***Advanced Placement United States Government & Politics***

***Summer Assignment***

***Objectives*:**

* Foster and nurture an interest in government
* Build common ground/foundation for discussion at beginning of course
* ***Assignment: Constitution Outline*** (100 points)
  + Complete an analysis of the United States Constitution. Follow all directions carefully and respond in the same format as the questions/ directions are outlined (see attachment below). You should print off the document and answer on the charts/ spaces provided. **Answers must be completed in your own *LEGIBLE* handwriting for credit.** 
    - To complete this assignment, please find a copy of the US Constitution. A great source that will help you is the National Constitution Center (https://constitutioncenter.org/).
  + Outline is due first Friday of school.
* ***You will have a test over the Constitution on the first Friday of school.* (50 points)**

**Constitution Outline Assignment**

# AP Exams have specific questions based on aspects of the United States Constitution. A clear knowledge of the structure and meaning of the Constitution is vital for success in this class, and for the larger goal of being an informed and active citizen. Print this document and write in the spaces provided. Answers must be completed in your own handwriting for credit. NO TYPED RESPONSES WILL BE ACCEPTED. All answers MUST BE in complete sentences.

**A. PREAMBLE**

1. What is a preamble?

2. What are the six broad objectives of constitutional government listed in the Preamble?



**B. ARTICLES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Article** | **Main Subject / Big Idea** |
| **I** |  |
| **II** |  |
| **III** |  |
| **IV** |  |
| **V** |  |
| **VI** |  |
| **VII** |  |

**ARTICLE I - Legislative Branch**

Article I, Section 1

1. What is the meaning of Section 1?

Article I, Section 2 – US House

2. Constitutionally does a House member have to live in the district he/she represents?

3. What was the decision in U.S. Term Limits v. Thornton (1995)?

4. Clause 3 of section 2 defines what act of government? How often is this to take place?

5. **Define apportionment.**

6. **Define impeachment.** Who has the power to impeach? Be specific.

Article I, Section 3 – US Senate

7. How were US Senators originally selected? How did the 17th Amendment change this?

8. What are the restrictions on the Vice President’s Senatorial power?

9. What role does the President Pro Tempore play? Why does this position exist?

10. What is the Senate’s impeachment power? What are the vote requirements?

Article I, Section 4

11. Who controls the congressional election process?

12. What power does Congress have in determining elections?

13. What provision is made in the 20th Amendment?

Article I, Section 7

14. What provision is mandated on revenue bills?

15. What three options can the President exercise on a bill sent by Congress?



16. **Define veto.** What recourse does Congress have if the President vetoes a bill?

17. What happens to a bill held for ten days with no action while Congress is in session?

18. **Define pocket veto.**

Article I, Section 8

19. What is the relationship between the structural weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation and the powers expressed in Article I, Sec 8?

20. How many powers deal with an area of economics? How many with national security? List three powers dealing with each policy area.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Economics | National Security |
|  |  |
|  |  |
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21. Clause 3 gives Congress the power to regulate commerce with which three entities?



22. Clause 17 speaks to Congressional authority over what?

23. Why is Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 – the necessary and proper clause - referred to as the “elastic clause”?

24. Why would the “necessary and proper” clause be linked to the political debate over the Constitution and implied power?

Article I, Section 9 (powers denied Congress)

25. Who are “such persons”? What provision was made for the slave trade?

26. Define **writ of habeas corpus**. When may it be suspended?

27. How does the decision in Boumediene v. Bush (2008) relate to the suspension of habeas corpus?

28. Define **bill of attainder.**

29. Define **ex post facto.**

30. Briefly explain each of the following powers denied Congress:

* No capitation or direct tax – How does the 16th Amendment change this?
* No tax on exports from any state
* No preference regulating trade

31. Define **appropriations**. What are the Congressional budgetary powers in clause 7?

32. Why is there a prohibition on titles of nobility by the US and acceptance of the same from any foreign country?

**ARTICLE II - Executive Branch**

Article II, Section 1

1. What is the term of office for president and vice president? Link this to the 22nd Amendment.

2. What is the number of electors from each state? Who may not be an elector?

3. Can the president and vice president come from the same state?

4. What provision was made in the 12th Amendment?

5. What does the Constitution say about the dates for the presidential election and the electoral vote?

What are the dates?

