

2017-2018 AP US Government & Politics

What a year to be entering AP United States Government and Politics. New Jersey will be holding a gubernatorial election and national politics will continue to dominate class discussions. There are also the topics that seem to interest the masses the most like gun control, immigration, and the legalization of marijuana that will only become more controversial as the nation continues to address them. First, however, the gauntlet has been set. You will complete two challenging, yet enlightening, summer assignments that will set the tone for the year by strengthening your understanding of the Constitution and the people that made it. On the other side will be a year that will challenge the very foundations of your beliefs and understanding of the politics surrounding you. I hope to see you there.

A Machine That Would Go Of Itself: The U.S. Constitution

Naturally, a study in American government would have to begin with the document that defines its structure and limitations.

- Download a copy of the *US Constitution*. Read and study the *Constitution* based on the 25 attached questions.

Summer Reading Assignment for AP Government, '17-'18

We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution

To understand American government and politics today it is appropriate to study the guiding principles that created the system we live in. We will devote significant time to this endeavor. To get a running start you will be responsible for the following summer reading:

- **Read Lessons 1-7 on pages 3-56. (You will receive an email containing Lessons 1-7)**
 - Use the bold questions that begin every section as a guide for creating an outline.
 - Pay special attention to the bold terms.
 - Completing the *What Do You Think?*, *Critical Thinking Exercises*, and *Reviewing and Using the Lesson* sections may help you own the content within the assigned sections.
 - None of this work will be collected but these are suggestions for helping you prepare for the test on the second day of school.

*****Assessment*****

There will be a test on the second day of school consisting of 50 multiple-choice questions and a free-response. 74 points.

- The test will be based on the Constitution questions and the information in Lessons 1-7.

If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to email me at paultkacs@hvrdsd.org over the summer.

This will be a rewarding year if you come in with a positive attitude and ready to challenge yourself.

See you soon.

Summer Work: The Constitution

Directions: Be prepared to answer the following questions. These questions will not be collected but you will be tested on them the second day of school.

1. Identify the six goals contained in the Preamble.
2. Is our form of government a democracy or republic? Explain.
3. Identify the 7 Articles contained in the Constitution. What is the dominant theme of each?
4. What is the total number of amendments?
5. What do we call the first ten amendments? Identify the rights and liberties that are protected under the first ten amendments.
6. Explain how the Constitution can be amended?
7. Identify the 3 qualifications necessary to be a member of the House.
8. Identify the 3 necessary qualifications to be a member of the Senate.
9. What number Congress is currently in session?
10. How many years do members of the House and members of the Senate serve for?
11. What is the total number of representatives in the House of Representatives? How is this number arrived at?
12. What is the total number of Senators? How is this number arrived at?
13. How many congressional districts does New Jersey have? What district is Hopewell in? Who is our representative in the House? Who are our representatives in the Senate?
14. Overall, what is expressed in Article 1, Section 8?
15. Study Article 1 Section 8, Clause 18 and be able to explain why this is referred to as the "elastic clause." How can this clause be controversial?
16. Describe the impeachment process. What are the responsibilities of the House and Senate?
17. Be able to identify and explain the basic function of the 3 branches of government.
18. What are the basic qualifications to be president?
19. How can a presidential veto be overridden?
20. What is the Electoral College? How could President Bush lose the popular vote in 2000 and still become president?
21. Which branch of government established the federal court system?
22. Who is the current Chief Justice of the Supreme Court?
23. Who are the remaining eight associate justices?
24. What is the purpose of the "Full faith and credit" clause?
25. Define federalism. How does it relate to the Constitution?

This test will be difficult if you do not adequately prepare