

AP US Government and Politics
Millington Central High School
Summer Assignments 2017-2018

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Purpose

The purpose of these assignments are to familiarize you with some of the philosophical and political roots of American government. You will become acquainted with Enlightenment documents that influenced our Founders, and analyze the United States Constitution, which serves as the framework for the American government and is the supreme law of the land.

Before You Get Started

You need to sign up for Remind. To do this, you should text @mchsapgov to 81010. If you have not used Remind before, it may ask you to reply with your name. Please give your full first and last name. I will use this regularly to keep in touch with individuals or the whole class, but I will not constantly bombard you with messages.

The Constitution

An online copy of the US Constitution is available at www.constitutioncenter.org. You will need it to complete the US Constitution Study Guide (provided separately). You will read the Constitution and evaluate the overall structure of the document; identify various powers of government, important clauses, and the differences between majority and supermajority in regards to Congress; and summarize all 27 amendments.

Enlightenment Readings

The writings of a number of Enlightenment philosophers of the 17th and 18th Centuries had a profound influence on our country's Founders. You will read excerpts from two documents, which you can find online at the links below. You will then answer the questions that follow.

Rousseau, *On the Social Contract* <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/rousseau-soccon.asp>

Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws* <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/montesquieu-spirit.asp>

Writing Requirements

Read each document and answer the questions below. Your final product should contain the following:

- Typewritten using Times New-Roman, 12-point font
- Double spaced
- Supported with sufficient quotations and examples
- MLA citations NOT required

Baron de Montesquieu: *The Spirit of the Laws*

1.1 Immediately in the first five paragraphs, Montesquieu lays out an idea that directly influenced the shaping of American government. What is it and why does he state it is so important?

1.2 According to Montesquieu, who should exercise executive power? Who should exercise legislative power? Why?

1.3 What does Montesquieu say about the idea of the executive limiting the legislative power? How about the legislative limiting the executive power?

1.4 To Montesquieu, what will ultimately cause the state to perish?

Jean Jacques Rousseau: *The Social Contract*

2.1 To Rousseau, what is the fundamental question that he seeks to address in *The Social Contract*? Reword and analyze this question with particular attention on Rousseau's famous statement: "Man was born free, but everywhere he is in chains."

2.2 According to Rousseau, what is the social contract and what are the social contract's benefits to society? Explain thoroughly.

2.3 What does Rousseau think of the concept of individualism, and how does the social contract affect individual will?

2.4 What is Rousseau's overall thinking on the concept of representative democracy vs. direct democracy? Explain in detail.

Due Date

The due date for the US Constitution Study Guide and the Enlightenment writing responses is the Friday of the first week in which this class meets.

AP US Government & Politics
Unit I: Constitutional Underpinnings and Federalism

THE US CONSTITUTION STUDY GUIDE

Available at: www.constitutioncenter.org

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

3. Identify two powers denied from Congress in the Constitution.

4. How does the House of Representatives determine the rules of proceedings (the ability to have debates, riders, etc) _____
5. Identify two powers the Constitution prohibits from the States.

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

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

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

9. The powers of the Constitution that are specifically granted to the branches of government or to office holders are called *express* powers. Powers that stem from the Constitution but are not specifically stated are called *inherent* powers.
- a. Identify two express powers of the president.

 - b. What are the express powers of the vice president?

 - c. Identify two express powers of Congress.

10. 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 _____

11. 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?

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

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

PART II IMPORTANT CLAUSES

1. Where is the “Commerce Clause” and what does it say? _____
2. Where is the “Necessary and Proper Clause” and what does it say? _____
3. Where is the “Supremacy Clause” and what does it say? _____
4. How might these clauses above have impacted the power of the federal government? _____

5. Where is the habeas corpus clause and what does it say? _____
6. What is habeas corpus? _____
7. Where are bills of attainders discussed and what does it say? _____
8. What is a bill of attainder? _____
9. Where are ex post facto laws discussed and what does it say? _____
10. What is an ex post facto law? _____
11. Where is the full faith and credit clause and what does it say? _____
12. There are two “due process” clauses. Where are they? What does “due process” of law imply? _____

13. Where is the “equal protection clause”? What does this imply? _____
 14. Find the “takings clause” (aka eminent domain) of the 5th Amendment. What does this mean? _____
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PART III. 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. What vote is required to impeach? _____
 - c. What is the standard for impeachment (in other words, according to the Constitution, what can the President be impeached for)? _____

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? _____
c. Where in the Constitution is the impeachment power described? _____
5. 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 Court? _____
c. Where in the Constitution are judicial nominations described? _____
d. What language is used to describe the role of the Senate in Supreme Court nominations? _____
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. Where in the Constitution is the Electoral College described? (Hint: there are two parts) _____
7. The Constitution specifies a three-fourths majority for just one process. What? _____
8. The Constitution has comparatively little to say about the structure and composition of the Supreme Court. Identify two aspects of the Court's structure and composition that the Constitution does not specify. (The Constitution does specify these two basic aspects of structure and composition for the other two branches).

9. List all parts of the Constitution that require a supermajority. For each, *explain why* you believe there is a supermajority requirement. _____

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

Part IV. THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Some parts of the Constitution require a simple majority, others a supermajority, while still others protect citizens from the will of the majority. The first ten amendments to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights protect 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 all 27 Amendments. Use very brief statements/bullet points.

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) of the Constitution protect the rights of African Americans? _____

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

6.. 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.

7. How many times is the word *privacy* mentioned in the Constitution (articles and amendments)?
