

Constitution Quest

Directions: Read the U.S. Constitution and complete the following questions directly on this handout legibly. This is due on the first day of class and you will be responsible for this information on the Constitution quiz the second week of school.

PART I - THE OVERALL STRUCTURE OF THE CONSTITUTION

1. Read each article of the Constitution. Summarize the general purpose or subject of each article in one or two sentences in the chart below.

Article I	
Article II	
Article III	
Article IV	
Article V	
Article VI	
Article VII	

2. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for members of the House?

3. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for members of the Senate?

4. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for the President?

5. What is the term of House members? _____ years

What is the term of Senators? _____ years

What is the term of the President? _____ years

What qualifications must a President have?

6. Who fills a vacant seat in the House? _____

7. How many Senators does each state have? _____

How many House members does each state have? _____

8. Who is the leader of the House? _____

Who is President of the Senate? _____

9. Who determines the pay of Congress? _____

Who determines the pay of the President? _____

10. Any bill raising revenue must begin in which house? _____

11. Who follows the President and Vice President in succession? _____

12. Who has the power to admit new states? _____

13. 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.

14. 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? _____

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

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

PART II - 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”.
 - a. What body has the power to impeach the president? _____
 - b. Where in the Constitution is the impeachment power described? _____

4.
 - a. What body has the power to convict the president of charges brought against him in the impeachment process and thereby removes him from the presidency? _____
 - b. What margin is required to convict and remove a president? _____
 - c. 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?

 - b. What margins is required to elevate a president’s nominee to a seat on the Court?

 - c. Where in the Constitution are judicial nominations described? _____
 - d. How long does a Supreme Court justice serve? _____

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? _____
 - b. What margin is required to choose the president? _____
 - c. 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. See Article VI. Explain the supremacy clause in your own words.

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

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

11. How many states had to ratify the Constitution for it to go into effect? _____

Part III - THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The first ten amendments to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights protects 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 the first 10 Amendments.

Amendment 1	
Amendment 2	
Amendment 3	
Amendment 4	
Amendment 5	
Amendment 6	

Amendment 7	
Amendment 8	
Amendment 9	
Amendment 10	

11. Which amendment(s) of the Constitution protect the rights of women?

12. Summarize what this/these amendment(s) of the Constitution says

13. Which amendments(s) of the Constitution protect the rights of African Americans?

14. How were US Senators chosen before the Seventeenth Amendment?

15. 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.
