

**AP Government and Politics**  
**Summer Assignment 2017**  
**J. Cunning**

Welcome to class!

Congratulations on the commitment of your time and energy to AP Gov. Class has started! This will be a demanding course; a course that will challenge your mind and engage all of your faculties over the year. Our time is very limited during the school year. Thus, we have to begin our studies over the summer.

Your assignment will have three parts:

1. **Read the U.S. Constitution** (109 points total)

Print out the worksheet on the following pages. Write the answers directly on the document, if you need more space, you may write the rest of the answer on a piece of loose-leaf paper, but make sure it is properly labeled. This will be due on **Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**.

2. **Current Event Journal** (5 articles x 20points each = 100 points total)

You need to find, read and respond to five articles regarding a political or legal issue in the United States. In writing your responses, you should link the article in some way to the particular topic that will be studied in class; dealing with the branches of government, foreign or public policy. The article must be from a **PRINT MEDIA** source, and must be **at least** 500 words. These articles can be news stories, opinion pieces, longer investigations or editorial columns. They may not be any older than June 1, 2017.

For our purpose here, Print Media includes newspapers, magazines, or scholarly journals. Think like- *Time*, *US News*, *The Economists*, *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *Washington Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Washington Post*, etc. These may be accessed online or as paper copies. Print Media DOES NOT include NPR transcripts online, Fox News online, CNN.com, etc. In other words, it should be from sources whose focus is **printed matter**, not broadcast journalism.

For each article, you need to type, and double space your response. It should be at least, but no more than one page, in either 10 point or 12 point font. **TURN IN A HARD COPY IN CLASS.** A rubric is included in this packet.

Your response should include:

- Your Name and Date at the Top of the page
- Source of the article in MLA format
- A short **summary** of the article (2 or 3 sentences)
- Your **response** to the details of the article
- Your **analysis** may include answers to questions like:
  - What are the main issues brought forth?
  - What policy is being discussed?
  - How does this relate to what is taking place in government currently? Historically?
  - What point is the author trying to make? Is there a clear bias? How do you see it?
  - What do you think of the points that the author made?
  - **How does this tie into what we will cover in a government class? \*This is a must\***

3. **Court Cases** (200 points total)

Research the 25 court cases listed below and create a **hand-written** journal using the outline format listed below. Please see the example of *McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)* to see how to properly format and address the required information on the next page. This will be due on **Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>**.

Each entry should have the following information, in this order:

- a. The “Constitutional Question” brought up by the case. (1pt)
- b. Facts of the case. Summarize the story behind the case, be factual, but make sure it is in layman’s terms. (2pts)
- c. Opinion of the court. Include the vote count and a summary of the majority opinion. (3pts)
- d. Long term results. Did this case change/add to/take from the Constitution or any of the Amendments? Explain fully. (2pts)

List of Cases:

1. *Gibbons v. Ogden (1824)*
2. *Barron v. Baltimore (1833)*
3. *Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)*
4. *Gitlow v. New York (1922)*
5. *Korematsu v. United States (1944)*
6. *Brown v. Board of Education, Topeka (1954)*
7. *Mapp v. Ohio (1961)*
8. *Engle v. Vitale (1962)*
9. *Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)*
10. *Heart of Atlanta Motel, Inc. v. United States (1964)*
11. *Miranda v. Arizona (1966)*
12. *Katz v. U.S. (1967)*
13. *Tinker v. Des Moines (1969)*
14. *New York Times v. U.S. (1971)*
15. *Lemon v. Kurtzman (1973)*
16. *Roe v. Wade (1973)*
17. *US v. Nixon (1974)*
18. *Buckley v. Valeo (1976)*
19. *Regents of California v. Bakke (1978)*
20. *Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier (1988)*
21. *Texas v. Johnson (1989)*
22. *United States v. Lopez (1995)*
23. *Grutter v. Bollinger (2003)*
24. *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (2009)*
25. *McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission (2013)*

## **McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)**

- a) Constitutional Question: Was the Bank of the US a “necessary and proper” exercise of powers granted by the Constitution? Did the Supremacy Clause prohibit state taxes on federal activities? Was the Maryland tax on only federally chartered banks a discriminatory action?
- b) Facts of the case: The state of Maryland voted to tax all bank businesses not done with state banks. This was meant to be a tax on people who lived in Maryland but who did business with banks in other states. However, Maryland also sought to tax the federal bank. Andrew McCulloch, who worked in the Baltimore branch of the Bank of the U.S., refused to pay the tax. The State of Maryland sued, arguing the state had authority to regulate business.
- c) Court’s Opinion: McCulloch won with an unanimous 7-0 vote because Chief Justice John Marshall was able to determine the U.S. Constitution had supremacy over the states. Marshall stated that the states did not have the power to tax the federal government.
- d) Long Term Results: Ruled that the federal government was held to be superior to the state governments, establishing the Supremacy Clause. Helped the United States understand what the Necessary and Proper Clause could do. This allows the federal government to act wherever the Constitution allows but the states can only act where they do not impede the federal government.

### Current Events Analysis Rubric:

<b>Completion</b> Hard Copy turned in, typed, double spaced, MLA format to cite doc, print media	5	4	3	2	1
<b>Summary</b> Short explanation of the article. Student is able to explain the gist of the article without simply repeating everything that the article discusses.	5	4	3	2	1
<b>Analysis</b> Student analyzes the article, concentrating on examining what the author said and how they said it, rather than simply repeating the facts of the article. Student works to break apart the major ideas, showing an understanding of the article AND shows how the pieces fit together. Clearly recognizes opinion and bias, and comments on how that fits the overall tone of the article.	5	4	3	2	1
<b>Link to Current Topic</b> Student provides evidence that the issues or topics in the article are issues that will be covered in AP Government.	5	4	3	2	1

**Score:**        /20

**Comments:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Score \_\_\_\_\_

## AP Gov. Summer Assignment

### Part I: THE US CONSTITUTION STUDY GUIDE

Available at: [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://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. (7pts)

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? (1pt)

3. Identify two powers denied from Congress in the Constitution. (2pts)
  - a.
  
  
  - b.
  
4. How does the House of Representatives determine the rules of proceedings (the ability to have debates, amendments, etc.) (1pt)
  
5. Identify two powers the Constitution prohibits from the States. (2pts)
  - a.
  
  
  - b.
  
6. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for members of the House? (1pt)
  
7. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for members of the Senate? (1pt)
  
8. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for the President? (1pt)
  
9. The powers of the Constitution that are specifically granted to the branches of government or to office holders are called *expressed* powers. (6pts)
  - a. Identify two expressed powers of the president.
    - 
  
    -
  
  - b. What are the express powers of the vice president?
    - 
  
    -
  
  - c. Identify two expressed 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. (12pts)

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? (1pt)

12. According to Article I of the Constitution, who has the power to declare war? (1pt)

13. What power does the Constitution give the President in the area of war? (1pt)

**PART II IMPORTANT CLAUSES (22pts)**

1. Where is the “Commerce Clause”?

What does it say?

2. Where is the “Necessary and Proper Clause”?

What does it say?

3. Where is the “Supremacy Clause”?

What does it say?

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

5. What is habeas corpus?

Where is the habeas corpus clause?

What does it say?

6. What is a bill of attainder?

Where are bills of attainders discussed?

What does it say?

7. What is an ex post facto law?

Where are ex post facto laws discussed?

What does it say?

8. Where is the full faith and credit clause?

What does it say?

9. There are two “due process” clauses. Where are they?

What does “due process” of law imply?

10. Where is the “equal protection clause”?

What does this imply?

### **PART III. MAJORITY AND SUPERMAJORITY (20pts)**

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. What bodies have the power to override a presidential veto?

What margin is required to override a presidential veto?

Where in the Constitution is the veto power described?

2. What body has the power to ratify treaties?

What margin is required to ratify treaties?

Where in the Constitution is the ratification power described?

3. *To impeach* means “to bring charges against” or “to indict”.

What body has the power to impeach the president?

What vote is required to impeach?

What is the standard for impeachment?

Where in the Constitution is the impeachment power described?

4. 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?

What margin is required to choose the president?

Where in the Constitution is the Electoral College described? (Hint: there are two parts)

The Constitution specifies a three-fourths majority for just one process. What?

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).

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6. What are two ways that amendments to the Constitution can be proposed?

•

•

7. What are two ways that amendments to the Constitution can be ratified?

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•

#### **Part IV. THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION (30pts)**

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. These do not need to be in complete sentences, but make sure you fully describe their purpose. (27pts)

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. 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. (3pts)