

Unit 2 Content Review:

Interactions Among Branches of Government

Essential Questions

1. How do the branches of the national government compete and cooperate in order to govern?
2. To what extent have changes in the powers of each branch affected how responsive and accountable the national government is in the 21st century?

Chapters: 12-16

Big Idea	Enduring Understandings	Essential Knowledge
<p>U C</p>	<p>CON-3: The republican ideal in the U.S. is manifested in the structure and operation of the legislative Branch.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. The Legislative Branch <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Composition of the House of Representatives? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the basis for representation in the House? 2. What happens during reapportionment? 3. What is Gerrymandering? 4. Identify and explain the precedents set by the following court cases: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Baker v. Carr (1961) b) Shaw v. Reno (1993) 5. Describe the hierarchy of leadership in the House. B. Committees and the Iron Triangle <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why are committees an important element in the House? 2. Define the following types of committees: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Standing Committee b) Joint Committee c) Conference Committee d) Select Committee 3. What is an iron triangle? C. Composition of the Senate <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. List three differences between the House and Senate. D. Power, Committees and Debates <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the hierarchy of leadership in the Senate. Who has the “real power”? 2. Identify and describe the distinguishing powers of the senate. 3. What is a filibuster? Why do filibusters only happen in the Senate, but not in the House? How can a filibuster be broken? E. Route of a Bill Through Congress <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Outline the steps needed for a bill to become a law. Include the role of the House Rules Committee, conference committees and possible filibuster. F. Veto Power and Judicial Review <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and explain the four options the President can take when Congress passes a bill. 2. How can the Supreme Court affect a law?

CON-4: The Presidency has been enhanced beyond its expressed constitutional powers.

II. The Executive Branch

A. Qualifications and Qualities

1. What were the justifications for a single executive as set forth in **Federalist No. 70**.
2. List the constitutional qualifications necessary to become president.

B. Rules and Contingencies

1. Explain the purpose of the **25th Amendment**.
2. Provide a historical example that illustrates the Presidential Succession Act in action.
3. Specifically explain how a President can be removed from office. Provide at least one historical example of this process.
4. How did the passage of the **22nd Amendment** demonstrate changing presidential roles.

C. Express Roles

1. Describe each of the following **expressed** roles of the President:
 - a) **Commander in Chief**
 - b) **Chief Executive**
 - c) **Head of State**
 - d) **Chief Diplomat**
 - e) **Chief Legislator**
2. Describe the expressed role of the Vice President.

D. Traditional Roles and Special Powers

1. How can the president help other candidates via their “coattails”?
2. Provide an example showing how the President sometimes might not be leading their political party.
3. Define **pardon** and **reprieve**. What is the most famous pardon in U.S. political history?

E. Executive Offices and Staff

1. Describe the roles of the following White House offices:
 - a) **Office of Management and Budget**
 - b) **National Security Council**
 - c) **Council of Economic Affairs**

F. Approval Ratings and Public Perception

1. Why is the beginning of a president’s term considered to be the “honeymoon” phase?
2. Describe two factors that often cause a president to have positive public opinion poll figures?
3. Provide two historical examples showing how presidential public opinion figures can dramatically decline.

G. Surpluses, Deficits and the National Debt

1. Describe what happens when the government runs a **budget surplus**.
2. Describe what happens when the government runs a **budget deficit**. How is the **national debt** related?

CON-5: The design of the judicial branch protects the Supreme Court's independence as a branch of government, and the emergence and use of judicial review remains a powerful judicial practice.

3. What items take up the largest percentage of the annual federal budget? Why are entitlements and interest on the national debt considered fixed spending?
- H. Budget Timetable
 1. Briefly describe how the federal budget process exemplifies the principle of **checks and balances**.
- III. The Judicial Branch
 - A. Foundation of Power
 1. How is the power of the judiciary justified in **Federalist No. 78**?
 - B. Constitutional and Legislative Courts
 1. Describe how checks and balances plays a role in naming federal judges. Why do presidents often follow the unwritten rule of **senatorial courtesy** when nominating state-level judges?
 2. How do **grand juries** differ from **petit juries**?
 3. Compare and contrast **federal district courts** and **federal courts of appeal**. Be sure to include their jurisdiction, purpose and number of courts.
 4. How do **legislative courts** differ from **constitutional courts**?
 - C. The United States Supreme Court
 1. In what types of cases does the U.S. Supreme Court hold original jurisdiction?
 2. How many cases are appealed to the Supreme Court each year? How many cases does the court usually hear? How many justices are necessary for a case to be granted **writ of certiorari**?
 3. Why does the Supreme Court often refuse to hear certain cases?
 4. Describe the meaning of the principle **stare decises**.
 5. If the Supreme Court accepts an appellate case, what must each party then do? How much time does each side receive when they argue their case at the Supreme Court?
 6. Define the following types of Supreme Court Opinions:
 - a) **Majority Opinion**
 - b) **Concurring Opinion**
 - c) **Dissenting Opinion**
 - d) **Per Curium Opinion**
 7. How can dissenting opinions play a role after a case is decided? Provide an example.
 8. Describe the importance of the following court cases:
 - a) **Marbury v. Madison (1803)**
 - b) **McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)**
 - c) **Gibbons v. Ogden (1824)**
 - d) **Scott v. Sanford (1857)**
 - D. The Warren Court
 1. What is the Warren Court known for?

