

# AP US Government & Politics Summer Assignment 2022-2023

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**Due Date - Tuesday, August 16, 2022**

**75 Points**

The U.S. Constitution is the fundament of American democracy. It has been described as “architectonic,” in that it provides a durable frame upon which we have constructed our government. It preserves our most basic liberties, providing the boundaries within which exists a “democratic space” for Americans to pursue life, liberty and happiness. It does so in three ways:

1. by establishing a set of institutions within which political conflict can play-out – in place of political violence – toward some sort of political progress or resolution;
2. as a bulwark against government abuse of power by diffusing that power among governmental roles; and
3. as a safeguard against “democratic tyranny” – unfettered and oppressive majority rule – by assuring minority factions have ample ability to exercise their rights to speak and act effectively in opposition.

We rightly venerate the Constitution as our society's compact, and as a timeless document. Even as some interpretations of its prose have evolved from generation to generation, its most basic principles have endured since its ratification.

The Constitution and the Founding will remain central to our studies all year long. Thus, your summer assignments are based upon the Constitution – what it says, and what those words are interpreted to mean. Consider this “step-one” to becoming a Constitutional Scholar.

**Textbook:** Harrison, Harris, and Deardorff, *American Democracy Now*, McGraw Hill, 7th Edition.

**(You will not need the textbook to complete the summer assignment. The primary documents are linked below).**

**Use the following Primary Documents to complete the assignment.**

- [The Declaration of Independence](#) (Use this document to answer page 2)
- [The Constitution of the United States](#) (use the hyperlink here for the National Constitution Center’s Interactive Constitution—a masterful resource)
- [John Locke, Second Treatise of Civil Government](#) (Use this document to answer page 2)

## The Declaration of Independence

**Directions:** *Answer the following questions based upon your reading of the Declaration of Independence, as well as John Locke's Second Treatise on Government. Outside research may be utilized – just make sure it is a credible source.*

1. In general, why was the Declaration of Independence written? What were the historical conditions that led to its production?

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2. What basic rights does the document claim all individuals possess? How does this relate to John Locke?

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3. According to the document, why do the colonists have the right to declare independence?

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4. According to the colonists, how had the King and Parliament responded to their grievances?

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5. Why, in your estimation, is this document still significant today?

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## Outlining the Constitution: A System of Government Devised to Diffuse Power

**Directions:** Find text of the US Constitution [here](#), read it and complete the following worksheet. Credible outside sources are acceptable to use if needed.

### The Preamble: The Constitution's Purposes (*Break Them Down Here*)

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_

### Article I: The \_\_\_\_\_ Branch

#### Section 1

What is the primary purpose of this branch – what do these people do?

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#### Section 2: The House of Representatives

How long is each term? \_\_\_\_\_

What are the three basic qualifications? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the minimum number of Representatives each state shall have? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the number of representatives given to each state based on? \_\_\_\_\_

How often does a census occur to change the number of representatives in the House? \_\_\_\_\_

In the original Constitution, what was the maximum number of people in each district per Representative?  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is the title of the leader of the House? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the sole power of the House of Representatives? \_\_\_\_\_

#### Section 3: The Senate

Which amendment created the direct election of Senators? \_\_\_\_\_

How long is each term? Every two years, how many Senators are reelected? \_\_\_\_\_

What are the qualifications for senators? \_\_\_\_\_

Who is the President of the Senate? \_\_\_\_\_

If this person is absent, what is the name of the officer in charge? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the sole power of the Senate? \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 4: Elections and Meetings**

When did a regular session (“opening day”) of Congress begin? \_\_\_\_\_ And what is that date today? \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 5: Organization and Rules of Procedure**

What is a “quorum”? \_\_\_\_\_

Each house makes its own rules. Which house has more formal rules of procedure (when a bill becomes a law)? Explain the difference:

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**Section 6: Privileges and Restrictions**

Who pays Congress? \_\_\_\_\_

Explain the speech and debate clause and its purpose (“congressional immunity”):

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**Section 7: Passing Laws**

What is a “revenue” bill? \_\_\_\_\_

Where/With whom must a revenue bill originate? \_\_\_\_\_

What must happen in order for a bill to become a law? Briefly summarize the process:

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What is a “veto”? Who has the power to veto a bill? How can a veto be overridden?

