**READ AND ANALYZE THE U.S. CONSTITUTION**

**Directions:** Read the Constitution of the United States (including the Preamble and the 27 Amendments) and prepare for an objective assessment on this material during the first week of school. After reading the Constitution, choose **ONE** of the following options to summarize what you have read. The directions have been provided for each assignment

**Option 1: Dummies Guide for the U.S. Constitution**

**Option 2: Complete the U.S. Constitution Study Guide**

**Option 1: Dummies Guide for the U.S. Constitution**

You will be reading the entire U.S. Constitution, including subsequent amendments. Access the documents in digital format via Website <http://www.constitutioncenter.org> Understanding and recalling these two documents will be essential to your success throughout this course.

A. You are to create a “Constitution for Dummies” guide. The point of a guide is to explain complex subjects in as simple language as possible, so you’ll be summarizing and explaining the real meaning of these two documents.

B. Your guide must address all seven articles of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, all subsequent amendments

C. When possible, include diagrams, tables or illustrations to further clarify the documents’ meanings.

D. Be sure that your guide includes the following topics/concepts in the appropriate sections. This list does NOT include every piece of information you need to explain, but highlights some terms that are easily overlooked.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *U.S. Constitution:*  Revenue bills  Necessary and proper clause  Commerce clause  Writ of habeas corpus  Bills of attainder  Ex post facto law  Electors | State of the union  Supreme Court jurisdiction  Full faith and credit  Privileges and immunities  Supreme law of the land  Ratification  Establishment and free exercise clauses | Probable cause  Due process clause  Enumerated powers  Delegated powers  Shared powers  Denied powers  Equal protection clause |

**Option II**: **U.S. Constitution Study Guide**

You will read the entire U.S. Constitution, including the Preamble and Bill of Rights and complete the Constitution Study Guide. The Constitution Study Guide will be used by students to summarize the general purpose and subjects of the articles in the Constitution. Access the documents in digital format via the Website <http://www.constitutioncenter.org>. Understanding and recalling these two documents will be essential to your success throughout this course.

You are to complete the subsequent questions which comprise the Constitution Study Guide.

**Directions**: 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:

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

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

3. How does the House of Representatives determine the rules of proceedings (the ability to have debates, riders, etc)

4. Identify two powers the Constitution prohibits from the States.

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

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

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

8. The powers of the Constitution that are specifically granted to the branches of government or to office holders are called *express* 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.

9. 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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**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? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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 margins 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 roll 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? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**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:

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 protects 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)?