

EAGLE ROCK JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL

MR. P. MARTINEZ ROOM: 323

AP Government & Politics Summer Assignment

1. **Follow the news (Due by the end of the first week of class).** If you can relate theoretical concepts to everyday situations, it is easier to remember the information and you can use it on the free-response section of the test.

I suggest doing this by establishing a routine of watching or reading the news. You could do any one of the following: check a news website a few times a week (read the national news portions), watch a network (not local) news broadcast that concentrates on national news, watch news oriented programs such as the O'Reilly Factor, you can even mix it up and watch the Daily Show or the Colbert Report for laughs a few nights a week, or read a weekly publication (e.g. *Time*, *Newsweek*, *U.S. News and World Report*, *The Weekly Standard*).

You will need to keep a **typed** journal with dated entries of what you read and/or watched. You should have 2 entries a week from different sources (maybe one from a newspaper and one from a TV program). Entries need to detail what you have been learning and hearing about the government and the economy. Here's an example of an entry:

Date: February 16, 2016 Source: National news, Fox News Information: I heard a story that said Joe Biden might still run for the presidency and challenge Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders for the Democratic nomination. ?: Who is Joe Biden? What is the big deal if he runs?

Date: February 23, 2016 Source: Washington Post Information: An article said that the Republicans are looking to block any nominations that President Obama makes to replace Antonin Scalia on the Supreme Court. ?: Why can't the President just pick who he wants to be on the Supreme Court? Why do the Republicans want to block him?

Don't worry if you don't understand everything. That's what this class is for! If you do have questions over the summer, you can email me at prm2764@lausd.net

2. **Study the U.S. Citizenship test (Given on the FIRST Friday of class).** Be prepared to take the new 100 question U.S. Citizenship test that is given by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). You can get copies of the new set of questions off the internet (http://usgovinfo.about.com/library/blinstst_new.htm). You don't have to buy the test; but you can if you want. Take the time to not just answer the question, but try to understand the question. The website above has multiple links that will explain some ideas while you are going through the questions.

3. Complete the attached packet before the first day of school in August 2016.

A. Complete the U.S. Constitution Study Guide.

B. Complete the U.S. Constitution Test.

Have a great summer break!

Name _____

Class Period _____

AP Government
THE US CONSTITUTION STUDY GUIDE
Available at: www.constitutioncenter.org

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

PART I: THE OVERALL STRUCTURE OF THE CONSTITUTION

1. 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	

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9. 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 express powers of the president.

b. What are the express powers of the vice president?

c. Identify two express powers of Congress.

10. 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 _____

11. 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 courts of original jurisdiction in certain kinds of cases. What are those?

12. According to Article I of the Constitution, who has the power to declare war?

13. What power does the Constitution give the President in the area of war? _____

PART II 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 and what does it say? _____
6. What is habeas corpus? _____
7. Where are bills of attainders discussed and what does it say? _____
8. What is a bill of attainder? _____
9. Where are ex post facto laws discussed and what does it say? _____
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 this imply? _____
14. Find the "takings clause" of the 5th Amendment. What does this mean? _____

PART III. 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? _____

Part IV. 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 protect 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)
_____?

**AP American Government and Politics
Constitution Exercise**

Name _____ Period _____

Part 1: Listed below are the powers that are delegated or denied in the Constitution. Identify who has the power and where the source of the power can be found in the Constitution. An example is provided.

- C = Congress
- H = House of Representatives
- S = Senate
- P = President
- X = Power denied to the government

	<u>Power</u>	<u>Who has the power</u>	<u>Source</u>
Ex.	Declare war	C	Art 1, Sec 8
1.	Appoint judges to federal courts		
2.	Award titles of nobility		
3.	Admit new states to union		
4.	Establish a system of post roads		
5.	Regulate foreign trade		
6.	Place a tariff on exports		
7.	Enforce laws passed by Congress		
8.	Create federal courts		
9.	Establish an army and navy		
10.	Nominate Ambassadors		
11.	Establish a post office		
12.	Borrow money		
13.	Give "state of the nation"		
14.	Lead the army and navy		
15.	Censor a book or newspaper		
16.	Coin money		
17.	Make treaties with foreign nations		
18.	Establish laws on copyrights		
19.	Regulate trade with Native Americans		
20.	Make rules for people who go bankrupt		

Part 2: On a separate sheet of paper, and then attached to this one, answer each question and provide the location in the Constitution that is the source of the answer.

1. Can a president veto a bill without returning it to Congress?
2. What is treason?
3. How can the Constitution be amended?
4. Where must all laws dealing with money originate? Why?
5. Can a bill become a law without the president's signature?
6. How many senators are elected at anyone election? How many members of the House of Representatives?
7. Who has the power to levy taxes?
8. Who determines the qualifications of the members of Congress?
9. When can a Congressman be arrested?
10. Can the president veto a bill passed by Congress? How can it be passes over his veto?
11. What are the terms of office for members of Congress?
12. Does the Constitution allow for the direct election of the president?
13. Who hears trial cases between different states or citizens of different states?
14. What is the term of office for members of the federal judiciary?
15. What is the proof of treason?
16. Why is a person with a drivers license from Oregon able to legally drive in Missouri?
17. How do the states get the powers that are not specifically delegated to the federal government?
18. What is habeas corpus? When can it be suspended?
19. What is a bill of attainder? What is an ex post facto law? Are they allowed?
20. What restrictions are placed on members of Congress when speaking in Congress?
21. Who may impeach a government official? Who will hold the trial of an official who has been impeached?
22. Can the number of United States senators from any state be reduced?
23. Where in the Constitution is the principle of judicial review?

