



AP U.S. Government and Politics Summer Assignment: Constitution and Course Overview Search

Please complete Parts 1-4 of the assignment using the content of the [U.S. Constitution](#). You will be tested on the material covered in this assignment in the first week of school.

For Part 5, please take a look at the [format of the exam](#) and [course at a glance](#) provided by College Board. The FRQs are different from those you've seen in AP World and AP U.S. History. Exam formatting and overview of the course may also be tested in the first week of school.

Please note that in the past, two books have been assigned for reading. This is a much more laidback assignment and covers the essentials of the U.S. Constitution and format which will help you be successful in this course. If you have any questions, please email me at eweeks@tvsnaples.org. I'm looking forward to a wonderful semester of AP U.S. Government and Politics.

Directions: For Parts 1-4, read the U.S. Constitution and complete the following questions directly on this handout. Be sure to identify the location of each answer in the Constitution (example: Article I, Section 3). For Part 5, read the AP Government and Politics Course Overview and Exam Format linked above.

Part I: THE OVERALL STRUCTURE OF THE CONSTITUTION

1. Read the Constitution. **Summarize** the general purpose or subject of each article in the chart below. Note that Article 1 is half the Constitution. Focus on the gist of each section of the articles as needed. Do not copy down each Article.

Article I	
Article II	
Article III	
Article IV	
Article V	
Article VI	
Article VII	

2.

Constitutional eligibility requirements for office (also known as formal requirements) **Don't forget to list where this is found in the Constitution!**		
HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES	SENATE	PRESIDENT

3. The powers of the Constitution that are specifically granted to the branches of government or two office holders are called expressed powers. **Don't forget to list where each power is found in the Constitution!**
- Identify two expressed powers of the president.
 - What are the expressed powers of the vice president?
 - Identify two expressed powers of Congress.
4. 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. **Don't forget to list where it is found in the Constitution!**
- A power that the executive branch has over the legislative branch.
 - A power that the executive branch has over the judicial branch.
 - A power that the legislative branch holds over the executive branch.
 - A power that the legislative branch holds over the judicial branch.
 - A power that the judicial branch holds over the executive branch.

- f. A power that the judicial branch holds over the legislative branch.
-
- 5. According to Article I of the Constitution, who has the power to declare war?
 - 6. 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?

Part III: CHECKS AND BALANCES, FUNCTIONS OF BRANCHES

1. Vetoes

- 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. Treaties

- 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?
- d. Where in the Constitution is the impeachment power described?

- e. How is a congress member, president, or judge removed from office?
4. Electoral College
 - 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)?
 5. 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.)
 6. What are two ways that amendments can be proposed?
 7. What are two ways that amendments to the Constitution can be ratified (passed)?

Part IV. THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The first ten amendments to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights protects 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. **Indicates Amendments in CED*
- 2.

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	

3. Which amendment(s) of the Constitution protect the rights of women and how do they protect them?
4. Which amendment(s) of the Constitution protect the rights of African Americans?
5. How were U.S. Senators chosen before the 17th Amendment? Where is this found in the Constitution?
6. The 25th 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 V. COURSE OVERVIEW AND EXAM FORMAT

1. How many types of FRQs are there in AP GoPo? What are they called?
2. What percentage of the exam grade is attached to the multiple choice section of the exam?
3. How many (estimated) MCQ are based on quantitative, text-based, or visual analysis?
4. How many foundational documents and SCOTUS cases are covered? (Note that *Roe v. Wade* was not in the course in 2022-2023 but the count did not change; we should have an announcement in the Fall regarding *Roe v. Wade*'s inclusion in the course)
5. What are the five units covered in the course? Which two carry the greatest weight on the exam?