

Unit 2 STUDY GUIDE

The Executive Branch - The President & Bureaucracy

Constitutional Framework – The Basics

Qualifications, Term, & Election	
Formal Qualifications	1. 2. 3.
Additional Restriction	The vice presidential candidate (running mate) cannot be from _____ as the presidential candidate.
Compensation	\$ _____ is determined by congressional legislation.
Term	___ year term Limited to ___ terms or 10 years by the 22 nd Amendment

Electoral College

POTUS is not directly elected. The constitution outlines the process of electing the president via the Electoral College. (You must know EC!)
EV per state = # _____ + # _____.

Total # of EV for US = _____ Total number to win = _____

Electors are selected at each party's _____.

Except for NE & ME, all states are _____ - _____ - _____.

The constitution [does/does not] mandate WTA. (Circle correct one.)

The electors cast their vote in their _____ in _____ (month) after the General Election in November.

Ballots are sent to the _____ who tabulates them in the _____ in early _____ (month).

If a tie happens, the _____ breaks it. That happened in 1800 and 1824.

To break the tie, each state delegation gets _____ vote.

The only way to change the Electoral College is to pass a _____ . Because of this process, it is possible for the _____ winner to become president.

Constitutional Framework – The Powers

Constitutional Powers of the President (place a star beside the checks on other branches)	
National Security Powers	
Legislative Powers	
Administrative Powers	
Judicial Powers	

Constitutional Framework – The Amendments

The Amendments Related to the Presidency	
12th Amendment	
20th Amendment	
22nd Amendment	
25th Amendment	

Constitutional Framework – Impeachment & Removal

	Who has the power?	What type of vote?	Details -- Notes
Impeachment			
Removal			

Trace perspectives on presidential power during the last 60 years.

	Major Events	Presidents	Perspective on presidential power
1950s 1960s			
1970s			
1980s			
1990s			
2000s			

What is meant by “accidental president”? Why is Gerald Ford the most “accidental” of them all?

What is meant by “The Imperial Presidency”? Who coined the term?

The president is said to wear many “hats”. In completing this chart, you may need to repeat some your entries from the previous chart. Unlike the previous chart, these descriptions will also include informal powers and duties. Use this chart for class notes. If you are absent, however, you must complete it at home.

Role	Duties	Examples
Chief of State		
Chief Executive		
Chief Administrator		
Chief Legislator		
Chief Diplomat		
Commander in Chief		
Chief of Party		

1. What is the line of succession to the presidency? After “Secretary of State”, simply put that the rest are in the chronology of the date the cabinet post was created. NOTE – Since the Constitution only provides for the VP to replace the POTUS, Congress is left to determine the line of succession.

2. The Cabinet
 - a. How many departments?
 - b. You know a person is in the cabinet, when their title starts with _____.
 - c. The head of the Justice Department is called the _____.
 - d. Cabinet members are nominated by the _____ and _____ by the Senate. The Senate vote must be a _____.
 - e. The departments are created by _____.
 - f. The Cabinet members are most loyal to _____.
 - g. Cabinet members oversee vast departments that include political _____ and _____. The latter serve regardless of the political affiliation of the cabinet member or president.
 - h. Name the top four cabinet departments. (Be able to recognize all of them!)
 - i. _____ is the newest cabinet department.

3. The White House Office
 - a. Even though the CB considers it separate from the Executive Office of the President, many charts show it as part of the EOP. I completely agree with the CB.
 - b. More than 600 people are on the White House staff. Of course, the president doesn’t know most of these individuals. The key staffers in the West Wing, however, are the president’s closest advisors that he works with on a daily basis.
 - c. The _____ serves as both an advisor and manager to the president. He is the central figure in the administration’s policymaking decisions. Currently, this position is held by _____. (The “West Wing” episode and “Obama’s Deal” provided you with an excellent overview of this position and the incredible power this individual can wield.
 - d. The _____ holds daily _____. They serve as the president’s liaison to the media.
 - e. Senior Advisors serve as generalists dealing with the issues of the day, as well as long term strategic planning to push through the president’s agenda. Most of these individuals come from the president’s campaign staff and they are basically political advisors. You will notice that many of these advisors are leaving the White House to lead the reelection campaign.

1. What is a “honeymoon” period? Explain its significance.

2. What is the “bully pulpit”? Explain its significance.

3. Presidential approval ratings.
 - a. Explain presidential approval ratings.

 - b. During which part of a presidential term are they typically the highest? Why?

 - c. According to the experts, how high do approval ratings need to be for a president to be reelected?

4. What typically happens to congressional candidates of the president’s party during a mid-term election? Why?