

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

## Federal Constitution Study Guide

### Article I Legislative Branch

1. The job of the legislative branch is to \_\_\_\_\_
2. The legislative branch is divided into two parts or two houses which are the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_

#### House of Representatives

1. The House of Representatives has \_\_\_\_\_ members
2. There are three qualifications from becoming a member of the House of Representatives
  - A. Must be \_\_\_\_\_ years old.
  - B. Must be a US citizen for \_\_\_\_\_ years before election
  - C. Must live in the state that elects you
3. Only Congress can make \_\_\_\_\_
4. The term of office for a member of the House of Representatives is \_\_\_\_\_ years
5. The number of Representatives a state sends to the House of Representatives depends on the states \_\_\_\_\_ (this favors large states)
6. Special Powers only the House has:
  - A. They have the powers of impeachment (formal listing of charges against a federal official)
  - B. All \_\_\_\_\_ bills must start here.
  - C. They choose their own overriding officer who is The \_\_\_\_\_
  - D. In special cases they pick the President (if there is no majority of electoral votes for a candidate)

#### Senate

1. There are how many members of the Senate \_\_\_\_\_ (favors smaller states)
2. There are three qualifications from becoming a member of the Senate:
  - A. Must be \_\_\_\_\_ years old.
  - B. Must be a US citizen for \_\_\_\_\_ years before the election.
  - C. Must live in the state that elects them
3. The term of office for a member of the Senate is \_\_\_\_\_ years.
4. How many Senators are up for election every 2 years? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Special Powers of the Senate:
  - A. They have the power to try \_\_\_\_\_ cases (they act as the court)

#### Congress (Both the House and the Senate)

1. Congress must meet at least \_\_\_\_\_ a year.
2. Each house \_\_\_\_\_, punishes, or expels its own members.
3. One privilege that members of Congress have is free mail for official business. This is called \_\_\_\_\_
4. If a President doesn't like a bill he may do the following:
  - A. He can \_\_\_\_\_ the bill and send it back to the originating house.
  - B. He can refuse to sign the bill for 10 days with Congress in session and it becomes a law without his signature
  - C. He can refuse to sign the bill for 10 days and if Congress adjourns in that time, the bill is dead-- its called a \_\_\_\_\_ veto
5. Powers Granted to Congress:
  1. Only Congress can declare \_\_\_\_\_

2. They set the rate for and collect \_\_\_\_\_
  3. They can borrow money
  4. They can \_\_\_\_\_ money
  5. They control Naturalization or the control of \_\_\_\_\_
  6. They regulate or control trade between the states (interstate)
  7. They grant copyrights and \_\_\_\_\_.
  8. They set up lower \_\_\_\_\_
6. Powers forbidden to Congress:
1. They cannot put a \_\_\_\_\_ on goods going from one state to another.
  2. There can be no \_\_\_\_\_ laws (can't make an act a crime after the act has already been committed)
7. One power that is forbidden to the states is that states cannot \_\_\_\_\_ money.

## Article II Executive Branch

1. The job of the Executive Branch is to \_\_\_\_\_
2. The President takes office on \_\_\_\_\_
3. The Executive Branch directs most departments of government.
4. There are three qualifications to become the President:
  - A. Must be at least \_\_\_\_\_ years old.
  - B. Must be a \_\_\_\_\_ citizen of the United States.
  - C. Must live within the borders of the US \_\_\_\_\_ years before election.
5. The President's term of office is \_\_\_\_\_ years.
6. Powers stated in the Constitution:
  - A. President is the \_\_\_\_\_ of all the armed forces.
  - B. President makes treaties and appointments (these need to be approved by the \_\_\_\_\_)
  - C. President grants \_\_\_\_\_ and reprieves for federal crimes.
  - D. President must give a \_\_\_\_\_ message every year.
7. One of the President's domestic (or at home) jobs is to prepare the \_\_\_\_\_.
8. One group of people the President appoints and can fire, is the \_\_\_\_\_ heads.
9. One of the President's powers is that he can call \_\_\_\_\_ into a special session.
10. The President's Cabinet Departments are advisors of the President. It is a custom started by \_\_\_\_\_ and they are not listed in the Constitution.

## Article III Judicial Branch

1. The job of the Judicial Branch is to interpret laws and settle disputes. They also try cases under law and determine the \_\_\_\_\_ of laws.
  2. There are \_\_\_\_\_ Supreme Court justices and 1 of the 9 is called the Chief Justices (John Roberts)
  3. The term of office for a federal judge is \_\_\_\_\_
  4. In order to be a judge you must be at least \_\_\_\_\_ years old.
5. Treason can be defined as:
- A. making \_\_\_\_\_ against the United States.
  - B. helping the \_\_\_\_\_ of the United States.
6. You can be found guilty of treason by:
- A. the testimony of \_\_\_\_\_ eyewitnesses
  - B. your own \_\_\_\_\_ in open court.

## Article IV Relations Among States

1. Each state must give “\_\_\_\_\_” to legal documents
2. All citizens are guaranteed a \_\_\_\_\_ form of government.

## Article V Amending the Constitution

1. Amendments can be suggested or proposed by \_\_\_\_\_ of both houses of Congress OR by \_\_\_\_\_ of state legislators holding a convention
2. Amendments are ratified or approved by \_\_\_\_\_ of the states’ legislatures OR by \_\_\_\_\_ of the state conventions.

