

AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

All work should be handwritten and turned in on Friday, August 11th or Friday, January 12th (depending upon which semester you are enrolled in the class). On that date, you will use your completed summer assignment to complete an assessment on the summer assignment. The in-class assessment will cover the U.S. Constitution, its Amendments, and the Supreme Court cases listed below.

PART I: THE CONSTITUTION

Please complete and print out the US CONSTITUTION STUDY GUIDE in this document. You can easily find a copy of the United States Constitution online.

PART II: SUPREME COURT CASES

Please complete and print out the LANDMARK SUPREME COURT CASES chart included in this document. The OYEZ website (<http://www.oyez.org/cases>) is an excellent resource to use for chart completion although you can find several resources online that can help you. Information from this chart will provide a framework with which to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the American political system. *Note: You will NOT need to know the dates for the quiz: focus on understanding the background, issues, and ruling (who did what, who thought what was unconstitutional and WHY, what the court has ruled and has said about the issue, any vocabulary associated with the case, etc.)*

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at: kaminskyg@fultonschools.org

I look forward to a great semester!!!!

Ms. Kaminsky

THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION STUDY GUIDE

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 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 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 Taking Clause of the 5th Amendment. What does this mean?

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 a majority.

1. Presidential Veto
 - 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. Ratification of Treaty
 - 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. Impeachment: 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?
4. Trial following Impeachment
 - 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. Who presides at the trial?
 - c. What vote is required to convict and remove a president?
 - d. Where in the Constitution is the impeachment power described?
5. Confirmation
 - a. What body has the power to accept or reject a president's nomination 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. Presidential Elections
 - 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 is it?

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.

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	

LANDMARK SUPREME COURT CASES

CASE	DATE	SUMMARY AND SIGNIFICANCE
<i>Marbury v. Madison</i>	1803	
<i>McCullough v. Maryland</i>	1819	
<i>United States v. Lopez</i>	1995	
<i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i>	1896	
<i>Brown v. Board of Education, I</i>	1954	
<i>Brown v. Board of Education, II</i>	1955	
<i>Engel v. Vitale</i>	1962	
<i>Wisconsin v. Yoder</i>	1972	
<i>Gideon v. Wainwright</i>	1963	

<i>Tinker v. Des Moines Independent School District</i>	1969	
<i>New York Times Company v. United States</i>	1971	
<i>Roe v. Wade</i>	1973	
<i>Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission</i>	2010	
<i>Gitlow v. New York</i>	1925	
<i>Schenck v. United States</i>	1919	
<i>McDonald v. Chicago</i>	2010	
<i>Baker v. Carr</i>	1961	
<i>Shaw v. Reno</i>	1993	
<i>Buckley v. Valeo</i>	1976	