

AP GOVERNMENT SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

Students are required to do three assignments over the course of the summer to prepare them to for AP government. They are:

1. Analysis of the Constitution- Attached you will find several pages that have questions regarding the Articles and Amendments in the Constitution. There are several websites that have copies of the Constitution available on-line if you do not have a hard copy. Here are a couple:
http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution_transcript.html
<https://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution>
<http://constitution.findlaw.com/>
2. You will also see 5 questions that are specific to the Constitution called *Constitutional Discussion Questions*. Answer these with 2-3 paragraphs each.
3. Finally, you will see an essay question that is due regarding voter apathy in the United States. Here are the requirements for the essay:
 - 2-4 pages in length, no more than 4 pages!!!
 - Proper citation, where appropriate.
 - Typed, Double spaced, size 12 font, Times New Roman script.
 - Answer the questions posed thoroughly.

This assignment will be due on the first day we have class, so be prepared. If you need assistance, the best way to reach me is through email at cfoye@augustaschools.org I check email twice a week generally, so you should hear back from me promptly. Good luck and I look forward to working with you next year.

Mr. Foye

ANALYSIS OF THE CONSTITUTION

1. List the six purposes of the delegates in making a constitution (Preamble).

The Constitution is divided into _____ articles.

Each article is divided into _____, and each of these is divided into paragraphs.

There are _____ Amendments.

ARTICLE I

Article I deals with the _____.

The purpose of this department is to make _____.

All Legislative power is vested in _____, which consists of a _____
_____ and a _____.

The House of Representatives

How are candidates to the House elected? _____

How often are they elected? _____

The word "electors" means _____.

What regulations govern the selection of the members of the House?

1.

2.

3.

What is their term of office? _____.

Representation is based on _____.

The House has _____ fixed by law.

In order to ascertain the population a census is taken every ten years.

Why?

When was the first census taken? _____

The last census? _____

The next one? _____

The current Speaker of the House is _____.

The current majority leader is _____.

What does the phrase "all persons" (Art. 1, sec. 2, par. 3) mean? _____

How is the Speaker of the House chosen? _____

What power over civil officers is given to the House? _____

What is a synonym for impeach? _____

Who may be impeached? _____

For what crimes? _____

The Senate

What is the total number of Senators in the Senate? _____

How are they chosen and how long is their term of office? _____

What qualifications are necessary to be a candidate of the Senate? _____
_____.

What official is always head officer of the Senate? _____

The Senate shall have the sole power to try all cases of _____, but it can never sentence a person.

No person shall be convicted without the concurrence of what percentage of the Senators?

Who presides when the President of the United States is tried? _____

Why?

All bills for raising revenue shall originate in the _____.

Why? _____.

After a bill has passed both houses by a majority and is sent to the President, what three possibilities are there for it becoming a law? (Art. 1, sec. 2, P.2)

1.

2.

3.

What is plurality? _____.

What is a simple majority? _____.

What is a pocket veto? _____
_____.

What does the word "veto" mean? _____

List the powers given to Congress (enumerated powers)

What is the exact wording of the necessary and proper clause (art. 1, sec. 8, P.18)

What does the Constitution say about the following:
Habeus Caorpus:

Bill of Attainder:

Ex post facto, export tax, and titles of nobility:

Capitation tax:

List five specific prohibitions on the states:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

ARTICLE II

Article II deals with the _____.

The purpose of this department is to _____ the laws.

Executive power is vested in the _____ and his/her _____.

Compare the original method of electing the president/Vice-President with that provided by Amendment XII.

What is the meaning of “electoral college?” _____

When are electors chosen? _____

When do they vote? _____

List the qualifications of the President as specified in the Constitution.

List the powers given to the President.

What are the President's duties?

ARTICLE III

Article III deals with the _____.

The purpose of this department is to _____ the laws.

The judicial power of the United States shall be vested in one _____ Court.

The personnel of this court consists of one _____ and eight _____
_____ appointed by the _____ and confirmed by the
_____.

Who creates inferior courts? _____

All judges shall hold office only during _____.

Define the word "*jurisdiction*?" _____

The Supreme Court has two kinds of jurisdiction:

_____ jurisdiction which means it can try all cases dealing
with subjects as:

_____ jurisdiction, which means that it may try (if judges so decide) all cases that are rightfully appealed to it; for example, cases dealing with subjects as:

Why does the Constitution carefully define treason?

How is treason defined in the Constitution?

State how persons can be convicted of treason:

ARTICLE IV

What does the Constitution say about a fugitive from justice (extradition)?

What does the Constitution say about persons “*held to service or labor*” who escape into another state?

The Constitution provides that new states may be admitted on what terms?

What would happen if any state attempted to set up a government adverse to our republic form?

ARTICLE V

What are four possible methods by which the Constitution may be amended (2 ways proposed/2 ways ratified) ?

1.

2.

3.

4.

ARTICLE VI

What does the Constitution say about debts constructed before the adoption of the Constitution?

What does the Constitution say will constitute the supreme law of the land?

By what device was the Constitution made binding upon the officials of the various states?

What does the Constitution say will never be required as a qualification to hold office?

ARTICLE VII

How many states had to ratify and by what method? _____
_____.

What was the first state to ratify and on what date? _____

What was the ninth state to ratify and on what date? _____

What was the name of the last state to ratify and on what date? _____.

Why was it especially important that New York and Virginia should ratify it?

How was public opinion in New York state changed?

What three men deserve special credit for this?

What was the chief reason for the reluctance in many states before they would ratify the Constitution?

Name the states in order on which they ratified the Constitution and give the date ratified.

AMENDMENTS

The first ten amendments to the Constitution are known as the _____.

They were added to the Constitution all at once in the year _____.

The first one guarantees what civil liberties? _____
_____.

What are two provisions governing the quartering of troops in private homes?

What protections are provided by the 4th amendment?

What does the 10th amendment say?

It is called the _____.

Amendments 13, 14, and 15 were made as a result of the Civil War; briefly state what each provides and record the date it was ratified.

13th-

14th-

15th-

Amendments 16, 17 and 18 were ratified during the Progressive period. State the provisions and dates of these changes in the Constitution.

16th-

17th-

18th-

Repealed by the _____ amendment.

19th-

The 20th Amendment provides that the term of the President and Vice-President shall begin on _____ and the term of a member of Congress shall start on _____.

This is the so-called “Lame Duck Amendment,” why?

Summarize the provision of each amendment and date of ratification of each amendment.

22nd-

23rd-

24th-

25th-

26th-

27th-

CONSTITUTIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Answer each of these questions in 2-3 paragraphs, cite any external sources you use for this.

1. The Constitution decentralizes power rather than consolidating it in the hands of the executive and legislative branches. Would American government be more efficient if the power were in the hands of one single branch of government? What implications might that have on our democracy? How would it change people's participation?
2. Even the delegates to the Constitutional Convention were not the "common man." Can an elite person be a good representative for people from other walks of life? How about people of a different race or different socio-economic status?
3. Great Britain has no written Constitution. How can democracy exist in a nation without a written constitution? Does our Constitution have *unwritten* aspects? What are they?
4. Come up with 2 amendments that either need to be eliminated, altered, or added to the existing 27. Explain why they are necessary.
5. The President of the United States must be born in the country. Is such a rule needed in our modern society? Why did the founders include such a rule in Article II?

ESSAY

Some experts view our low voter turnout numbers as a reflection on a broken system. Others think it has little relevance to the daily operations of our government. What do you think? Is voter apathy a problem in the United States, or is it inconsequential?