

AP Government Summer Assignment

As a student in AP Government, you will be expected to come prepared for class each day. To ensure you are ready for the first day of class, I have created the following assignment. **It will be due the first day of class – late work will be penalized at a rate of 10 points/class meeting.** You may download and save the document in order to type your answers (Please use RED font), or you may print the document and complete it by hand (Please use pen).

Part I – The United States Constitution

Read the entire Constitution and summarize the purpose of each Article in one or two sentences.

Article I

Article II

Article III

Article IV

Article V

Article VI

Answer the following questions as they relate to the Constitution

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 written directly into the Constitution and 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. Identify two expressed powers of the Senate

c. 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 level of influence/control over the other branches. Look at the first three Articles of the Constitution and identify one of each type of check, also noting its location.

a. Executive over Legislative:

Article/Section:

b. Executive over Judicial:

Article/Section:

c. Legislative over Executive:

Article/Section:

d. Legislative over Judicial:

Article/Section:

e. Judicial over Executive:

Article/Section:

f. Judicial over Legislative:

Article/Section:

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 listed in #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 requirement 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. What bodies have the power to override a Presidential veto?
 - a. What margin is required to override a presidential veto?
 - b. Where in the Constitution is the veto power described?
10. What body has the power to ratify treaties?
 - a. What margin is required to ratify treaties?
 - b. Where in the Constitution is the ratification power described?
11. To impeach means “to bring charges against” or “to indict”. What body has the power to impeach the President?
 - a. What is the margin to impeach the President?
 - b. Where in the Constitution is the power to impeach the President described?
12. What body has the power to convict the President of charges brought against him in an impeachment process and thereby remove him from office?
 - a. What margin is required to convict and remove the President?
 - b. Where in the Constitution can the removal of a President be found?
13. What body has the power to accept or reject a President’s nominations to the Supreme Court?
 - a. What margin is required to elevate a President’s nominee to a seat on the Supreme Court?
 - b. Where in the Constitution are judicial nominations described?
14. 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?
 - a. What margin is required to choose the President?
 - b. Where in the Constitution is the Electoral College described? (2)
15. The Constitution specifies a 3/4 majority for just one process – what?
16. See Article VI – In your own words, explain the Supremacy Clause:
17. What are the two ways Amendments to the Constitution can be proposed?
18. What are the two ways 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) to the Constitution protect(s) the rights of women?
20. Which Amendment(s) to the Constitution protect(s) the rights of minorities?
21. How were the 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 the sequence of events.
23. How many times is PRIVACY mentioned in the Constitution (Articles and Amendments)?
24. Which Amendment(s) take away any rights of the people?