

Cruisin' the Facts teaches you the foundational vocabulary of each unit. It is a semi-weekly vocab quiz we have on day 4. The quiz is fill-in-the blank, the bolded-underlined words below being the blank. There is no word bank.

CTF 1: Read Topics 1.1, 1.2, 1.4 Date: 9/5

1. **Government** is the institution through which society makes and enforces its public policies.
2. A **state** is a political unit that occupies definite territory and has an organized government with the absolute authority to make and enforce laws.
3. **Sovereignty** is the power of government to make decisions and have absolute authority.
4. A **citizen** is someone who holds both rights and responsibilities in a state.
5. A government where the people hold the ultimate political power is a **democracy**.
6. A **constitution** is a plan that provides the rules and guidelines for government.
7. Thomas Hobbes' theory that human beings overcame their unpleasant condition by agreeing with one another to create a state is called the **Social Contract Theory**.
8. The concept of **limited government** suggests that the government is restricted in what it may do, and every individual has certain rights that the government cannot take away.
9. The **Articles of Confederation** created a structure that more closely resembled an alliance of independent states than a government "of the people".
10. According to Article V of the Constitution, three-fourths of the States must **ratify** or approve amendments before they go into effect.

CTF 2: Read Topics 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 Date: 9/19

11. **Representative democracy**, also known as indirect democracy, is a type of democracy where elected persons represent a group of people, in contrast to direct democracy.
12. In the United States, all political power resides in the people, a concept known as **popular sovereignty**.
13. The **free enterprise system** is characterized by the private ownership of capital goods; investments made by private decision, not by government directive; and success or failure determined by competition in the marketplace.
14. The government must obey the law. Stated this way, the principle is often called **constitutionalism** - that is, government must be conducted according to constitutional principles.
15. Our Constitution divides government into executive, legislative, and judicial branches, providing for a **separation of powers**.
16. The system of **checks and balances** gives each of the branches of government ways to control the power of the other branches.
17. The power of **judicial review** may be defined as the power of a court to determine the constitutionality of a government action.
18. Those who argued that the many difficulties facing the Republic could be overcome only by the creation of a new government based upon the Constitution were called **Federalists**.
19. A **bicameral** legislature is a legislative body composed of two chambers.
20. The **Virginia Plan** was presented at the Constitutional Convention and it called for a three-branch system of government with a bicameral legislature.

CTF 3: Read: Topic 3 Date: 9/26

21. **Federalism** is a system of government that divides the powers geographically between the national government and regional government.
22. The first 10 amendments to the US Constitution are known as the **Bill of Rights**.
23. The **Supremacy Clause** establishes that the Constitution, laws passed by Congress, and the treaties of the United States shall be the highest laws of the land.

24. **Full faith and credit clause** – the Constitution’s requirement that each State accept the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of every other State.
25. The powers that the national government may exercise simply because it is a government are its **inherent powers**.
26. Those powers the Constitution saves strictly to the states are called **reserved powers**.
27. **Concurrent powers** are those powers that the Constitution gives to both the state and national government.

Political Behavior: Government by the People

28. The effort to control or influence the conduct of government is called **politics**.
29. A **political party** is a group of people with common interests who organize to nominate candidates for office, win elections and to influence public policy.
30. Nearly all elections held in this country are contests in which only one candidate is elected to each office on the ballot and are therefore called **single-member districts**.

CTF 4: Read Topics 10.1-10.3 Date: 10/17

31. **Sunshine Laws** prohibit public officials from holding meetings not open to the public.
32. An **incumbent** is a person who is already in an elected office.
33. Appointment to political office in reward for supporting a candidate or a party during an election is called **patronage**, or the spoils system.
34. **Suffrage** is the right to vote.
35. The **electorate** is the group of people eligible to vote in an election.
36. When a committee consists of members of both major parties it is considered **bipartisan**.
37. **Ballot fatigue** is the expression used to suggest that many voters exhaust their patience and or their knowledge as they work their way down the ballot so when the ballot is full, those at the top of ballot receive more votes than those at the bottom of the ballot.
38. Every ten years the United States takes a population count called the **census**.
39. An **initiative** is a process by which voters may propose a law.
40. A **referendum** is the process by which voters may either approve or reject a law that is passed by a legislature.

CTF 5: Read 10.5-10.7 Date: 10/24

41. A statement of a political party’s beliefs and positions on issues is called a **platform**.
42. Non-voters who lack any feeling of influence or they do not believe that they or their votes can have any real impact on what the government does or does not do are said to lack a sense of **political efficacy**.
43. The practice of voting for the candidates of more than one party in an election is called **split-ticket voting**.
44. An election to select candidates for office in which all voters may participate is known as an **open primary**.
45. An election to select candidates for office in which only declared members of a political party may participate is known as a **closed primary**.
46. A **precinct** is a voting district, and the smallest geographic units for the conduct of elections.
47. Private organizations whose members share certain views and objectives, and who work to shape the making and content of public policy are called **interest groups**.
48. The **public agenda** refers to the societal problems that the nation’s political leaders and the general public agree need government attention.

49. **Public policy** includes all of the goals that a government pursues in the many areas of human affairs in which it is involved.
50. **Lobbyists** are those people who try to persuade public officials to do those things that interest groups want them to do.

