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**Constitution**

- Influences of the Constitution:
  - Enlightenment - and Montesquieu
  - Articles of Confederation - very weak government
  - Rebellion - demonstrated the weakness of the government needed to keep order

- Separation of Powers:
  - Montesquieu
  - Divides between branches
  - Examples - Congress declares war and creates , President is commander in and enforces laws

- **Wall of Separation:**
  - Separation of

**Checks and Balances**

- Purpose?
  - To keep one branch from becoming too powerful

- examples of Checks and Balances
  - It MUST involve two branches
  - For example:
    - The Supreme Court overturning a lower court decision is an example
    - Congress the President IS an example
    - The Senate can confirm a Supreme Court Justice with a

- The Supreme Court CANNOT declare an unconstitutional
- If Congress disagrees with a court decision, the only solution is to create an

**Federalism**

- What is it?
  - Division of power between federal and governments
    - amendment - powers not given to the national government are
    - - allows the federal government to make laws that are “necessary and proper”
  - Often, the federal government and states share powers - Federalism (enforcement)
• Devolution - giving power back to ________ governments
  (__________)
• ***Grants***:
  • Categorical:
    • ________ - based on _______________________
    • __________________ - $ is distributed based on a formula
      (______________________)
    • ____________ - $ is given with discretion to states with how
to spend
  • States would favor ______________ grants
• ______________ - requirements for states by the federal
government
  • Examples - ________________________________
• Federalism can lead to ________________________________
  throughout the US (education, gun laws, etc.)

Misc. Constitution

• Primary Responsibility?
  • Protecting ________________________________
• Voting:
  • Voting requirements are left to _____________
  • Development of ____________________________
    __________________________________________ in the South
  • Citizens directly vote ________________ for House members and
    Senators (after the 17th amendment)
  • ________________ elected the president
• Commerce Clause - regulate commerce with ________________
  nations and states
  • ____________________________________________ of the
    federal government over time
• Amending the Constitution:
  • Involves both the national government and states (__________
    __________________________ of government)

Theories of Government and Ratification

• Pluralism - belief that groups can influence ______________________
  through organizations (NRA, NOW, UAW)
• ____________ - belief that society is separated between wealthy (elites)
  and non-wealthy; wealthy make decisions in ______________________
• _______________ - belief that there are too many
  groups competing that government is weakened as a result
• Federalists and Anti-federalists:
  • Debated over the ________________________________ of the
    national government
• Federalist #__________:
  • Factions and ________________ factions
  • Factions are ________________________________

Electoral College
What two states divide up their electoral votes?

- What is it?
  - It’s what elects the ____________________________
- In 48 states, the candidate that wins the popular vote wins ____________ the electoral votes
- Implications of the Electoral College?
  - Large (population) and ____________ states get most attention
  - If no one receives a majority of electoral votes (_________), then the ____________________________ decides the election, with each state getting 1 vote
  - Encourages a ____________________________

Elections

- Primaries:
  - Open - Voters are _______ required to ____________________________ with a party to vote in a primary
  - Closed - Only voters ____________________________ with a party can vote in a primary
- Majority Election:
  - Candidate must receive more than half the votes (___________ ____________________________ is an example - 270 votes needed)
- Plurality Election:
  - A candidate can win without receiving a majority, rather they receive the ____________ vote
  - Can happen when more than two candidates run
  - Popular votes in ____________________________
- In recent years, we have frequently had a ____________________________

GOVERNMENT:

- Congress and the Presidency are controlled by ____________________________

Political Parties

- No mention in the ____________________________
- Parties have national, state, and local offices - often ____________________________
  and ____________________________
- In recent years, more and more Americans identify with ____________________________ party

Interest Groups

- What are they?
  - Groups that seek to ____________________________ public policy
- Examples?
  - NRA, AARP, NEA, etc.
- How do they influence public policy?
  - Lobbying, ____________________________, provide legislators with key ____________________________, etc.
- How are interest groups different from political parties?
  - They do _______ nominate ____________________________
  - Interest groups and political parties are ____________________________
Do your political views match your family’s views?

