



AP Summer Assignment

Course: AP United States Government

Assignment title	Read the United States Constitution (Preamble and Bill of Rights) and News Article Review
Date due	First day of class
Estimated time for completion	8 hours
Resources needed to complete assignment	<input type="checkbox"/> School assigned textbook <input type="checkbox"/> Student purchased book(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other supplies: <u>access to the internet</u>
How the assignment will be assessed	The written assignment itself will be assessed as a test grade and an objective test (50 multiple choice questions) will be given on the Preamble, Bill of Rights, and U.S. Constitution during the first week of school.
Purpose of assignment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review of foundational material/concepts/skills. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduce new material/concepts/skills. <input type="checkbox"/> Expose students to required material/concepts/skills/texts that cannot be covered during the academic year. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Have students read material that will be discussed or used in class at the beginning of the year.



Required Summer Assignments

York County students enrolled in Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics for the next school year are required to complete a two part assignment: Part I, Read and summarize the U.S. Constitution (Preamble and Bill of Rights) and Part II, Evaluate an article relating to constitutional issues.

PART I: READ AND ANALYZE THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

Directions: Read the Constitution of the United States (including the Preamble and the 27 Amendments) and prepare for an objective assessment on this material during the first week of school. After reading the Constitution, choose **ONE** of the following options to summarize what you have read. The directions and rubrics have been provided for each assignment. Follow the instructions provided by your teacher to request assistance during the summer. Do not wait until the start of school to request help on this assignment.

Option 1: Dummies Guide for the U.S. Constitution

Option 2: Complete the U.S. Constitution Study Guide



Option 1: Dummies Guide for the U.S. Constitution

You will be reading the entire U.S. Constitution, including subsequent amendments. Understanding and recalling these two documents will be essential to your success throughout this course.

- A. You are to create a “Constitution for Dummies” guide. The point of a guide is to explain complex subjects in as simple language as possible, so you’ll be summarizing and explaining the real meaning of these two documents.
- B. Your guide must address all seven articles of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, all subsequent amendments
- C. When possible, include diagrams, tables or illustrations to further clarify the documents’ meanings.
- D. Be sure that your guide includes the following topics/concepts in the appropriate sections. This list does NOT include every piece of information you need to explain, but highlights some terms that are easily overlooked.

U.S. Constitution:

Revenue bills

Necessary and proper clause

Commerce clause

Writ of habeas corpus

Bills of attainder

Ex post facto law

Electors

State of the union

Supreme Court jurisdiction

Full faith and credit

Privileges and immunities

Supreme law of the land

Ratification

Establishment and free exercise clauses

Probable cause

Due process clause

Enumerated powers

Delegated powers

Shared powers

Denied powers

Equal protection clause



Rubric: Dummies Guide for the U.S. Constitution

Produced thorough, accurate summaries of:

Comments:

U.S. Constitution: Articles I-VII _____ out of
15

Bill of Rights and Amendments _____ out
of 5

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Option II: U.S. Constitution Study Guide

You will read the entire U.S. Constitution, including the Preamble and Bill of Rights and complete the Constitution Study Guide. The Constitution Study Guide is a graphic organizer that will be used by students to summarize the general purpose and subjects of the articles in the Constitution. Access the documents in digital format via Website www.constitutioncenter.org. Understanding and recalling these two documents will be essential to your success throughout this course.

- A. Your Constitution Study Guide must explain the complex subjects in as simple language as possible.
- B. Your guide must address all seven articles of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, all subsequent amendments
- C. You are to complete the subsequent questions which follow the chart included in the Constitution Study Guide.
- D. Be sure that your guide includes the following topics/concepts in the appropriate sections. This list does NOT include every piece of information you need to explain, but highlights some terms that are easily overlooked.



Directions: Read each article of the Constitution. Summarize the general purpose or subject of each article in one sentence in the chart below.

