you lifelong readers and learners. With this in mind, as a student enrolled in Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics, you are required to participate in the Summer Reading Program. Your assignment is to complete the US Constitution Quest. This is due the first day of school. Prepare for a formal assessment on the second day of class.

The US Government and Politics course is designed to provide you with an opportunity to develop an informed and critical knowledge of American government and politics. You will study in-depth general concepts, ideals and beliefs associated with the American political system as well as case studies of how the system operates. In addition, we will be working together throughout the upcoming school year to prepare for the AP US Government and Politics Exam that will be administered in May 2025.

Please join Remind now. Send text to 81010. Text this message @cch2ef.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a healthy, and safe summer. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Brunet

Name _____

AP Government
THE US CONSTITUTION
Available at: www.constitutioncenter.org

Directions: Read the US Constitution and complete the following questions **handwritten** directly on this handout legibly. The US Constitution can be found at www.constitutioncenter.org

This is due the first day of class. **Be prepared to take an assessment on the second day that we meet.**

PART I: THE OVERALL STRUCTURE OF THE CONSTITUTION

1. Read each article of the Constitution. Summarize the general purpose or subject of each article in one sentence in the chart below.

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Article I | |
| Article II | |
| Article III | |
| Article IV | |
| Article V | |
| Article VI | |
| Article VII | \ |

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

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

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

5. What is the term of House members? _____ years

What is the term of Senators? _____ years

What is the term of President? _____ years

6. Who fills a vacant seat in the House? _____

7. How many Senators does each state have? _____

How many House members does each state have? _____

8. Who is the leader of the House? _____

Who is the President of the Senate? _____

9. Who determines the pay of Congress? _____

Who determines the pay of the President? _____

10. Any bill raising revenue must begin in which house?

11. Who follows the President and Vice President in succession?

12. Who has the power to admit new states?

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

a. Identify two expressed powers of the president.

b. What are the expressed powers of the vice president?

c. Identify two expressed powers of Congress.

14. 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.

a. A power that the executive branch has over the legislative branch:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17. List two powers that the President has that requires the “Advice and Consent” of the Senate.

18. 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. What are those?

PART II. “MAJORITY” AND “SUPERMAJORITY”

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

4.
 - a. 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? _____
 - b. What vote is required to convict and remove a president? _____

5.
 - a. What body has the power to accept or reject a president’s nominations to the Supreme Court? _____
 - b. What margins is required to elevate a president’s nominee to a seat on the Court? _____
 - c. Where in the Constitution are judicial nominations described? _____
 - d. How long does a Supreme Court Justice serve? _____

6.
 - 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. What margin is required to choose the president? _____
 - c. According to Article II and Amendment 12, how many electors does each state receive for President of the US and how are these electors chosen? _____

7. The Constitution specifies a three-fourths majority for just one process. What?

8. See Article VI. Explain the supremacy clause in your own words. _____

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

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

Part III. THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The first ten amendments to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, protects citizens from the will of the majority. In other words, no majority could vote to take these rights away. Read each amendment to the Constitution and answer the questions below.

1. Outline the general purpose of the first 10 Amendments.

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Amendment 1 | |
| Amendment 2 | |

| | |
|--------------|--|
| | |
| Amendment 3 | |
| Amendment 4 | |
| Amendment 5 | |
| Amendment 6 | |
| Amendment 7 | |
| Amendment 8 | |
| Amendment 9 | |
| Amendment 10 | |

11. Which amendment(s) of the Constitution specifically protects the rights of women? _____

12. Summarize what this amendment(s) of the Constitution says _____

13. Which amendment(s) of the Constitution protect the rights of African Americans? _____

14. Summarize what this part(s) of the Constitution says. _____

15. How were US Senators chosen before the Seventeenth Amendment? _____

16. 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.

17. Identify three amendments that extended suffrage and identify the group addressed in each.

18. Why is the 14th Amendment so important? (THIS IS CRUCIAL) _____

IV. Clauses of the Constitution:

What is the significance of each and where are they found?

1. Supremacy _____

2. Establishment _____

3. Free Exercise _____

4. Due Process _____

5. Equal Protection _____

6. Necessary and Proper/Elastic Clause _____

7. Privileges and Immunities _____

8. Commerce _____

9. Advice and Consent _____
