

AP Government Summer Assignment

As a student in AP government, you will be expected to come prepared to class every day. To ensure that you are ready for the first days of class, we have created the following summer assignment. This will be collected, in its entirety, the second day of class. The assignment will count for 20% of the first quarter's grade. Late work will be penalized.

Part 1 – The United States Constitution:

Read the entire Constitution (it can be found at www.constitutioncenter.org). Summarize the purpose of each of the articles on one or two sentences each.

Article I	
Article II	
Article III	
Article IV	
Article V	
Article VI	
Article VII	

Answer the following questions as they relate to the Constitution. Use the space provided.

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

3. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for the President? _____

4. 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 the Senate. _____

d. Identify two expressed powers of the House of Representatives. _____

5. According to the principle of checks and balances, each branch of government must have some method of 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 found in the Constitution.

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

This power is found in what article/section of the Constitution? _____

b. A power that the executive branch has over the judicial branch: _____

This power is found in what article/section of the Constitution? _____

c. A power that the legislative branch has over the executive branch: _____

This power is found in what article/section of the Constitution? _____

d. A power that the legislative branch has over the judicial branch: _____

This power is found in what article/section of the Constitution? _____

e. A power that the judicial branch has over the executive branch: _____

This power is found in what article/section of the Constitution? _____

f. A power that the judicial branch has over the legislative branch: _____

This power is found in what article/section of the Constitution? _____

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

7. What power does the Constitution give the President in the area of the military? _____

8. What conflict arises due to the separation of powers that you have listed in answers #6 & #7?

The Constitution requires a simple majority for some actions in Congress and a super majority for others. A simple majority means more than half, while a super majority 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.

9. 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? _____

10. 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? _____

11. To impeach means “to bring charges against” or “to indict”.
a. What body has the power to impeach the President? _____
b. What is the margin required to impeach the President? _____
c. Where in the Constitution if the power to impeach the President described? _____

12. a. What body has the power to convict the president of charges brought against him in an impeachment process and thereby remove him from office? _____
b. What margin is required to convict and remove the President? _____
c. Where in the Constitution can the removal of a President be found? _____

13. a. What body has the power to accept or reject a president’s nominations to the Supreme Court? _____
b. What margin is required to elevate a President’s nominee to a seat on the Supreme Court? _____
c. Where in the Constitution are judicial nominations described? _____

14. 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. Where in the Constitution is the Electoral College described? (Hint there are two parts) _____

15. The Constitution specifies a 3/4 majority for just one process, what? _____

16. See Article VI. Explain the Supremacy Clause in your own words. _____

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

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

Outline the general purpose for each of the 27 Amendments to the Constitution.

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	

19. Which Amendment(s) of the Constitution protect(s) the rights of women? _____

20. Which Amendment(s) of the Constitution protect(s) the rights of African Americans? _____

21. How were United States Senators chosen before the 17th Amendment? _____

22. The 25th 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. _____

23. How many times is the word PRIVACY mentioned in the Constitution (Articles and Amendments)? _____

24. Which Amendments take away any rights of the people? _____

Part 2 – Primary Source Readings:

Use the readings provided to answer the following short answer questions in complete sentences.

I: Alexis De Tocqueville Reading Questions:

1. What made America so unique that Tocqueville wanted to study it
2. How did the factional violence of England and Europe affect the political education and viewpoint of the early Americans?
3. What two reasons are given for why all the Europeans who successfully established their colonies in the New World contained the elements of democracy?
4. In Europe, wealth is transferred from one generation of aristocrats to another with little chance for others to advance. How is America different?

II: James Bryce Reading Questions:

1. What measurements did Bryce use when researching the topic of equality in America?
2. Do you agree with Bryce's conclusion about legal equality in America during the 1880s? Why or why not.
3. How (if at all) has material equality changed from 1880s America to 21st century America? List the similarities or differences.
4. Bryce claims there is no set social rank in America. Who do we instead 'worship' or grant deference to? Are we still interested in these people the same way in 21st century America?
5. How do Americans of the 1880s treat their elected officials or those of 'official rank?' Is this observation still true today?

Part 2 – Key Terms:

Complete flash cards for each of the following terms. On one side write the term and on the other write the definition that relates to government.

1. Affirmative Action
2. Bandwagon Effect
3. Bicameral Legislature
4. Cabinet
5. Caucus (Iowa or primary)
6. Citizen
7. Civil Liberties
8. Civil Rights
9. Civil Service
10. Coattail Effect (Presidential)
11. Confirmation
12. Constituency/Constituents
13. DeFacto Segregation
14. DeJure Segregation
15. Divided Government
16. Elector
17. Electoral College
18. Elites (Political elites)
19. Entitlement Programs (entitlements)
20. Establishment Clause
21. Exclusionary Rule
22. Executive Agreement
23. Expressed (Enumerated) Powers
24. Federalism
25. Free Exercise Clause
26. Gerrymandering
27. Government Corporation
28. Great Compromise
29. Incrementalism
30. Jim Crow Laws
31. Lame Duck
32. Monetary Policy
33. Partisan
34. Party Caucus
35. Political Ideology
36. Conservative
37. Moderate
38. Liberal
39. Partisan
40. Pluralism
41. Polarization
42. Political Platform
43. Political Culture
44. Policy Cycle
45. Popular Sovereignty
46. Public Policy
47. Reverse Discrimination
48. Shield Laws
49. Single Member District
50. Soft Money
51. Splinter Party
52. Split Ticket Vote
53. Straight Ticket Vote
54. Suffrage (Franchise)
55. Disenfranchised
56. Unitary System
57. Whistle blowing (Leak)
58. Amicus Curiae
59. Briefs
60. Due Process (of law)
61. Habeas Corpus
62. Judicial Activism
63. Judicial Restraint
64. Litigation
65. Petitioner
66. Precedent
67. Concurring Opinion
68. Dissenting (Minority) Opinion
69. Majority Opinion
70. Stare Decisis
71. Writ of Certiorari
72. Writ of Mandamus