

UNIT 2: INTERACTIONS AMONG BRANCHES OF GOVT (25-36% of exam)

Required Foundational Documents: The Constitution, *Federalist 51*, *Federalist 70*, *Federalist 78*

Congress - The Constitution - Article I, 17th Amendment, *Federalist 51*

POTUS - The Constitution - Article II, 22nd Amendment, 25th Amendment, *Federalist 70*

SCOTUS - The Constitution - Article III, *Federalist 78*

Required SCOTUS Cases: *Baker v. Carr* (1961), *Shaw v. Reno* (1993), *Marbury v. Madison* (1803)

Part 1 - THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

2.1 Congress: The Senate and the House of Representatives (**Article I of the Constitution**)

1. How does the **Constitution** reflect that Senate is designed to represent states equally, while the House is designed to represent population?
2. What is reapportionment? How often does it happen?
3. What is redistricting? How often does it happen? Who is usually in control of redistricting?
4. What is gerrymandering?
5. How does gerrymandering impact elections?
6. What is the chamber size for the House? For the Senate?
7. How do the differences in chamber sizes and constituencies influence the formality of debate in the House and the Senate?
8. What is the term for members of the House? For the Senate?
9. How are coalitions in Congress affected by term length differences?

10. Regarding powers/areas of specialization, what is the House known for?

11. Regarding powers/areas of specialization, what is the Senate known for?

12. What are three enumerated powers of Congress (Article I, Section 8) that significantly increase their power? If necessary, define the power.

13. How does the Necessary and Proper clause impact the amount of power Congress has? Explain.

2.2 Structures, Powers, and Functions of Congress

14. What does the policymaking process look like?

15. How do differences in the House and Senate impact the policymaking process?

16. What role do committees serve in Congress?

17. What is the main role of a standing committee? Give an example of a powerful one in the House and one in the Senate.

18. What is the function of a select committee? Give an example of one.

19. What does a conference committee do?

There are many chamber specific procedures, rules, and roles that impact the policymaking process. For each of the following concepts, define the term, list if it's specific to the House or Senate, and then describe the impact it has on the policymaking process.

Term	Definition	H or S	Impact on Policy
20. Speaker of the House			
21. President of the Senate			
22. Committee Leadership			
23. Filibuster			
24. Cloture			
25. Hold			
26. Unanimous consent			
27. Rules Committee			
28. Committee of the Whole			
29. Discharge petition			

30. What is Congress’s role in the creation of the federal budget?

31. What is discretionary spending? Give an example.

32. What is mandatory spending? Give an example.

33. What is the biggest part of America’s discretionary spending?

34. What is a budget deficit?

35. What impact does cutting taxes have on a budget deficit?

2.3 Congressional Behavior

Congressional behavior and governing effectiveness are influenced by many factors. For each factor, define it and describe the impact on congress’s behavior/ability to govern.

Factor	Definition	Impact on Congress’s behavior/ability to govern
36. Ideological divisions within Congress		
37. Divided government		
38. Lame duck sessions		

39. How does a member of Congress vote if they’re acting as a trustee?

40. How does a member of Congress vote if they're acting as a delegate?

41. How does a member of Congress vote if they're acting as a politico?

42. What were the significant facts of *Baker v. Carr* (1961)?

43. What was the precedent set in *Baker v. Carr* (1961)?

44. What were the significant facts of *Shaw v. Reno* (1993)?

45. What was the precedent set in *Shaw v. Reno* (1993)?

PART 2 - THE PRESIDENCY

2.4 Roles and Powers of the President and 2.5 Checks on the Presidency

For each of the following presidential powers - define the term, indicate if it's formal (enumerated in constitution) or informal (implied), and explain how another branch can limit/check the power (if applicable)

Power (if in constitution star it)	Definition/explanation (example if you can)	How others can limit (if it's Congress - be specific which chamber/how big of a vote is needed)
46. Veto		
47. Pocket veto		
48. Treaty negotiation		
49. Executive agreements		
50. Commander in Chief		
51. Executive orders		

52. Signing statements		
53. Pardon		
54. Appointment		

55. Describe how unified vs. divided government can impact judicial appointments.

2.6 Expansion of Presidential Power (*Federalist 70 + the Constitution*)

56. What kind of executive was set forth in *Federalist 70*?

57. Why did Hamilton argue this was the best type of executive?

58. How did the **22nd Amendment** restrict the power of the president?

59. What president greatly expanded the power of the executive? (hint: it hasn't shrunk since then)

2.7 Presidential Communication

60. Define bully pulpit.

61. How can POTUS use the power of the bully pulpit to advance policy wishes? Use an example if you can.

62. What is the State of the Union? Does POTUS have to give one? How can it help POTUS?

PART 3 - THE COURTS

2.8 The Judicial Branch

- 63. What is the power of the judicial branch?
- 64. Where did that power come from?
- 65. What was the holding in *Marbury v. Madison* 1803?
- 66. Define judicial review.
- 67. According to *Federalist 78*, why was judicial review necessary?

2.9 Legitimacy of the Judicial Branch

- 68. According to *Federalist 78*, why is life tenure needed?
- 69. Describe how justices get on the Court.
- 70. Define *stare decisis*.
- 71. Describe how *stare decisis* impacts judicial decision making.
- 72. How can ideology of the Court change decisions/precedent over time?

2.10 The Court in Action

- 73. How is the Court insulated from public opinion?
- 74. How can controversial/unpopular decisions challenge the Court's legitimacy?
- 75. Define judicial activism.
- 76. Define judicial restraint.
- 77. Does judicial activism or judicial restraint give the Court more power? Explain.

2.11 Checks on the Judicial Branch

- 78. What can Congress do if they disagree with a judicial ruling?

79. What can POTUS do if he disagrees with a judicial ruling?
80. What can states do if they disagree with a judicial ruling?
81. Aside from SCOTUS, who determines federal court's jurisdiction?

PART 4 - THE BUREAUCRACY

2.12 The Bureaucracy

82. Define bureaucracy.
83. Describe what the Cabinet is and what it does. Give an example of a department.
84. Describe what bureaucratic agencies do. Give an example of an agency.
85. Describe what regulatory commissions do. Give an example of a commission. How are they different than independent agencies?
86. Define government corporation. Give an example.
87. Define iron triangle. Give an example of how it implements law.
88. Define patronage.
89. How is patronage different from the civil service system/merit system?
90. Why has there been a shift from patronage to merit?

2.13 Discretionary & Rule Making Authority of the Bureaucracy

91. Define bureaucratic discretion.
92. Describe why Congress defers to bureaucrats to make rules and regulations regarding policy?

2.14 Holding the Bureaucracy Accountable

93. Define oversight.

94. Give an example of Congress exercising oversight.

95. How does Congress ensure that bureaucrats implement the law in the way Congress intended?

96. How else can Congress control the bureaucracy?

97. How does POTUS control the bureaucracy?