Article I	
Article II	
Article III	

Article IV	
Article V	
Article VI	
Article VII	



1. Compare Article I with Article II. Which article is longer and more detailed?
2. Identify two powers denied from Congress in the Constitution.
3. How does the House of Representatives determine the rules of proceedings (the ability to have debates, riders, etc)
4. Identify two powers the Constitution prohibits from the States.
5. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for members of the House?
6. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for members of the Senate?
7. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for the President?
8. The powers of the Constitution that are specifically granted to the branches of government or to office holders are called *express* powers.
 - a. Identify two express powers of the president.
 - b. What are the express powers of the vice president?
 - c. Identify two express powers of Congress.
9. According to the principle of checks and balances, each branch of the government must have control over the other branches. Look at the first three articles of the Constitution and identify one of each type of checks and balances. Indicate where each power is listed in the Constitution.
 - a. A power that the executive branch has over the legislative branch: _____
This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution _____
 - b. A power that the executive branch holds over the judicial branch. _____
This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution _____



- c. A power that the legislative branch holds over the executive branch. _____
This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution _____

- d. A power that the legislative branch holds over the judicial branch. _____
This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution _____

- e. A power that the judicial branch holds over the executive branch. _____
This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution _____

- f. A power that the judicial branch holds over the legislative branch. _____
This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution _____

10. The *court of original jurisdiction* is the first court that hears a case. *Appellate courts* hear cases on appeal from lower courts. Although the Supreme Court functions primarily as an appellate court, it is the courts of original jurisdiction in certain kinds of cases. What are those?

11. According to Article I of the Constitution, who has the power to declare war?

12. What power does the Constitution give the President in the area of war?



IMPORTANT CLAUSES

1. Where is the “Commerce Clause” and what does it say?
2. Where is the “Necessary and Proper Clause” and what does it say?
3. Where is the “Supremacy Clause” and what does it say?
4. How might these clauses above have impacted the power of the federal government?
5. Where is the habeas corpus clause and what does it say?
6. What is habeas corpus?
7. Where are bills of attainders discussed and what does it say?
8. What is a bill of attainder?
9. Where are ex post facto laws discussed and what does it say?
10. What is an ex post facto law?
11. Where is the full faith and credit clause and what does it say?
12. There are two “due process” clauses. Where are they? What does “due process” of law imply?
13. Where is the “equal protection clause”? What does this imply?
14. Find the “takings clause” of the 5th Amendment. What does this mean?

MAJORITY AND SUPERMAJORITY

The Constitution requires a simple majority for some actions and a supermajority for others. A simple majority means more than half, while supermajority requirements can involve a 2/3 majority or a 3/4 majority. Most elections in the United States require a plurality, or the most votes, but not necessarily a majority.

1. a. What bodies have the power to override a presidential veto? _____
b. What margin is required to override a presidential veto? _____
c. Where in the Constitution is the veto power described? _____
2. a. What body has the power to ratify treaties? _____
b. What margin is required to ratify treaties? _____



- c. Where in the Constitution is the ratification power described?
3. *To impeach* means “to bring charges against” or “to indict”.
- What body has the power to impeach the president? _____
 - What vote is required to impeach? _____
 - What is the standard for impeachment? _____
4. a. What body has the power to convict the president of charges brought against him in the impeachment process and thereby remove him from the presidency?
- What vote is required to convict and remove a president?
 - Where in the Constitution is the impeachment power described?
5. a. What body has the power to accept or reject a president’s nominations to the Supreme Court?
- What margins is required to elevate a president’s nominee to a seat on the Court?
 - Where in the Constitution are judicial nominations described?
 - What language is used to describe the roll of the Senate in Supreme Court nominations?
6. a. If no candidate for the presidency wins a simple majority of the total number of electoral votes, what body has the power to choose the president?
- What margin is required to choose the president?
 - Where in the Constitution is the Electoral College described? (Hint: there are two parts)



7. The Constitution specifies a three-fourths majority for just one process. What?

8. The Constitution has comparatively little to say about the structure and composition of the Supreme Court. Identify two aspects of the Court's structure and composition that the Constitution does not specify. (The Constitution does specify these two basic aspects of structure and composition for the other two branches).

