

Directions: Read the U.S. Constitution and complete the following questions directly on this handout.

**A link to the US Constitution can be found [here](#)**

Be sure to identify the location of each answer in the Constitution (example: Article I, Section 3)

**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 sentence in the chart below. Do not just copy down each Article.

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

2. Identify two powers denied to Congress in the Constitution. **\*\*Don't forget to list where each power is found in the Constitution!\*\***

3. How does the House of Representatives determine the rules of proceedings (the ability to have debates, amendments, etc.)? **\*\*Don't forget to list where it is found in the Constitution!\*\***

4. Identify two powers the Constitution denies to the States. **\*\*Don't forget to list where each power is found in the Constitution!\*\***

5.

<b>Constitutional eligibility requirements (also known as formal requirements)</b> <b>**Don't forget to list where each power is found in the Constitution!**</b>		
<b>HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES</b>	<b>SENATE</b>	<b>PRESIDENT</b>

**6. The powers of the Constitution that are specifically granted to the branches of government or two office holder are called expressed powers. \*\*Don't forget to list where each power is found in the Constitution!\*\***

- a. Identify two expressed powers of the president.**
  
- b. What are the expressed powers of the vice president?**
  
- c. Identify two expressed powers of Congress.**

**7. 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. \*\*Don't forget to list where it is found in the Constitution!\*\***

- a. A power that the executive branch has over the legislative branch.**
  
- b. A power that the executive branch has over the judicial branch.**
  
- c. A power that the legislative branch holds over the executive branch.**
  
- d. A power that the legislative branch holds over the judicial branch.**

e. A power that the judicial branch holds over the executive branch.

f. A power that the judicial branch holds over the legislative branch.

8. The court of original jurisdiction is the first court that hears a case. Appellate courts hear cases on appeal from lower courts. Although the Supreme Court functions primarily as an appellate court, it is the court of original jurisdiction in certain kinds of cases. What are those? **\*\*Don't forget to list where it is found in the Constitution!\*\***

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

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

## **Part II: IMPORTANT CLAUSES**

1. Where is the "Commerce Clause" and what does it say?

2. Where is the "Necessary and Proper Clause" and what does it say?

3. Where is the "Supremacy Clause" and what does it say?

4. How might these clauses above have impacted the power of the federal government?

5. Where is the habeas corpus clause and what does it say?

6. What is habeas corpus?

7. Where are bills of attainders discussed and what does it say?

8. What is a bill of attainder?

9. Where are ex post facto laws discussed and what does it say?
10. What is an ex post facto law?
11. Where is the full faith and credit clause and what does it say?
12. There are two “due process” clauses. Where are they? What does “due process” of law imply?
13. Where is the “equal protection clause?” What does this imply?

### **Part III: CHECKS AND BALANCES, FUNCTIONS OF BRANCHES**

1. Vetoes
  - 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. Treaties
  - 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. What vote is required to impeach?

- c. What is the standard for impeachment?
  - d. Where in the Constitution is the impeachment power described?
4. Electoral College
- a. If not 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)
5. The Constitution has comparatively little to say about the structure and composition of the Supreme Court. Identify two aspects of the Court's structure and composition that the Constitution does not specify. (The Constitution does specify these two basic aspects of structure and composition for the other two branches.)
6. What are two ways that amendments can be proposed?
7. What are two ways that amendments to the Constitution can be ratified?

#### **Part IV. THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

Some parts of the Constitution require a simple majority, others a supermajority, while still others protect citizens from the will of the majority. 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 all 27 Amendments.

<b>Amendment 1</b>	
<b>Amendment 2</b>	
<b>Amendment 3</b>	
<b>Amendment 4</b>	
<b>Amendment 5</b>	
<b>Amendment 6</b>	
<b>Amendment 7</b>	
<b>Amendment 8</b>	
<b>Amendment 9</b>	
<b>Amendment 10</b>	
<b>Amendment 11</b>	
<b>Amendment 12</b>	
<b>Amendment 13</b>	
<b>Amendment 14</b>	
<b>Amendment 15</b>	
<b>Amendment 16</b>	
<b>Amendment 17</b>	
<b>Amendment 18</b>	

<b>Amendment 19</b>	
<b>Amendment 20</b>	
<b>Amendment 21</b>	
<b>Amendment 22</b>	
<b>Amendment 23</b>	
<b>Amendment 24</b>	
<b>Amendment 25</b>	
<b>Amendment 26</b>	
<b>Amendment 27</b>	

1. Which amendment(s) of the Constitution protect the rights of women and how do they protect them?

2. Which amendment(s) of the Constitution protect the rights of African Americans?

3. How were U.S. Senators chosen before the 17<sup>th</sup> Amendment?

4. The 25<sup>th</sup> 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.