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**Section 8: Powers Granted to Congress**

*Eighteen powers are expressly granted to Congress to create legislation. List some of the more important (or actively utilized) powers below. For each clause, briefly describe the power. (Be aware that some clauses are omitted here. Clause 1 is the very first paragraph of Art. I, Sec. 8....):*

(1): \_\_\_\_\_

(2): \_\_\_\_\_

(3): \_\_\_\_\_

(4): \_\_\_\_\_

(5): \_\_\_\_\_

(9): \_\_\_\_\_

(11): \_\_\_\_\_

(12-14): \_\_\_\_\_

The 18<sup>th</sup> clause is called the “necessary and proper” clause or the “elastic” clause. Explain its significance:

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**Section 9: Powers denied to Congress.**

What are the following terms, and how are they restrictive of governmental power?

Writ of Habeas Corpus: \_\_\_\_\_

Bills of Attainder: \_\_\_\_\_

Ex Post Facto Laws: \_\_\_\_\_

Titles of Nobility: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 10: Powers Denied to the States:**

Name three powers that are forbidden to the states:

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**Article II: The \_\_\_\_\_ Branch**

**Section 1: The Executive Qualifications**

Does Article II define “executive power”? \_\_\_\_\_

Who are the two key individuals that make up this branch? The \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_

How long is each term for this office? \_\_\_\_\_

Generally speaking, how is this branch elected? Briefly, what is the Electoral College?

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Generally speaking, when is Election Day for presidential elections? \_\_\_\_\_

Which amendment changed this procedure for electing the President and Vice President? \_\_\_\_\_

What qualifications are necessary to run for and be elected to the presidency?

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Which amendment provides that the Vice President *succeeds to* the presidency? \_\_\_\_\_

As a customary matter, who administers the oath to the President? \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 2: Powers of the President**

Briefly explain the powers of the Executive as described here:

1: \_\_\_\_\_

2: \_\_\_\_\_

In preserving the balance of power in the federal government, who has the power of “advice and consent”?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Section 3: Duties of the President**

From “time to time,” the President must deliver an “annual message” to Congress. What do we today call this speech?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Section 4: Impeachment**

Define impeachment: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

On what grounds can a President and/or Vice- President be impeached? Be specific with the phrase:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Article III: The \_\_\_\_\_ Branch**

**Section 1**

What is the purpose of this branch of government? \_\_\_\_\_

How long may a judge of these courts serve? \_\_\_\_\_

In your opinion, what makes this branch so independent; can you divine the Framers’ intent?

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Section 2: General Authority**

List the type of cases heard by the Supreme Court that are stated in the Constitution:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

When the Constitution was signed on September 17, 1787, the term “judicial review” was absent from the document. Name the landmark Supreme Court case that established judicial review (even though that case does not mention the term either):

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What is the difference between “original jurisdiction” and “appellate jurisdiction”?

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**Article IV: “Relations Among the States” – Federalism – will be discussed in Chapter 3....**

**Article V: Amending the Constitution**

Explain the two common methods of proposing and ratifying an amendment:

Proposing an Amendment	Ratifying an Amendment

Which method has been the most popular? \_\_\_\_\_

Is it easy to amend the federal Constitution? Why or why not?

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## Article VI: Supremacy of the National Government

Section 2 discusses national supremacy. What does the “Supremacy Clause” entail and mean?

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## Article VII: The Ratification of the Constitution

How many states were “officially” needed, in 1787, to ratify the Constitution of the United States? \_\_\_\_\_

Identify the main point of each Constitutional Amendment (as best you can in this limited space).

Amendment	Big Idea: What did this Amendment accomplish?
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**Question: If you had the power to create the 28<sup>th</sup> amendment what would it be and why? (Post your answer below and feel free to be creative!)**

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**Be prepared for discussion and to explain or expand upon your answers.... Also, please be prepared to dive right into discussion of Chapter 1 and how John Locke's *Second Treatise of Civil Government* relate to all of this.**