9. List all parts of the Constitution that require a supermajority. For each, explain why you believe there is a supermajority requirement.

10. What are two ways that amendments to the Constitution can be proposed? _____

11. What are two ways that amendments to the Constitution can be ratified? _____

THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Some parts of the Constitution require a simple majority, others a supermajority, while still others protect citizens from the will of the majority. The first ten amendments to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights protect citizens from the will of the majority. In other words, no majority could vote to take these rights away. Read each amendment to the Constitution and answer the questions below.



1. Outline the general purpose of all 27 Amendments.

Amendment 1	
Amendment 2	
Amendment 3	
Amendment 4	
Amendment 5	
Amendment 6	
Amendment 7	
Amendment 8	
Amendment 9	
Amendment 10	
Amendment 11	
Amendment 12	



Amendment 13	
Amendment 14	
Amendment 15	
Amendment 16	
Amendment 17	
Amendment 18	
Amendment 19	
Amendment 20	
Amendment 21	
Amendment 22	
Amendment 23	
Amendment 24	
Amendment 25	
Amendment 26	
Amendment 27	

2. Which amendment(s) of the Constitution protect the rights of women?
3. Summarize what this amendment(s) of the Constitution says:
4. Which amendment (s) of the Constitution protects the rights of African Americans?
5. How were US Senators chosen before the Seventeenth Amendment?
6. The Twenty-Fifth Amendment describes the sequence of events that would install the vice president as acting president against the will of the president. Outline that sequence of events.



7. How many times is the word *privacy* mentioned in the Constitution (articles and amendments)?

Rubric for Option II

Part I:

All articles are summarized well _____ out of 8

All questions are answered completely _____ out of 21

Part II:

All questions are answered well _____ out of 14

Part III:

All questions are answered completely _____ out of 24

Part IV:

All the Amendments are thoroughly summarized _____ out of 27

All the questions are answered completely _____ out of 6

Total Score _____ out of 100



Part II Assignment:

Read one major news story relating to US Constitutional issues. This article will come from *Time*, *Newsweek*, or *U.S. News & World Report*. Prepare a 1-2 page analysis (word processed/typed; 10 or 12 point font; 1-inch margins) on the story according to the attached directions.

CURRENT EVENTS ANALYSIS

Score

Your Name _____ Period _____

Topic of Article: _____

Title of Article: _____

Source (date and pages OR URL): _____

Attach article to worksheet. Staple or clip in advance!

WHAT GOVERNMENT INSTITUTION is this article about?

WHAT is this story about? List four facts and/or opinions related in your article and identify them as facts or opinions.

1. _____ ...(fact or opinion)

2. _____ ...(fact or opinion)



3. _____ ...(fact or opinion)

4. _____ ...(fact or opinion)

WHEN did this story take place? Does it have anything to do with past events or issues? Be careful and **THINK!** Explain.

WHERE is this event or issue occurring? (Specify city, country, region, etc.)

HOW does this story connect to the US Constitution?

PREDICT what you think might happen as this story develops.



ASK - Write a well-developed and thoughtful question that the class can answer from information on this page. It should **not** be a YES or NO question.

ANSWER – Write, in complete sentences, a thoughtful response to your question.

Rubric for Part 2 Assignment:

4 – Entire Current Events assignment:

- a. Demonstrates thoughtfulness, preparation, and accuracy
- b. Reflects real understanding of the story and the issues
- c. Follows directions
- d. Is complete, neat, and includes entire article
- e. Asks and answers a provocative (for discussion purposes) question

3 – CE is complete but lacking 1 of a.- d. OR
CE lacks *ask* and/or *answer* section

2 – CE lacks 2 of *a. – e.*

1 – CE lacks most of the required characteristics

0 – CE is late (excepting all day absence) or too little
Conclusion sentences