2. Describe the importance of the following court cases:
 - a) **Brown v. Board of Education (1953)**
 - b) **Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)**
 - c) **Engel v. Vitale (1963)**
 - d) **Miranda v. Arizona (1963)**
 - e) **Roe v. Wade (1973)**
 - f) **Planned Parenthood v. Casey (1992)**
 - g) **Regents of University of CA v. Bakke (1978)**
 - h) **Grutter v. Bollinger (2001)**
 - i) **Gratz v. Bollinger (2001)**

E. Judicial Activism and Restraint

1. Describe the meaning of both **judicial activism** and **judicial restraint**.
2. Which philosophy applies to the famous case *Brown v. Board of Education (1954)*? Why?
3. Why does the Supreme Court try to avoid political questions?

F. Judicial Review and Construction

1. Describe the court's power of **judicial Review**.
2. Define **loose vs. strict construction**

G. The Selection Process

1. List the qualifications to be a justice on the Supreme Court. Actually, don't. There aren't any.
2. What types of characteristics do presidents usually look for when they nominate a justice to the Supreme Court?
3. Explain the process of using a political "**litmus test**" when selecting possible federal judges.

H. The Confirmation Process

1. Describe what happens at the **confirmation hearing**. Why did the Senate nearly vote against the confirmation of Clarence Thomas?
2. What role do interest groups play in the selection/confirmation of potential Supreme Court justices?

PMI-2: The federal bureaucracy is a powerful institution implementing federal policies with sometimes questionable accountability.

- I. The Bureaucracy
 - A. Organization of the Federal Bureaucracy
 1. Describe the composition of the federal bureaucracy.
 2. Why are regulatory agencies considered **quasi-legislative, executive and judicial**?
 3. How do **regulatory agencies** differ from **executive agencies**? Provide examples of each type of bureaucratic agency.
 - B. Bureaucratic Reform
 1. How were most jobs in government filled before the 1880s? What tragic event took place that changed the staffing of the federal bureaucracy?
 2. List the major provisions of the **Hatch Act**.
 3. List the responsibilities of the **Office of Personnel Management** and the **Merit Systems Protection Board**.
 4. Why is the federal government a necessary entity?
 - C. The Cabinet
 1. Describe the role of each of the following cabinet departments:
 - a) **Department of State**
 - b) **Department of Defense**
 - c) **Department of the Treasury**
 - d) **Department of Justice**
 - e) **Department of Homeland security**
 - f) **Department of Education**
 - D. The Cabinet in Practice
 1. Who must confirm any leader of a cabinet department?
 2. Describe the responsibilities of a cabinet leader.
 - E. Regulatory Agencies
 1. Describe the functions of the following regulatory agencies:
 - a) **Federal Communications Commission**
 - b) **Federal Trade Commission**
 - c) **Securities and Exchange Commission**
 - d) **Central Intelligence Agency**
 - e) **National Security Council**
 - f) **Environmental Protection Agency**
 - g) **The Federal Reserve System**
 - F. Government Corporations
 1. What is a government corporation?
 2. List the responsibilities of the following government corporations:
 - a) **United States Postal Service**
 - b) **Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation**
 - c) **National Aeronautics and Space Administration**
 - d) **Tennessee Valley Authority**
 - G. Legislative and Executive Constraints

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe how the following laws limit the power of bureaucracies: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Administrative Procedure Act (1947) b) The Freedom of Information Act (1966) c) The National Environmental Policy Act (1969) d) The Privacy Act of 1974 e) The Open Meeting Law (1976) 2. List some actions the President can take to limit the power of bureaucratic agencies. <p>H. Congressional and Judicial Constraints</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. List and describe the powers Congress can use to limit bureaucratic agencies. 2. How can the judicial branch limit the power of bureaucratic agencies? 3. Define issue networks. Why do some political scientists believe “issue networks” are more prevalent than “iron triangles”?
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Potential FRQ Prompts: