



AP Government and Politics Summer Assignment
Summer 2019

The completed summer assignment is due on the first full day of the first full week of classes in **SEPTEMBER**.
Monday, September 9, 2019

Late work will be evaluated, but no credit will be given.

If you are new to the district (registration after August 1st) your work will be due **the first week in October**.
If, as you are working, you have questions, email me, Mrs. A. Johnson at ajohnson@ltps.org

Assignment #1: *Know the Constitution*

Read the US Constitution and respond to the following 25 brief questions. There will be an in-class TEST on the Constitution as part of the UNIT I evaluations. Consider this assignment your preparation for the test; your responses should be brief.

Preamble

1. In your own words, what are the six purposes of the US Constitution?

Article I

1. What basic kind of power is given to the Congress?
2. What are the qualifications necessary to be a Representative? How long do Representatives serve?
3. What power is vested only in the House?
4. How many Representatives in the House does each state get?
5. How were Senators chosen before the Constitution was amended?
6. How long is the term of office for a Senator?
7. What are the qualifications to be a Senator?
8. Who is the President of the Senate? Under what circumstances can he/she vote? Who replaces him/her during absences?
9. What is the difference between the House of Representatives power to impeach (Art. I, sec. 2) and the Senate's power to try impeachments? What vote is necessary to impeach? Who can be impeached?
10. If a person is convicted of impeachment charges, what happens?
11. All tax bills must begin where?
12. What are the two ways the President may be able to block a bill from becoming law?
13. What can the legislature do if the President refuses to sign a bill into law?
14. What are some of the major powers of Congress? (This may take a bit)
15. What is the essence of Article I, section 10?

Article II

1. If the Electoral College fails to elect a President, what happens?
2. What are the qualifications for President of the United States?
3. What are the general responsibilities of the President of the United States?

Article III

1. What are the qualifications to become a Supreme Court Justice?
2. What kinds of cases and legal issues does the Supreme Court handle as original jurisdiction? What issues fall under appellate jurisdiction?

Article IV

1. What is the result of Article IV, section 1?
2. As the United States expanded, more land was added to country, and new states were created. What gave the United States the power to do this?



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Article V

1. What are the two ways that an amendment to the Constitution can be initiated according to Article V?
2. What must happen for an amendment to be adopted?

Article VI

1. What are the basic issues covered under Article VI?

Assignment #2. Free Response Questions – (15 pts. ea.)

Choose 2 and respond in three full paragraphs with well -defined topic sentences. You are encouraged to develop a thesis paragraph with a well-defined thesis.

1. Why do you think all tax bills must originate with the House of Representatives (Article I, sec. 7)?
2. What is the difference between an army and a militia? Why was this an issue during the ratification of the Constitution?
3. The last paragraph of Article I, section 8 is often called the “elastic clause.” Why do you think this is so? What kinds of laws are made possible by this clause?
4. According to the original (unamended) Constitution, the President could be elected from one party while his Vice President could end up being someone he did not want or even a member of another party. How was this possible? What problems might this have created?
5. Article IV, section 4 states that the federal government must insure that the states have a “republican form of government.” What does that mean? Does this mean that state governments must be structured like that of the federal government? Could this guarantee impact the concepts of initiative, referendum, or recall?
6. Federalism is defined as a political system in which governmental power is divided between national and state levels; obviously then, the United States fits somewhat into this model of Federalism. What does Article VII suggest about the relationship between federal and state power in the United States?
7. What do you think “cruel and unusual punishments” mean in Amendment VIII? Why do you think they are forbidden? Do you think the United States still employs “cruel and unusual” punishments?

Assignment #3: Follow the news! (100 pts)

Read one newspaper and one periodical article per week beginning the week of July 7th (total 10 articles – 2 per week). The dates may be flexible to accommodate vacations as long as 5 different weeks are represented. You may use sources not listed below as long as they are not partisan sources, sponsored and/or paid for by a specific political group. Although the sources need not be academic sources, they must be respected and academically rigorous. Newspapers and magazines may be online or the hard copy.

After reflecting on each reading, write a two-paragraph journal entry in which you comment on both the political/constitutional ideology as presented in each piece as well as the implications of the issue for the future of the United States.

For example, an article about PAC’s might address the issue of campaign financing. A particular group of Americans might be unfairly advantaged or disadvantaged according to the article. What are the implications for the value of each person’s vote and the future structure of government? Which groups might have more power or authority in Washington?

Newspapers	Magazines
<i>The Washington Post</i>	<i>The Week</i>
<i>The New York Times</i>	<i>The Atlantic</i>
<i>The Los Angeles Times</i>	<i>The Economist</i>
<i>The Philadelphia Inquirer</i>	<i>The Weekly Standard</i>
<i>The Boston Globe</i>	<i>The National Review</i>
<i>The Star Ledger</i>	<i>The New Republic</i>
<i>The Wall Street Journal</i>	<i>Harper’s</i>