

## THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

Examine the Constitution of the United States of America. In the outline below, you are to answer the questions. Please put it in your own words so that **YOU** understand it. Feel free to expand this word document and type in all of your information. **YOU MUST DO YOUR OWN WORK.** This will be a reference guide for you for the entire course.

### ARTICLE I (LEGISLATIVE BRANCH)

#### Section 1:

1. What are the names of the two legislative bodies of the United States?

#### Section 2:

2. How often is the election for the House of Representatives held?
3. What are the minimum requirements to be a member in the House of Representatives?
4. What determines how many representatives each State has in the House?
5. How often will the above determination be made across the country? What do we now call this count?
6. How are vacancies filled in the House of Reps?
7. What is the name of the head officer of the House of Representatives? What is her name?
8. What significant power does the House hold that no other branch of government has?

#### Section 3:

9. How many Senators does each State have?
10. Originally, how were Senators chosen? How are they chosen now?
11. How long is a Senator's term of office?
12. Do all senators get elected at the same time? How do Senatorial elections occur?
13. What are the minimum requirements to be a member of the Senate?
14. Who serves as President of the Senate? What is the extent of his voting power?
15. Who runs the Senate when the President of the Senate is not there?
16. The Senate has the sole power to do what?
17. Who presides over the impeachment of a President?
18. How many members of the Senate must vote to convict on an impeachment charge?
19. What is the punishment for conviction on impeachment?
20. Can someone who has been impeached and convicted be tried again in a regular court of law?

**Section 4:**

21. Who decides when the Congressional elections will take place?
22. How often is Congress required to meet?

**Section 5:**

23. How many members must be present to conduct business in each House?
24. What is this gathering called?

**Section 6:**

25. How are the members of Congress compensated for their services?
26. When can a member of Congress be arrested?

**Section 7:**

27. Where do tax increase laws originate in Congress?
28. What are the four options the President has for responding to a bill that has passed the House and the Senate? What, if anything, can Congress do to pass a bill the president has vetoed?

**Section 8:**

29. In your own words, list at least eight of the powers given to Congress.
30. What do you think are laws that are “necessary and proper”?

**Section 9:**

31. What is Habeas Corpus?
32. What is an ex post facto law, and why should Congress not be allowed to make it?
33. Why do you think there are specific prohibitions against levying taxes on particular communities or between states?
34. What are the prohibitions on Congress with regard to withdrawing funds from the government?

**Section 10:**

35. What are some major specific prohibitions on States?

**ARTICLE II (EXECUTIVE BRANCH) Section**

**1:**

36. How long is the President’s term of office?
37. Who shares his term of office?
38. Describe in your own words how the President and Vice President are elected.
39. What are the minimal requirements to be President?

**Section 2:**

40. Who does the President command?

41. What unique power does the President have? How is this power limited?
42. Who can the President appoint to office?
43. Who must confirm presidential appointments and ratify treaties the President makes?

**Section 3:**

44. What is the President's main responsibility to Congress and the public?
45. What power does the President have with regard to Congressional sessions?

**Section 4:**

46. Under what circumstances can members of the Executive Branch be removed from office?

**ARTICLE III (JUDICIAL BRANCH)**

**Section 1:**

47. Who establishes the federal court system?
48. What is the major requirement for a federal judge to remain in office?

**Section 2:**

49. What types of laws can be tried in federal courts?
50. What are the jurisdictions for federal courts (cases between what groups)?
51. The Supreme Court has several specifically stated cases in which it can have original jurisdiction. What are they?
52. Who decides if the Supreme Court can be given further original jurisdiction?

**Section 3:**

53. What is the definition of Treason, and how can a person be convicted of Treason?
54. Why do you think the Article regarding the Judicial Branch is so short?

**ARTICLE IV (DUTIES OF THE STATES)**

**Section 1:**

55. Explain the "full faith and credit" clause. Why is it important?

**Section 2:**

56. Explain the "privileges and immunities of citizens" clause and why it's important in our country.
57. If a person commits a crime in one state and flees to another, what happens?

**Section 3:**

58. How do new states get admitted to the Union? What are the limits on states' roles in admitting new states?
59. Who has the governmental authority over US territories (non-states)?