- Link the __________________________ to the political process
- Other linkage institutions include: __________________________

**Political Action Committees (PACs)**

- What are they?
  - Committee that donates __________________________ to a candidate and political party
  - $5,000 per candidate, per election (1 for primary, 1 for general)
  - Individuals CANNOT donate more than $5,000 to a PAC per year
- Who do PACs donate money to?
  - Candidates that are __________________________ to their issues

**Political Socialization and Beliefs**

- What is socialization?
  - How individuals __________________________
- What is the most common form?
  - __________________________!
  - Many Americans support equality, but __________________________ equality
  - More Americans __________________________ the government since the 1960s

**Political Behavior**

- Young people (under 30) do NOT typically vote in __________ numbers
  - Even after lowering the voting age to 18 (_______ amendment), 18-21 year olds still voted __________ than others
  - The __________ an individual is, and the more __________________________, the more likely they are to vote
- **African Americans** tend to vote __________________________
  - Beginning in 1968, and continuing through today (especially 1980s), most **Southern whites** vote __________________________
  - __________________________ plays a SIGNIFICANT role in how an individual will vote in a Presidential election and Congressional elections
- __________________________:
  - Voting for both parties during elections for different offices
  - Has __________________________ in recent years

**Political Participation and Public Opinion**

- The most common form of political participation is voting in presidential elections
  - MOST Americans do NOT vote in most elections
  - Lower __________ than other democracies
  - __________________________ - the belief that an individual can make an impact on the political process

**Media and “Iron Triangles”**
• Most media outlets focus on _______________________ of presidential candidates, not necessarily the issues
• In recent years, media outlets have been controlled by fewer companies
  • Fewer companies control and _______________________ the news
  • “________________________” - media focus on polls, rather than issues
• What is an “____________________”? ________________________________ (government agencies)

Congress

• Legislation is long, difficult to pass, and relies often on compromises
• Most bills _______________________ become law, much less get to the whole Congress
• ____________________________:
  • House incumbents overwhelmingly win elections
    • _______________________ predictor of election outcome
  • Important in Senate elections, but _______________________ as important as House elections
  • They receive more contributions, use the _______________________ (government agencies), can cite services provided to constituents (serving on important committees to their areas - Iowa - Agriculture committee, “PORK-BARREL”)
• Congress can declare war, _______________________ $ - how they can oversee government agencies (bureaucracy), create new courts/more judges, override presidential vetoes (_______ of both houses)
• Often, Congress allows the President to take the lead in foreign policy areas

Congressional Oversight:
  • Congress reviews an agency, department, or office
  • Examples:
    • Setting _______________________ for agencies
    • Hold hearings
    • Allocate ______________________________

Congressional Committees

• Committees are more significant in the House
  • More members - committees can do more ________ than the whole House
• ____________________________ Committees
  • Permanent committees - _________ relations or agriculture
  • Members of committees tend to be _________ in that area
• ____________________________ Committee
  • Helps settle differences between bills passed in both houses
• Rules Committee: (House of Reps)
  • Determines the rules for bills - date, time for debates, amendments

What is the franking privilege?
• **Closed rule** - set time limits, _______ amendments allowed
• **Open rule** - looser time limits, ______________ are allowed

  - ____________________________________________:
  - Created by committees to investigate/research a specific issue and report back to the whole committee

• Committee Chairs have become less influential in recent years
  - In the House - members of the ______________ party

• **Ways and Means (House):**
  - Economic committee - ____________________________, etc.
  - If a member serves on this committee, they ______________ serve on another

### House of Representatives

• Special Powers:
  - ____________ officials
  - ____________ bills MUST start in the **House**

• 435 members - based on **population**
  - Districts are determined by __________________________
  - __________________________ - drawing Congressional boundaries that are favorable to party in control

• Rules of procedure are more formal in the House than Senate
• “**Closed rule**” for a bill:
  - Amendments __________________________________ be added

• Speaker of the House:
  - **INCREDIbLY** ____________ - _____ in line for the presidency

### Senate

• Special powers:
  - **Approve presidential appointments and** ______________
  - ____________ in an impeachment trial

• 100 members - 2 per state
• “____________________________”
  - Can end a ________________ - bring a bill to a vote

• Senators have significant influence over bills – filibuster

### How Elected Officials Vote

• **Delegate** - Congress votes according to how the majority of their ______________ feel about an issue

• ________________ - Elected officials use their _________ views, or is based on the public good, not necessarily on the views of the constituents

### The Executive Branch

• The president is elected by the Electoral College and serves a 4 year term
  - __________ amendment - limits the president to 2 terms

• Presidential powers:
What is one example of a famous executive order?

