

AP U.S. Government & Politics

Gibbs Summer Assignment

*Please note that this assignment is similar, **BUT different** from the county summer assignment.*

Welcome to AP U.S. Government & Politics. **All answers must be written on this handout. The assignment is due during the second week of school or of second semester.** If you have a question or need assistance please email at zuercherd@pcsb.org.

I. Crash course video and questions

Please watch the following video clip from the Crash Course series. Upon viewing, answer the following questions. *Crash Course U.S. History #8* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bO7FQsCcbD8&t=3s>)

1. What were key weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation?
2. What key groups were developed at the Constitutional Convention? What were their main platforms?
3. How was the issue of slavery factored into the new Constitution? What precedent did that set for future actions?

II. The Constitution

Read each part of the Constitution. A copy is available at: www.constitutioncenter.org. Summarize the general purpose or subject of each article in **one** sentence in the chart below.

4. The Preamble	
5. Article I	
6. Article II	
7. Article III	
8. Article IV	

9. Article V	
10. Article VI	
11. Article VII	

A. **Respond to each of the following questions.**

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

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

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

15. The powers of the Constitution that are specifically granted to the branches of government or to office holders are called *express* powers. Powers that stem from the Constitution, but are not specifically stated are called *inherent* powers.

- a. Identify two express powers of the president.
- b. What are the express powers of the vice president?
- c. Identify two express powers of Congress.

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.

16. A power that the executive branch has over the legislative branch: _____
_____.

This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution _____.

17. A power that the executive branch holds over the judicial branch. _____
_____.

This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution _____.

18. A power that the legislative branch holds over the executive branch _____
_____.

This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution _____.

19. A power that the legislative branch holds over the judicial branch. _____

_____.

This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution _____.

20. A power that the judicial branch holds over the executive branch _____

_____.

This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution _____.

21. A power that the judicial branch holds over the legislative branch _____

_____.

This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution _____.

22. 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 court of original jurisdiction in certain kinds of cases. What are those?

B. IMPORTANT CLAUSES

23. Where is the “Commerce Clause” and what does it say?

24. Where is the “Necessary and Proper Clause” and what does it say?

25. Where is the “Supremacy Clause” and what does it say?

26. How might these clauses above have impacted the power of the federal government?

27. Where is the “habeas corpus” clause and what does it say?

28. Where are bills of attainder discussed and what does it say?

29. Where are ex post facto laws discussed and what does it say?

30. Where is the “full faith and credit clause” and what does it say?
31. There are two “due process” clauses. Where are they? What does “due process” of law imply?
32. Where is the “equal protection clause”? What does this imply?
33. Find the “takings clause” (aka eminent domain) of the 5th Amendment. What does this mean?

C. Majority & 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.

34. 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?
35. 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?
36. *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 (in other words, according to the Constitution, what can the President be impeached for)?
37. 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?

38. a. What body has the power to accept or reject a president's nominations 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 roll of the Senate in Supreme Court nominations?
39. 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)
40. The Constitution specifies a three-fourths majority for just one process. What is it?
41. What are two ways that amendments to the Constitution can be proposed?
42. What are two ways that amendments to the Constitution can be ratified? (Identify, describe, AND diagram each of the methods to amend the US Constitution)

III. The Amendments - Outline the general purpose of all 27 Amendments.

43. Amendment 1	
44. Amendment 2	
45. Amendment 3	
46. Amendment 4	
47. Amendment 5	
48. Amendment 6	
49. Amendment 7	
50. Amendment 8	

51. Amendment 9	
52. Amendment 10	
53. Amendment 11	
54. Amendment 12	
55. Amendment 13	
56. Amendment 14	
57. Amendment 15	
58. Amendment 16	
59. Amendment 17	
60. Amendment 18	
61. Amendment 19	
62. Amendment 20	
63. Amendment 21	
64. Amendment 22	
65. Amendment 23	
66. Amendment 24	

67. Amendment 25	
68. Amendment 26	
69. Amendment 27	

70. Which amendments show the most obvious response to previous abuses by King George?