

AP Summer Assignment

NAME: _____

The US Constitution
Available at www.constitutioncenter.org

PART I: STRUCTURE OF THE CONSTITUTION

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

ARTICLE 1	
ARTICLE 2	
ARTICLE 3	
ARTICLE 4	
ARTICLE 5	
ARTICLE 6	
ARTICLE 7	

2. Compare Article I with Article II. Which is longer and more detailed?

3. Why do you think this is?

4. Identify two powers denied from Congress in the Constitution.
5. How does the house of Representatives determine the rules and proceedings (the ability to have debates, riders, etc)?
6. Identify two powers the Constitution prohibits from the states.

7. What are the eligibility requirements for members of:

The House:

The Senate:

The President:

8. The powers of the Constitution that are specifically granted to the branches of government are called *expressed* powers.

a. What are two expressed powers of the President?

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

c. Identify two express powers of Congress.

9. The Principle of checks and balances suggests that each branch of the government should have control over the others. Look at the first three articles and Identify one of each type of checks and balances.

a. Executive branch over the legislative branch:

Found in which part of the Constitution:

b. Executive Branch over Judicial branch:

Found in which part of the Constitution:

c. Legislative Branch over Executive:

Found in which part of the Constitution:

d. Legislative Branch over Judicial:

Found in which part of the Constitution:

e. Judicial Branch over Executive Branch:

Found in which part of the Constitution

f. Judicial Branch over Legislative

Found in which part of the Constitution

10. The court of original jurisdiction is the first court to hear a case. In what cases does the supreme court have original jurisdiction?

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

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

PART II: MAJORITY AND SUPERMAJORITY

The Constitution requires a simple majority for some actions and a supermajority for others. A simple majority means just more than half while supermajority requirements require a 2/3 or 3/4 majority. Most elections in the US require a plurality which means the most votes, but not necessarily a majority.

1. a. What bodies can override a presidential veto?

b. What margin is required to override a veto?

c. Where is veto power described?

2. a. What body can ratify treaties?

b. What margin is required to ratify treaties?

c. Where in the Constitution is this described?

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

a. What body can impeach the president?

b. What margin is required to impeach the president?

c. Where is impeachment power described?

4.
 - a. What body has the power to convict the president of charges brought against him and remove him from office?
 - b. What margin is required for a conviction?
 - c. Where is this described?

5.
 - a. What body has the ability to confirm or reject a president's nomination to the Supreme Court?
 - b. What margin is required to confirm a Supreme Court nominee?
 - c. Where in the Constitution is this found?
 - d. What role does the Senate play in these nominations?

6.
 - a. If no candidate wins a simple majority of the total number of electoral votes what body chooses the President?
 - b. What margin is required to choose the president?
 - c. Where in the Constitution is the Electoral College described?

7. What is the only process that requires a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority?

8. The Constitution has little to say about the structure and composition of the Supreme Court. Identify two aspects of the court that the Constitution DOES NOT specify (it does specify these for the other two branches).

9. List all parts of the Constitution that require a supermajority. Explain why you think each of these requires a supermajority.

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

11. What are two ways that amendments can be proposed?

12. What are two ways that amendments can be ratified?

PART III. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Some parts of the constitution require majority or a supermajority, while others protect people from the will of the majority. The first ten amendments to the constitution are known as the Bill of Rights and basically declare that these rights can not be taken away by any majority.

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. Which amendment(s) of the Constitution protect the rights of women?

3. Summarize what this amendment(s) of the constitution says?

4. Which amendment(s) protects the rights of African Americans?

5. Summarize what this part of the Constitution says.

6. How were US senators chosen before the 17th amendment?

7. 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.

8. The word “Privacy” is not mentioned in the Constitution or its amendments. Which amendments seem to imply a right to privacy?

Liberal vs. Conservative

Define the following terms in a minimum of 4-5 sentences

Liberal-

Conservative-

Complete the following Chart using this website: <http://www.studentnewsdaily.com/conservative-vs-liberal-beliefs/>

Summarize the stances of each political party on these issues and then give your own beliefs.

Issue	Conservative Stance	Liberal Stance	Your Opinion
Abortion			
Death Penalty			
School Vouchers/ Charter Schools			
Physician Assisted Suicide			
Gun Control			
Healthcare			
Immigration			
Same-Sex Marriage			
Welfare			

Declaration Essay: In 250 words describe yourself and what you think are the most important issues facing America. Make sure that for every issue you explain why you find that issue to be important!