

Test Review Unit 4: Institutions

Congress

1. Why did the founders choose to create a bicameral legislature?
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of having power *centralized* and *decentralized*?
3. Describe the House of Representatives (size, membership requirements, duties, etc.).
4. Describe the Senate (size, membership requirements, duties, etc.).
5. Do Congressmen truly represent their constituency? Explain.
6. What are the advantages of incumbency?
7. What is reapportionment and how does it work?
8. How are the advantages of incumbency different between the House and Senate members?
9. Review the Supreme Court Cases; *Baker v. Carr* (1962) and *Shaw v. Reno* (1993).
10. What are the differences between expressed and implied powers? Why did the framers make such a distinction?
11. How does the elastic clause work?
12. Review the leadership organization of the House and Senate. Who holds the key positions of power in each house?
13. What role do interest groups, political parties, and the constituency play on influencing members of Congress (both House and Senate)?
14. Create an organizational flow-chart that tracks the process of a bill as it moves through the steps to become a law.
15. What are the differences between the House and Senate as it applies to the processing of a bill?
16. Why is membership to the “right” committee so important?
17. What is the difference between a standing, conference, select, and joint committee?
18. What is the purpose of oversight? Why does the power lay in the Senate rather than in the House?

Test Review Unit 4: Institutions

Presidency

1. Why did the Founders create the Electoral College system?
2. Explain what is meant by the term “Imperial Presidency”. Why has Presidential power expanded during the 20th Century?
3. Summarize the order of Presidential succession to 4 places. What amendment determines this sequence?
4. Understand the major roles of the President. Pay particular attention to the President as Chief Legislator, Executive, and Commander in Chief.
5. How does each of the Presidential roles put the President in conflict with Congress?
6. Explain the role of the OMB.
7. What power/control does the President have over his/her cabinets? Congress?
8. Why does Presidential power over his/her cabinets decline over time?
9. Why is choosing a good Vice President important to a Presidential hopeful?
10. What is the role of the VP? Does he help or hurt the President? Explain.
11. What powers do the President and Congress have over each other? (How do they attempt to influence each other?)
12. Summarize the War Powers Act and the Emergency Powers Act. What do such acts represent and what Constitutional arguments surround such laws?
13. Summarize the power of the Line-Item Veto What case determined such a ruling?

Test Review Unit 4: Institutions

Federal Courts

1. What is meant by the phrase, “judicial power is passive”?
2. Explain the concept of *Judicial Review* and its significance.
3. What court case gave the Supreme Court the power of *judicial review*?
4. Identify and describe the various types of jurisdiction and explain the significance of each.
5. Review the various levels of the federal court system and be able to explain what happens at each level.
6. Describe the process by which cases make their way through the court system and to the Supreme Court. Which cases make it directly to the Supreme Court and which must travel through the system?
7. How are federal judges appointed to their positions? What is the difference between the appointment of a federal judge and a Supreme Court justice?
8. What role does politics play in the appointment and confirmation of federal judges and justices? Explain.
9. What might cause a case to be denied hearing in the Supreme Court?
10. Describe the ways in which a case would be tried in the Supreme Court. How is a decision reached and once it is resolved what happens next?
11. Why does the court take such care to make sure that the opinion writing is done so meticulously? Describe the various kinds of opinions and what each represents.
12. Once the Supreme Court makes a decision on a case, how can Congress and the President “get around” such a ruling?
13. Explain the differences between judicial activism and judicial restraint. Why is each important? What dangers are involved with each?
14. Understand the various ways in which judicial power is limited. Pay particular attention to the role other branches of government play in limiting judicial power.

Test Review Unit 4: Institutions

Bureaucratic Agencies

1. What is a bureaucracy?
2. Identify and describe the different types of bureaucracies.
3. Why was the original spoils system replaced by a merit system? How was this accomplished?
4. What is meant by the phrase, “bureaucracies have discretionary authority”?
5. How do the following groups influence the bureaucracy?
 - a. Common citizens
 - b. The President
 - c. Congress
 - d. Special interest groups
 - e. The Federal Courts
6. Why is there widespread public hostility toward bureaucrats?
7. Do the common complaints about bureaucracy have a factual base?