

Constitution Homework

American Government textbook readings, unless otherwise stated.

HW #1-The Purposes of Government **Pages 4-10**

1. What is the difference between a government and a state?
2. What is the purpose of a constitution?
3. Define: •Sovereign
 •Dictatorship
 •Democracy
 •"Divine Right"
 •Social Contract
4. In which ways does the Preamble to the Constitution make use of the ideas in the social contract?

HW #2-Creating The Constitution **Pages 48-54**

1. Define: •framer
 •Virginia Plan
 •New Jersey Plan
2. What was the decision made at the beginning of the Constitutional convention that your textbook describes as "momentous?"
3. What was agreed to under the Connecticut Compromise?
4. Was it necessary at the time to include the 3/5 Compromise? Why or why not?

HW #3-The Six Basic Principles **Pages 64-70**

1. Define: •popular sovereignty
 •rule of law
 •federalism
2. What is the purpose of the preamble to the Constitution?
3. Under the Constitution, how may the unelected federal judges have their power checked and balanced?

HW #4-The National Legislature **Pages 262-265**

1. Define: •bicameral
 •adjourn
 •prorogue
2. How long does a term of Congress last?
3. How many times has a President needed to use the power to prorogue?

HW #5-The House of Representatives **Pages 267-273**

1. Define: •off-year election
 •gerrymander
2. When are the next two off-year elections?
3. What are the constitutional qualifications for being a member of the House?
4. In which ways did Wesberry v. Sanders change the makeup of Congress?

HW #6-The Senate **Pages 275-284**

1. Define: •constituency
2. How did the 17th Amendment change the way that Senators are chosen?
3. What are the constitutional qualifications for Senate?

HW #7-The Members Of Congress **Pages 279-284**

1. Define: •oversight
 •franking privilege
2. Why are members of Congress reluctant to pass laws that give them new benefits or higher pay?
3. Should a member of Congress vote as a trustee or a delegate? Support your answer.

HW #8-The President's Job Description **Pages 354-358**

1. What are the constitutional qualifications for President?
2. What is the purpose of the 22nd Amendment?
3. What are the qualifications you look for in a President?
4. Is the President overpaid, under paid, or is his pay just right?
 - Support your answer.

HW #9-The Election **Pages 377-384**

1. In what way could you say that the Electoral College differs from the way intended by the framers of the Constitution?
2. In your opinion, what is the biggest weakness of the Electoral College?
3. If you had the opportunity, what system would you put in place for the election of the President. You may choose to keep the status quo, any of the options offered in the textbook, or any other idea you think suitable.
 - Support whichever option you choose.

HW #10-The Inferior Courts **Pages 512-515**

1. Define:
 - Criminal case
 - civil case
 - docket
2. What does the word "inferior" mean in this context?
3. What are the main purposes of the lower federal courts?
4. Why do we have lower courts instead of just allowing the Supreme Court to hear all appeals?

HW #11-The Supreme Court **Pages 517-522**

1. Define:
 - judicial review
 - writ of certiorari
2. Why are precedents important?
3. Explain why "easy" cases generally do not reach the Supreme Court.

HW #12-The National Gov't. and the 50 States **Pages 97-103**

1. What are the three obligations on the National Government to the states?
2. What is the procedure for admitting a new state?
3. Is it a violation of states' rights to have the federal government hold back some highway funding from states that have a drinking age lower than 21?
 - Support your answer.

HW #13-Interstate Relations **Pages 105-108**

1. What are the types of agreements states are banned from making?
2. What is the purpose of extradition?
3. Do you believe that the Full Faith And Credit Clause includes the idea that states must accept gay marriages from California or Massachusetts?