## Article VI General Provisions

1. The Constitution of the United States and the laws passed by Congress are the “\_\_\_\_\_”
2. There can be no \_\_\_\_\_ test required to hold a public office.

## Article VII Ratification

1. When \_\_\_\_\_ states had ratified the Constitution it would go into effect.

Tell which branch of government does the following items. Use the letters:

L. for Legislative Branch (Congress)

E. for Executive Branch (President or Cabinet)

J. for Judicial Branch (the Federal Courts)

- \_\_\_ 1. Grants pardons and reprieves.
- \_\_\_ 2. Sets up the nation's lower courts
- \_\_\_ 3. Commands the army and the navy.
- \_\_\_ 4. Issues money and sets its value.
- \_\_\_ 5. Uses pocket veto
- \_\_\_ 6. Declare war.
- \_\_\_ 7. Has no age requirement
- \_\_\_ 8. Controls interstate trade
- \_\_\_ 9. Protects the rights of citizens
- \_\_\_ 10. Controls immigration
- \_\_\_ 11. Decides the constitutionality of laws
- \_\_\_ 12. Directs most departments of the government
- \_\_\_ 13. Makes treaties with foreign countries.
- \_\_\_ 14. Tries cases under the law.
- \_\_\_ 15. Enforces the laws
- \_\_\_ 16. Vetoes a bill
- \_\_\_ 17. Coins money
- \_\_\_ 18. Interprets laws and the Constitution

## Amendments

### (1-10 “The Bill of Rights”)

#### 1st Amendment -- Five Freedoms

- A. Religion
- B. Speech
- C. Press
- D. Assembly
- E. Petition

#### 2nd Amendment --Right to Bear Arms

- A. You have a right to have a gun
- B. Congress and the states can regulate their use

#### 3rd Amendment -- Housing of Troops

- A. you don't have to have soldiers in your house during peacetime

#### 4th Amendment-- Search and Seizure (You should know at least one exception to the warrant clause. Example: hot pursuit, consent search, stop and frisk, airport search, plain view, automobile, etc.)

- A. Search warrants must tell the person and things to be seized.

#### 5th Amendment-- Rights of Accused Persons

- A. You must have an indictment by a grand jury
- B. You can't be put into jeopardy of your life twice for the same crime
- C. You can't be a witness against yourself
- D. Private property can't be taken without just compensation

#### 6th Amendment-- Right to a Speedy and Fair Trial

- A. You have a right to an impartial jury
- B. You have a right to confront witnesses against you
- C. You have a right to get witnesses to testify for you
- D. You have a right to have a lawyer defend you

#### 7th Amendment-- Civil Suits

- A. You have a right to have a jury trial if the value is over \$20

#### 8th Amendment-- Bail and Punishments

- A. Bails or fines cannot be excessive
- B. Punishments can't be cruel or unusual

#### 9th Amendment-- Powers Reserved to the People

- A. The listed rights in the Constitution can't be interpreted to deny other rights the people have.

10th Amendment-- Powers Reserved to the States

- A. These are called residual powers and they go to the states.
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11th Amendment-- Suits against the States

- A. It changes the authority of the federal courts where a citizen sues a state

12th Amendment-- The Election of the President and Vice-President

- A. The electors meet in the state capitals and cast 2 votes
  1. One ballot for President
  2. One ballot for Vice-President
- B. The ballots are sent to the Senate
- C. The ballots are opened in a joint session of Congress
- D. The person getting a majority of the votes in the electoral college is the winner

13th Amendment-- Slavery is Abolished

- A. There will be no slavery in the U.S.

14th Amendment--Citizenship

- A. All people born or naturalized in the United States are citizens
- B. It makes the states guarantee due process of law
- C. The number of representatives in Congress can be reduced if states deny the right to vote

15th Amendment-- Right to vote

- A. The right to vote can't be denied because of race

16th Amendment-- Income Taxes

- A. This amendment allows the government to tax peoples' incomes

17th Amendment-- Election of Senators

- A. Senators are now elected by popular vote in their states

18th Amendment-- National Prohibition

- A. It forbids the sale, manufacture or transportation of alcoholic beverages

19th Amendment-- Women Suffrage

- A. Women given the right to vote

20th Amendment-- "Lame Duck" Amendment or Presidential Terms

- A. President and Vice-President take oath of office on January 20th
- B. Congress meets once a year beginning January 3rd

21st Amendment-- Repeal of Prohibition

- A. This amendment throws out the 18th Amendment

22nd Amendment-- Two Term Limit for President

- A. One President can't serve more than 2 terms or a total of 10 years

23rd Amendment-- Presidential electors for the District of Columbia

- A. The people living in the District of Columbia can now vote for the President and Vice-President

B. District of Columbia has 3 electors

24th Amendment-- Abolition of Poll Taxes

A. There will be NO tax charge for voting

25th Amendment-- Presidential Disability and Succession

A. If the President dies, the Vice-President moves up to become the new President

B. The new President can appoint a new Vice-President

C. A President can be declared disabled by Congress and then the Vice-President takes over

D. Presidential succession after the Vice-President

1. The Speaker of the House of Representatives

2. The president pro-tempore of Senate

3. The Cabinet- in order that the departments were set up

26th Amendment-- Lowering the Voting Age

A. the legal voting age is 18 years

27th Amendment-- Pay Raises

A. Congress can't raise their pay during their sessions