

AP Government Summer Assignment

Read the **United States Constitution** and create for yourself a basic understanding of the document that contains the guiding principles of American self-rule. Print this out and please be sure to fill out everything, as you will hand it in for a project grade.

Use this website for the assignment: <http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution.html>

Begin by clicking on “read transcript”

THE PREAMBLE

This paragraph, which begins with “We the People...”, outlines the basic tasks we ask our federal government to perform. List each one as it’s written in the document; then in the blank next to it, think of something the federal government actually does to carry out this task.

TASK	ACTION
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____

ARTICLE I

...outlines which branch of the federal government? _____

Section 2 ... describes which chamber? _____

Fill out each of the following rules & requirements as prescribed:

Length of term in office: _____ Minimum age: _____

Minimum years as U.S. citizen: _____

Number of representatives per state shall be based upon: _____

Which “sole power” belongs to this chamber as described in Section 2? _____

Section 3 ... describes which chamber? _____

Fill out each of the following rules & requirements as prescribed:

Number of Senators per state: _____ Senators are to be chosen by: _____
**this was later amended*

Every two years, how many Senators will be up for re-election?: _____

Length of term in office: _____ Minimum age: _____

Minimum years as U.S. citizen: _____

The "President of the Senate" is: _____ With what power?: _____

Which "sole power" belongs to this chamber as described in Section 3? _____

Sections 4, 5 & 6... describe how the chambers are to operate with respect to meetings & adjournments, compensation, internal structure, rules, etc.... in general, who is tasked with running the House and Senate? _____

Section 7... describes the legislative process

In *Clause 1*, only the House of Representatives may: _____

Refer to *Clause 2* to fill in the blanks:

A bill must pass _____ before being sent to _____.

If the bill is not signed into law, it returns to each chamber where a _____ vote is needed before the bill may become a law.

Section 8... describes all of the powers given to Congress. Write each power *in your own words* in the space provided (each separated paragraph or sentence is a *clause*)

Clause 1: _____

Clause 2: _____

Clause 3: _____

Clause 4: _____

Clause 5: _____

Clause 6: _____

Clause 7: _____

Clause 8: _____

Clause 9: _____

Clause 10: _____

Clause 11: _____

Clauses 12 – 16 call for Congress to: _____

Clause 17 allows for Congress to appropriate land for: _____

Clause 18 gives Congress the ability to: _____

Section 9... limits the federal government in certain key areas – look up and define the following terms:

Writ of habeus corpus: _____

Bill of attainder: _____

Ex post facto law: _____

Also in this section, Congress cannot place a tax on _____,
nor in regulating commerce favor one state over another.

Section 10... places limits on state governments, including the following:

No state may enter into _____ with another state or
foreign country.

ARTICLE II

...outlines which branch of the federal government? _____

Fill out each of the following rules & requirements as prescribed in **Section 1**:

Length of term in office: _____ Minimum age: _____

Citizenship requirement: _____ Residency requirement: _____

Paragraphs 2,3 & 4 of Section 1 (although later amended) describes _____

The last paragraph of Section 1 describes _____

Section 2... describes the President's powers

With regards to the military, the President is the _____

The President has the power to grant _____

With advice & consent of the Senate, the President may make _____ and

nominate/appoint _____

When the Senate is in recess, the President may fill vacancies. How long may these appointments last?

Section 3... outlines three things the President may do with respect to Congress, they are:

Section 4... for which offenses may the President, Vice President and other executive officers be impeached and removed from office?

ARTICLE III

...outlines which branch of the federal government? _____

Section 1... establishes one _____

Who is given the power to establish the “inferior” courts of the federal system? _____

Based on the idea that judges shall hold their office during “good behavior,” how long is the term of a federal judge & Supreme Court justice? _____

Section 2... identify six areas in which the federal courts have jurisdiction as described in *Clause 1*:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Clause 2 ...describes the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court

The Supreme Court has *original* jurisdiction when the parties involved are _____

or _____

In all other federal cases, the Supreme Court has _____ jurisdiction.

Section 3... defines _____ as the only crime in the Constitution. The Framers intended this very specific definition to prevent the loose use of the charge, for example, against people who criticize the government. How is this crime defined?

ARTICLE IV

...outlines relations between the states, and the federal government's obligations to states

Section 1... calls for states to extend _____ to the acts, records and proceedings of other states.

Section 2... describes how citizens of states shall be treated in other states.

Clause 1 entitles citizens of each state all _____ & _____

Clause 2 does not allow _____

**Clause 3* was later repealed by amendment

Section 3... who is given the power to admit new states to the union? _____

Section 4... the federal government guarantees it will do three things for the states:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

ARTICLE V

...outlines how the Constitution will be amended in the future

Which are the two ways an amendment may be proposed?

Which are the two ways an amendment will be ratified?

ARTICLE VI

Section 1... calls for the federal government to be responsible to _____

Section 2... states the Constitution, federal laws and treaties are _____

Section 3... calls for federal officers to take an oath, and that no _____
shall be required to qualify for office

ARTICLE VII

...describes how The Constitution itself would be ratified

States needed for ratification: _____ On what day was The Constitution signed?: _____

Number of Convention attendees who signed the final document: _____

For the following signers, click on their name, read biography and briefly describe any role, contribution, or views held during the Constitutional Convention:

George Washington (Virginia): _____

James Madison (Virginia): _____

John Langdon (New Hampshire): _____

Roger Sherman (Connecticut): _____

Alexander Hamilton (New York): _____

William Paterson (New Jersey): _____

Benjamin Franklin (Pennsylvania): _____

Gouverneur Morris (Pennsylvania): _____

Go back to main Constitution page, then click on “Constitutional Amendments 1-10” (aka “The Bill of Rights”), click on “read transcript” and write a *brief* description of each amendment’s *overall intent* in your own words (not necessary to be very specific about the provisions in each amendment):

1st: _____

2nd: _____

3rd: _____

4th: _____

5th: _____

6th: _____

7th: _____

8th: _____

9th: _____

10th: _____

Now click on “Amendments 11-27” and *briefly* describe the *intent* of each amendment in your own words (not necessary to be very specific about provisions):

11th: _____

12th: _____

13th: _____

14th: _____

15th: _____

16th: _____

17th: _____

18th: _____

19th: _____

20th: _____

21st: _____

22nd: _____

23rd: _____

24th: _____

25th: _____

26th: _____

27th: _____