CTF 6: Read Topics 4.1-4.2 Date: 12/5

51. A **grassroots** movement begins with an interest group or from the people at large. Often these movements begin at a very basic level to bring pressure for change on public officials.

The Legislative Branch

52. Each **term** of Congress lasts two years and each of those two-year terms is numbered consecutively from Congress' 1st term beginning March 4, 1789.
53. A **session** of Congress is that period of time during which, each year, Congress assembles and conducts business.
54. If Congress fails to agree on a date of adjournment the President has the power to **prorogue** or end a session.
55. **Reapportionment** is the process of dividing up the states by population after each census to determine representation.
56. **Gerrymandering**: the political party controlling the state government draws a district's boundaries to gain an advantage in elections.
57. The people in the districts that the Congressmen represent are called **constituents**.
58. A **bill** is any law that is proposed in a formal manner and introduced to a legislature.
59. A **resolution** is a measure relating to the business in either house or expressing an opinion, does not have the force of law and does not require the President's signature.
60. Congress has an **oversight function** that allows Congress through its committees to check to see that the executive branch agencies are carrying out the policies that Congress set by law.

CTF 7: Read Topics 4.3-4.4 Date: 12/12

61. The **franking privilege** is a benefit that allows members of Congress to mail letters and other materials postage free by substituting their facsimile signature for the postage.
62. The **expressed powers** of Congress are those specifically written in the Constitution.
63. The powers that are not specifically written down, but are created through the use of the "elastic clause" are known as **implied powers**.
64. The **commerce power** is the exclusive power of Congress to regulate interstate and foreign trade.
65. The **public debt** is all of the money borrowed by the Federal Government over the years and not yet repaid.
66. A **copyright** is the exclusive, legal right of a person to reproduce, publish, and sell his or her own literary, musical, or artistic creations.
67. A **patent** is a license issued to an inventor granting the exclusive right to manufacture, use or sell his or her invention for a limited period of time.
68. The power of the government to take private property for public use is called **eminent domain**.
69. **Naturalization** is the process by which citizens of one country become citizens of another.
70. **Appropriations** are congressionally assigned monies for a particular use such as education, farm subsidies and Medicare.

CTF 8: Read Topics 4.5-4.6 Date: 12/19

71. The House of Representatives has the sole power to **impeach** or charge a federal civil officer with Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.
72. **Censure** is a vote of formal disapproval of the actions of a member of Congress.
73. A **quorum** is the minimum members of an organization that must be present to take an official vote.

74. **Revenue Bills** are laws for raising money and always start in the House of Representatives.
75. In Congress a committee chairman can ignore a bill and simply let it die which is an act called **pigeonholing**.
76. A **discharge petition** is a procedure enabling members of Congress to force a bill that has been pigeonholed in committee onto the floor for consideration.
77. **Pork-barrel legislation** occurs when Congress passes laws to appropriate money for local federal projects.
78. A formal agreement between the governments of two or more countries that must be approved by the Senate is known as a **treaty**.
79. A **filibuster** is a method of defeating a bill in which a senator talks and talks until a majority either abandon the bill or agree to modify it.
80. A procedure that limits debate on a bill and can end a filibuster is called **cloture**.

CTF 9: Read Topics 5.1 and 5.2 Date: 1/9

81. The **seniority system** gives a member of the majority party with the longest uninterrupted service a position of leadership on a congressional committee.
82. The **“elastic clause”** in the Constitution, also known as the necessary and proper clause, gives Congress the right to make all laws necessary to carry out the expressed powers.

The Executive Branch

83. The President of the United States is also known as the **chief administrator** because he/she is recognized as the head of the Federal Government.
84. The 1.4 million men and women of the nation’s armed forces are subject to the President’s direct and immediate control in the President’s role as **commander in chief**.
85. The **Electoral College** is the method our country uses to choose a president and vice president.
86. A **caucus** is a closed meeting of members of a political party who gather to select delegates to the party’s national convention.
87. The **“imperial presidency”** is a term used by critics of recent presidents as too powerful as a strong-willed emperor taking action without consulting Congress or seeking its approval—sometimes acting in secrecy to evade or even deceive Congress.
88. When a President issues a directive that has the force of law, it is known as an **executive order**.
89. The President possesses **ordinance power** which has been given to him/her by the Constitution and acts of Congress.
90. An **executive agreement** is a pact between the President and the head of a foreign state.

CTF 10: Read Topics 5.3 and 5.4 Date: 1/16

91. Fifteen department secretaries, the vice president, and other top officials make up the president’s group of advisors known as the **cabinet**.
92. The **executive departments** are the traditional units of federal administration. Congress has created (15) fifteen.
93. A **secretary** is appointed to be in charge of each of the executive departments.
94. The huge organization and number of administrators that make up our government is called a **bureaucracy**.
95. **Patronage**, also known as the spoils system, was the presidential practice of giving jobs to supporters and friends.
96. The **Civil Service** or merit system is the principle and practice of government employment on the basis of open, competitive examination and qualifications.
97. A **pardon** is a release from legal punishment.
98. A **veto** is a rejection of a bill or idea; meaning literally “I forbid”.
99. A **pocket veto** is when a president may kill a bill passed within the last 10 days Congress is in session simply by refusing to sign it before Congress adjourns.
100. President Clinton exercised the **line-item veto** which is a cancellation of specific dollar amounts from a congressional spending bill.