**Section 4:**

60. What guarantees do states receive from the federal government?

## **ARTICLE V (AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION)**

61. What are the two ways Amendments can be introduced (proposed)? What is the procedure for ratifying amendments to the Constitution?

## **ARTICLE VI (CONSTITUTIONAL SUPREMACY)**

62. What provision does this Article make for laws or agreements made before the Constitution is enacted?

63. By making this Constitution the "Supreme Law of the Land," the Framers were signaling what to all those who hold office?

64. The Framers determined that any officers of the state, both legislative and judicial must take oaths to the Constitution. Why would the Framers specifically prohibit a religious test?

## **ARTICLE VII (RATIFICATION)**

65. How many states were required to ratify the Constitution, and how would they do that?

## **AMENDMENTS**

66. How long did it take for the U.S. to add the Bill of Rights to the Constitution after the original Constitution was ratified?

## **THE BILL OF RIGHTS**

67. What are the five rights listed in the 1<sup>st</sup> amendment and what do they mean?

68. The 2<sup>nd</sup> addresses what issue? What wording makes it controversial?

69. Why would the 3<sup>rd</sup> amendment have been included to prohibit the federal government from forcing citizens to house soldiers?

70. The 4<sup>th</sup> amendment addresses what privacy rights?

71. The 5<sup>th</sup> amendment describes general trial rights. First, if a case is brought against you, what must happen before you are sent to trial? How does this limit the government?

72. How many times can you be tried for the same crime? Why?

73. What right do you have with regard to testifying if you are on trial?

74. What can't be taken from you without going through the steps of the legal system?

75. The 6<sup>th</sup> amendment gives accused people the right to (list each trial right):

76. Why would it be important to have a public trial? How does this limit government?

77. How does this amendment address the issue of secret witnesses (where the prosecution can keep witnesses from the defense)?

78. Why is it important to guarantee the right to Counsel for the defense?

79. The 7<sup>th</sup> amendment guarantees right to a trial by jury? How does this limit the government?

80. The 8<sup>th</sup> amendment discusses excessive bail. How does this protect citizens? Why does the government need to be specifically prohibited from "cruel and unusual punishments"?

81. Why did the Framers include the 9<sup>th</sup> amendment (what is its significance)?
82. According to the 10<sup>th</sup> amendment, who holds powers not specifically assigned to the US federal government? Why did this need to be said?
83. What is the 11<sup>th</sup> amendment?
84. Summarize the 12<sup>th</sup> amendment in your own words.
85. What does the 13<sup>th</sup> amendment state? What is the significance of the year in which it was ratified?
86. In your own words, what does section 1 of the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment state?
87. The 15<sup>th</sup> amendment addresses a new status for voters. As of 1870, who could vote?
88. A long time passes between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> amendments. The 16<sup>th</sup> amendment changes the nature of income to the government – what does it give Congress the power to do?
89. The 17<sup>th</sup> amendment modifies Article 1, Section 3 about who elects US Senators. Recall your history - what was going on in United States culture at the time that demanded a popular vote of US Senators?
90. The 18<sup>th</sup> amendment was the first to actually remove rights instead of protect them. What right was taken away, and according to what you know from history, how did this work out for the country?
91. Why did the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment have to be added? Why do you think it took so long?
92. The 20<sup>th</sup> amendment clarifies the inaugural days for the executive and legislative branches. Section 3 and 4 address what contingency?
93. Oops...the 18<sup>th</sup> amendment is overturned with the 21<sup>st</sup>! How many years did it take, and what do you believe was the ultimate reason behind the ratification of the 21<sup>st</sup> amendment?
94. The 22<sup>nd</sup> amendment puts new limits on the presidency. Why did this amendment pass at this time?
95. Do you agree with the new limits on the presidency in the 22<sup>nd</sup> amendment? Why or why not?
96. What does the 23<sup>rd</sup> amendment clarify?
97. What is the 24<sup>th</sup> amendment and what prompted its ratification?
98. According to the 25<sup>th</sup> amendment, what is the succession to the presidency? According to section 4, what can the Cabinet and or majority of Congress do with regard to the president's powers of office?
99. How does the 26<sup>th</sup> amendment affect YOU?
100. The 27<sup>th</sup> amendment addresses the fact that Senators and Congressmen were giving themselves what with a little too much frequency?