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.

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 Distinct 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