U. S. Constitution Test
(25 minutes)

1. Which of the following is a right guaranteed by the Bill of Rights?
A. Public education C. Employment
B. Voting D. Trial by Jury
2. The Federal census of population is taken each five years.
True False
3. If a person is indicted for a crime, name two rights which he has: _____ and _____
4. A U.S. Senator elected at the general election in November takes office the following year on what date? _____
5. A President elected at the general election in November takes office the following year on what date? _____
6. Which definition applies to the word "amendment"?
A. Proposed change, as in a constitution
B. Making of peace between nations at war
C. A part of the government
7. A person appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court is appointed for a term of _____
8. When the Constitution was approved by the original colonies, how many states had to ratify it in order for it to be in effect? _____
9. Does enumeration affect the income tax levied on citizens in various states? _____
10. Persons opposed to swearing in an oath may say, instead: (solemnly _____)
11. To serve as President of the United States, a person must have attained _____ years of age.
A. 25 B. 35 C. 40 D. 45
12. What words are required by law to be on all coins and paper currency of the U.S. _____
13. The Supreme Court is the chief lawmaking body of the state. True False
14. If a law passed by a state is contrary to provisions of the U.S. Constitution, which law prevails? _____
15. If a vacancy occurs in the U.S. Senate, the state must hold an election, but meanwhile, the place may be filled by a temporary appointment made by _____
16. A U.S. Senator is elected for a term of _____ years.
17. Appropriation of money for the armed services can be only for a period limited to _____ years.
18. The chief executive and the administrative offices make up the _____ branch of government.
19. Who passes laws dealing with piracy? _____
20. The number of representatives which a state is entitled to have in the House of Representatives is based on _____
21. The Constitution protects an individual against punishments which are _____ and _____
22. When a jury has heard and rendered a verdict in a case and the judgment on the verdict has become final, the defendant cannot again be brought to trial for the same cause.
True False

23. Name two levels of government which can levy taxes. _____ and _____
24. Communism was the type of government in:
 A. U.S. B. Russia C. England
25. Cases tried before a court of law are two types, civil and _____
26. By a majority vote of the members of Congress, the Congress can change provisions of the Constitution of the U.S.
 True False
27. For security each state has a right to form a _____
28. The electoral vote for President is counted in the presence of two bodies. Name them _____ and _____
29. If no candidate for President receives a majority of the electoral vote, who decides who will become President?

30. Of the original 13 states, the one with the largest representation in the first Congress was _____
31. Of which branch of government is the Speaker of the House a part?
 A. Executive B. Legislative C. Judicial
32. Capital punishment is a death sentence. True False
33. In case the President is unable to perform the duties of his office, who assumes them? _____
34. "Involuntary servitude" is permitted in the U.S. upon the conviction of a crime. True False
35. If a state is a party to a case, the Constitution provides that original jurisdiction shall be in _____
36. Congress passes laws regulating cases which are included in those over which the U.S. Supreme Court has _____ jurisdiction.
37. Which of the following is a right guaranteed by the Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution?
 A. Public Housing C. Education
 B. Voting D. Trial by jury
38. The Legislatures of the states decide how presidential electors may be chosen. True False
39. If it were proposed to join Alabama and Mississippi to form one state, what groups would have to vote approval in order for this to be done? _____
40. The Vice President presides over the _____
41. The Constitution limits the size of the District of Columbia to _____
42. The only laws which can be passed to apply in a federal arsenal are those passed by _____ provided consent for the purchase of the land is given by the _____
43. In which document or writing is the "Bill of Rights" found? _____
44. Of which branch of government is a Supreme Court justice a part?
 A. Executive B. Legislative C. Judicial
45. If no person receives a majority of the electoral votes, the Vice President is chosen by the Senate. True False
46. Name two things the states are forbidden to do by the U.S. Constitution. _____ and _____

47. If election of the President becomes the duty of the House of Representatives and it fails to act, who becomes President and when? _____
48. How many votes must a person receive in order to become President if the election is decided by the U.S. House of Representatives? _____
49. How many states were required to approve the constitution in order for it to be in effect? _____
50. Check the offenses which, if you are convicted of them, disqualify you from voting:
- A. Murder
B. Petty larceny
C. Issuing worthless checks
D. Manufacturing whiskey
51. The Congress decides in what manner states elect presidential electors. True False
52. Name two of the purposes of the U.S. Constitution, _____ and _____
53. Congress is composed of _____
54. All legislative powers granted in the U.S. Constitution may legally be used only by _____
55. The population census is required to be made every _____ years.
56. Impeachment of U.S. officials are tried by _____
57. If an effort to impeach the President of the U.S. is made, who presides at the trial? _____
58. On the impeachment of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the U.S. who tries the case? _____
59. Money is coined by order of:
- A. U.S. Congress
B. The President's Cabinet
C. State Legislatures
60. Persons elected to cast a state's vote for U.S. President and Vice President are called presidential _____
61. Name one power which is exclusively legislative and is mentioned in one of the parts of the U.S. Constitution above.

62. If a person flees from justice into another state, who has the authority to ask for his return? _____
63. Whose duty is it to keep Congress informed of the state of the union? _____
64. If the two houses of Congress cannot agree on adjournment, who sets the time? _____
65. When Presidential Electors meet to cast ballots for President, must all electors in a state vote for the same person for President or can they vote for different persons if they so choose? _____
66. After the Presidential Electors have voted, to whom do they send the count of their votes? _____
67. The power to declare war is vested in _____
68. Any power and rights not given to the U.S. or prohibited to the states by the U.S. Constitution are specified as belonging to whom? _____