AP United States Government and Politics Summer Assignment

Hello all and welcome to AP U.S. Government and Politics! I am very happy to be teaching the course this year and to have you in my class. This is an exciting time to be studying politics and a wonderful opportunity to become well versed in the foundation of our nation. Although this course will prove to be quite challenging, I guarantee that, when it is over, not only will it be meaningful to you but you will know more about our government and politics. Your summer assignment will introduce you to government in its everyday working forms. I will make this assignment as relevant as possible to the course and your success on the AP Exam.

You will have an exam based on these questions within the first two weeks of the class. I will be collecting this assignment on the first day of school. Completion of this assignment in its entirety will count as a small portion of your exam grade.

If you have any questions about this assignment, please feel free to email me at [kngarcia@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:kngarcia@pasco.k12.fl.us) . It may take me a few days to respond, but I will get to your email (I will be out of the country the first two weeks in June and internet access will be spotty.)

I look forward to meeting you all in August ☺

Katherine Garcia

**Part I: The United States Constitution**

We’ll be using and referencing the Constitution all year long. Read every word thoroughly -from the beginning of the Preamble to the end of the 27th Amendment. Look up and read commentary on anything you don’t understand.

You can find a copy of the Constitution here: [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org). There will be a tab on the top of the page that reads “Read the Constitution.” From there scroll down and click “Explore.” To print your own Constitution booklet go here: <http://constitutionbooklet.com/> so you can highlight and flip through it easily. You can also download Constitution apps on your respective smartphones.

*Directions*: Read the US Constitution and complete the following questions directly on his handout.

1. 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. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. 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. What are primary differences between the two?
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, amendments, 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 office holders are called *expressed* powers.
   1. Identify two expressed powers of the President
   2. What are the expressed powers of the vice president?
   3. 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 type of checks and balances. Identify where each power is listed in the Constitution.
   1. A power that the executive branch has over the legislative branch:
      1. This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution
   2. A power that the executive branch has over the judicial branch:
      1. This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution
   3. A power that the legislative branch has over the executive branch:
      1. This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution
   4. A power that the legislative branch has over the judicial branch:
      1. This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution
   5. A power that the judicial branch has over the executive branch:
      1. This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution
   6. A power that the judicial branch has over the legislative branch:
      1. This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution
10. 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 cases?
11. According to Article I of the Constitution, who has the power to declare war?
12. What power does the Constitution give the President in the area of war?

Important Clauses

1. Where is the “Commerce Clause” and what does it say?
2. Where is the “Necessary and Proper Clause” and what does it say?
3. Where is the “Supremacy Clause” and what does it say?
4. How might these clauses above have impacted the power of the federal government?
5. Where is the habeas corpus clause?
6. What is habeas corpus?
7. Where are bills of attainder discussed?
8. What is a bill of attainder?
9. Where are ex post facto laws discussed?
10. What is an ex post facto law?
11. Where is the full faith and credit clause and what does it say?
12. There are two “due process” clauses. Where are they? What does “due process” of law imply?
13. Where is the “equal protection clause”? What does it imply?

Majority and Supermajority

1. Vetoes
   1. What bodies have the power to override a presidential veto?
   2. What margin is required to override a presidential veto?
   3. Where in the Constitution is the veto power described?
2. Treaties
   1. What body has the power to ratify treaties?
   2. What margin is required to ratify treaties?
   3. Where in the Constitution is the ratification power described?
3. *To impeach* means “to bring charges against” or “to indict”
   1. What body has the power to impeach the president?
   2. What vote is required to impeach?
   3. What is the process for impeachment?
   4. Where in the Constitution is the impeachment power described?
4. Presidential Elections
   1. 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?
   2. What margin is required to choose the president?
   3. Where in the Constitution is the Electoral College described (Hint: there are 2 parts)
5. The Constitution specifies a three-fourths majority for just one process. What process is it?
6. 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)
7. What are two ways that amendments to the Constitution can be proposed?
8. 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 |  |

1. Which amendment(s) of the Constitution protect the rights of women?
2. Which amendment(s) of the Constitution protect the rights of racial minorities?
3. How were US Senators chosen before the Seventeenth Amendment?
4. 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.

**Part II: Current Events**

UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION SCRAPBOOK

*Directions*: You will be creating a scrapbook that will analyze and interpret current events.

 1. The scrapbook must consist of fourteen articles from credible newspapers and magazines or other periodicals. Each article must demonstrate one of the concepts from Articles One through Four of the U.S. Constitution and the U.S. Bill of Rights (first ten amendments). Internet sources are NOT permitted, which means no articles can be printed from any online source (this includes the online component of a printed news source). You must find articles from their printed publication. (This guarantees that you are doing the work & not Google!)

* a.  The articles must be current articles written during this summer. The articles must also deal with events occurring in the United States ONLY.

b. All articles must be originals. Photocopies will not be accepted.

* c. Each of the following Articles and Amendments must be represented.

o Article One—Legislative Branch o Article Two—Executive Branch o Article Three—Judicial Branch o Article Four—Interstate Relations o Amendments 1-10

1. Each article should have the pertinent information HIGHLIGHTED and neatly mounted on paper. Your information should then be securely placed in a binder or folder (not in the pockets).
2. Do NOT put your work in plastic sleeves as this makes it difficult to grade.
3. A typed summary of the article and a separate explanation of how that article applies to the particular amendment must accompany each article.
   * -  Your summary, analysis, and explanation should be at least 1 page in length.
   * -  Make sure you identify the specific part of the Constitutional Article or Amendment your news article relates to as well as a description as to how it relates. [For example: “This article relates to Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution which says that Congress has the power to ‘lay and collect taxes’. This article relates because in the article Congress has decided to increase the income tax for the wealthiest Americans in 2015...”] [Another Example: “This article relates to the Fifth Amendment which states

‘no person shall be held to answer for a...crime...unless on a(n)...indictment of a grand jury’. This article relates because John Doe was arrested for robbery and the grand jury indicted him on July 4th...”]

- ALL WRITTEN WORK MUST BE TYPED!

1. Your name and a title should appear on a cover page.

6. Works cited page. (Use www.easybib.com)

Helpful hints:

1. Be sure to use copies of the U.S. Constitution & the U.S. Bill of Rights. The National Archives has a great website to use as a reference.
2. Start collecting articles as soon as possible!!!