6. What are the Constitutional qualifications to be president?

7. What did the Constitution originally provide if the president could not perform his duties? What if the vice president could not perform those presidential duties? What provision is made by the 25th Amendment?

Article II, Section 2

8. Explain the president’s role as Commander in Chief. How does Clause 1 create the president’s cabinet?

9. Define **pardon**. What exception exists to the presidential pardon?

10. What vote is required by the Senate when the president makes a treaty with a foreign government?

11. How does the Senate, in its “advice and consent” role, check presidential appointment and recess commission grants? What vote is required by the Senate when the president makes other appointments?

Article II, Section 3

12. What is the State of the Union address? When is it to be given?

13. When can the president convene and/or adjourn one or both chambers of Congress?

Article II, Section 4

14. Under what conditions can the president, vice president and all civil officers of the U.S. be removed from office?

15. Define **high crimes and misdemeanors.**

16. Who were the only two presidents to be impeached? Were they removed from office?

**ARTICLE III - The Judicial Branch**

Article III, Section 1

1. What is the only court established by the Constitution?

2. What are inferior courts? What political body is given the power to create these courts?

3. What is the term of office for federal judges? What is the logic of this provision?

4. Can they receive pay cuts while holding the office?

Article III, Section 3

5. Explain the elements of the crime of treason.

**ARTICLES I-III: The Three Branches – Powers**

Enumerated powers are those specifically listed in the Constitution. Review Articles I-III for examples.

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| **Legislative Branch** |
| **Checks and Balances:** What are TWO *enumerated* powers it has over the president? |
| **Checks and Balances:** What is ONE *enumerated* power it has over the courts? |
| What other *enumerated* powers does Congress have? (Be thorough.) |

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| **Executive Branch** |
| **Checks and Balances:** What is ONE *enumerated* power it has over Congress? |
| **Checks and Balances:** What is ONE *enumerated* power it has over the courts? |
| What other *enumerated* powers does the president have? (Be thorough.) |

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| **Judicial Branch** |
| **Checks and Balances:** What is ONE enumerated power it has over Congress? |
| **Checks and Balances:** What is ONE enumerated power it has over the president? |
| What other enumerated powers does the court have? (Be thorough.) |

**ARTICLES I-III: Rules for Policy Makers**

Review Articles I-III to determine formal qualifications.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **House** | **Senate** | **President** | **Supreme Court Justice** |
| **Age Requirement** |  |  |  |  |
| **Citizen Requirement** |  |  |  |  |
| **Length of Term** |  |  |  |  |
| **Gaining Office:**  **How does it happen?**  **Who is involved in the process?** |  |  |  |  |

**ARTICLE IV**

Article IV, General

1. What relationships are defined in Article Four?

Article IV, Section 1

2. Define **“full faith and credit”.**

Article IV, Section 2

3. Define **privileges and immunities**.

4. Define **extradition**. Who has the authority to compel state authorities to extradite a fugitive from one state to another? What repealed the fugitive slave clause of this section?

Article IV, Section 3

5. What political body(s) is responsible for the creation of new states within the boundaries of existing states?

6. What political body is responsible for the creation of new states from other United States territory or property?

Article IV, Section 4

7. What specific protections do the states get from the national government?

**ARTICLE V**

List the TWO ways to propose and amendment and the TWO ways to ratify an amendment.

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| --- | --- |
| **Proposing an Amendment** | **Ratifying an Amendment** |
|  |  |
|  |  |

1. Who determines the method of ratification?

2. Which process of proposal and ratification has been used the most often? Which has never been used?

**ARTICLE VI**

1. How does the Constitution acknowledge responsibility for the acts of the government under the Articles?

2. Section 2 is known as the **“supremacy clause”** and creates the principle of **“constitutionality.**” Define each of these terms.

3. Define **preemption**. What does the principle say about the states prevailing in a conflict with the federal government?

4. What is the only forbidden test to the oath of office for public officials?

**ARTICLE VII**

1. Define **ratification** and explain what was required for the Constitution to be ratified.

**C. AMENDMENTS** - Summarize the amendments to the Constitution.

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|  | **Amendments** |
| **1\*** |  |
| **2\*** |  |
| **3\*** |  |
| **4\*** |  |
| **5\*** |  |
| **6\*** |  |
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