- **Appoints** ________________ (must be approved by the Senate)
- Commander-in-chief - deploy troops without consent of ________________ (more in a bit)
- **Veto** bills (checks and balances)
  - Less than ____% of all vetoes are ________________
  - The ________________ of a veto can be powerful in influencing legislation
  - Vetoes are held up most often when the president’s ________________ is in control of Congress
  - ________________ Veto - President does nothing to a bill for 10 days when Congress is adjourned, bill does NOT become a law (Lincoln and the Wade-Davis bill)

- President is head of the ________________ party through custom and tradition
- **Executive Orders** - do NOT need to be passed by ________________
  - Presidents have used more ________________ in recent years
  - Executive orders/agreements may be dependent on ________________ funding

- Presidential Nomination Convention:
  - Delegates nominate the president
  - Delegates tend to be more ________________ than the general population

- Powers ________________ given to the President:
  - ________________ veto (many governors can, but not president)
  - Declaring ________________
  - Creating new cabinet positions/departments - ________________

- Presidential Staff:
  - ________________ - loyal and supportive of the president
  - National Security Advisor - ________________ to the President on national security issues
  - Chief of Staff - does NOT require ________________ - can be fired at will

- ________________ - leader of the Justice Department
- ________________ powers:
  - Powers that the president has that are NOT explicitly stated in Constitution, but are ________________
    - Examples - recognizing other governments, immigration, acquiring ________________
  - Cabinet members sometimes are ________________ between their department and the president
  - Over time (especially after WWII), the president has gained more power:
    - Cold War and foreign policy issues
    - Government ________________ for individuals
    - ________________ issues - Americans look to the president to rectify

**The Executive Branch and Congress**

- The President can try to influence legislation
What president coined the term “Bully Pulpit”?

- Using the media
  - President uses media more effectively than other branches
  - Using their political party if they have a majority in Congress
  - If the president is

The Executive Branch and the Judicial Branch

- The president can appoint judges
- What influences a president to appoint a certain judge?
  - Usually, the president agrees with the judge’s

The Court System

- Supreme Court justices are appointed for life - why?
  - Can be independent
  - Appointed by the president, approved by the Senate
  - Most justices have a long track record
  - A president can have a large impact after they are out of office based on appointments
- Supreme Court Caseload -
  - The court can choose to hear almost any case it wishes
  - _____ courts are the most often source
  - _______ court cases are NOT reviewed by the Supreme Court
  - When _______ judges agree, the Court can hear a case
- District Court:
  - Deal with most federal cases
  - Most of these trials end in a
- Appellate Court:
  - Courts that can review decisions of courts

Important Supreme Court Terms

- Amicus Curiae - “”
  - Allows groups to write letters to the court detailing how a case would impact them
- Doctrine of: Looking at the Constitution based on the intention of the
  - ***: Applying most of the Bill of Rights to state governments
  - Latin for “let the decision stand”
  - The Supreme Court often makes decisions based on
  - Writs of:
**What is the exclusionary rule?**

- Supreme Court orders a case from a lower court to be reviewed
- **Judicial**
  - Belief that the Supreme Court should rely on precedent in making decisions
  - Advocates ________ Court involvement
- **Judicial**
  - Belief that the Supreme Court can ____________________________ (Brown v. Board)
  - Supreme Court and Free Speech - free speech can be limited if it poses a “__________________________” - Schenck v. US
  - Free Speech extends beyond use of words - ____________________

**Important Court Cases To Know**

- __________: 
  - Suspects must have their constitutional rights read to them
  - 5th amendment - right to remain silent during ______________________________
- **Warren Court (________________________________):**
  - Exclusionary rule (___________________________) (Selective Incorporation)
  - Attorneys for individuals with low incomes (___________________________)
  - **Miranda Warning** (Miranda v. Arizona)
  - __________ was NOT part of the Warren Court (1973)
- **Marbury v. Madison (1803)**
  - Established the principal of ____________________________
    - Court can overturn laws, executive orders, state laws, and lower court decisions
- ________________ (1819) - MD taxed a branch of the Bank of the US
  - Supreme Court stated states could NOT tax a federal government agency
  - Reinforced the __________, or “necessary and proper clause”
  - Power of the national government ____________________________ over the states
- **Plessy v. Ferguson (1896):**
  - Supreme Court stated segregation was ___________, as long as facilities were “equal”
  - Later overturned by ________________________________
- **Griswold v. Connecticut (1965)** - overturned a CT law prohibiting contraceptives
  - Supreme Court argued the Constitution contained a ________________________________
- **Roe v. Wade (1973)** - Supreme Court overturned a TX law prohibiting abortion
  - Both used the argument of a person’s ____________________________
• __________________________ is not absolute

• **Baker v. Carr (1962):**
  • “__________________________”
  • State legislature districts have to be as close to ______________ as possible

• **Gitlow v. New York (1925):**
  • Court case that began ______________________________________

• **New York Times v. Sullivan (1964):**
  • Public officials have to prove ____________ if trying to win a lawsuit for defamation
  • Supreme Court and the __________________________________:
    • **Not necessarily** a violation of the 8th amendment’s __________

Federal Budget

• Entitlements:
  • Largest portion of __________________________
  • Example?
    • Social Security - __________________________
      generation is and will be drawing from Social Security
      • Lower ratio people paying into Social Security today than when it began

• **Office of Management and Budget (OMB):**
  • ______________ the federal budget
  • What is a major predictor of funding for an agency?
    • ______________

Bureaucracy

• Government agencies that implement policies
  • EPA, FDA
  • Receive mandates from Congress (and ____________________), then create guidelines to carry out those mandates
  • Part of the “__________________________”

Important Amendments To Know

• **1st Amendment:**
  • Freedom of __________________________
    • __________________________ clause - Congress shall not establish an official religion
    • __________________________ clause - Congress shall not prohibit the free exercise of religion

• **14th amendment:**
  • __________________________
    • ***________________________***

• **Democracy - related amendments:**
  • 15 - Suffrage for adult ______________
  • 17 - Direct election of US ______________
• 19 - Women’s _______________________
• 23 - 3 electoral votes for ____________
• 24 - Elimination of ____________ taxes
• 26 - Voting age lowered to ______________

**Important Acts To Know**

• Civil Rights Act of 1964:
  • Guaranteed ___________________________ to public accommodations
  • Government could cut off funds where __________________ occurred
• Voting Rights Act of 1965:
  • Federal government could register ______________
  • Eliminated _____________ tests for voting
• ****_______________________________****:
  • Limited the president’s ability to commit troops to conflict
  • President must notify Congress within _____ hours of sending troops
  • Must withdraw forces after _____ days unless _______________ approves extension
• Motor Voter Laws:
  • Voter registration opportunities must be provided when applying/renewing a license

**Important Terms To Know**

• Coalition Building: ____________________________________________
  ____________________________________________
• Divided Government:
  • Congress is controlled by a political party that the ______________ is NOT a member of
  • Also can include the House and Senate being controlled by ______________
  • Impacts of divided government?
    • ______________ is more difficult
    • Increase in gridlock and things not getting done
    • Frustration/increased distrust with ______________
  • Divided government has been more frequent since the _______

**Important Terms To Know**

• Civil Rights:
  • Protect individuals/groups from ____________________________
  • Example? ____________________________________________
• Civil Liberties:
  • Protect individuals from ____________________________
  • Example? ____________________________________________
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<th>Important Elections</th>
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<td>• Kidding, kind of</td>
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<td>• Election of _______ - FDR and the New Deal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Political realignment - ____________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_________________________ began to vote predominantly Democratic</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Election of _______ - Nixon</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Political realignment - ____________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_________________________ began to vote Republican</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Election of _______ - Reagan</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Continued political realignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Increase in ____________________________ supporting the Republicans</td>
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