

## THE US CONSTITUTION STUDY GUIDE

Directions: Read the US Constitution and complete the following questions

### **PART I: THE OVERALL STRUCTURE OF THE CONSTITUTION**

1. Read each article of the Constitution. Summarize the general purpose of subject of each article and section in one sentence.

<b>Article I:</b>	
Sec 1:	
Sec 2:	
Sec 3:	
Sec 4:	
Sec 5:	
Sec 6:	
Sec 7:	
Sec 8:	
Sec 9:	
Sec. 10:	
<b>Article II:</b>	
Sec 1:	
Sec 2:	

Sec 3:	
Sec 4:	
<b>Article III:</b>	
Sec 1:	
Sec 2:	
Sec 3:	
<b>Article IV:</b>	
Sec 1:	
Sec 2:	
Sec 3:	
Sec 4:	
<b>Article V:</b>	
<b>Article VI:</b>	
<b>Article VII:</b>	

2. Compare Article I with Article II. Which article is longer and more detailed?

3. Identify two powers denied from Congress in the Constitution.
4. How does the House of Representatives determine the rules of proceedings (the ability to have debates and riders, etc)
5. Identify two powers the Constitution prohibits from the States.
6. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for members of the House?
7. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for members of the Senate?
8. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for the President?
9. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for the Judiciary?
10. Define *Expressed Powers*
  - 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?
11. According to Article I of the Constitution, who has the power to declare war?
12. What power does the Constitution give the President in the area of war?
13. Define Checks and Balances:
  - a. TWO powers that the executive branch has over the legislative branch AND what article and section can they be found:
  - b. TWO powers that the executive branch has over the judicial branch AND what article and section can they be found:

c. TWO powers that the legislative branch has over the executive branch AND what article and section can they be found:

d. TWO powers that the legislative branch has over the judicial branch AND what article and section can they be found:

e. TWO powers that the judicial branch has over the legislative branch AND what article and section can they be found:

f. TWO powers that the judicial branch has over the executive branch AND what article and section can they be found:

## **PART II IMPORTANT CLAUSES**

1. Where is the *commerce clause* and what does it mean?
2. Where is the *necessary and proper clause* and what does it mean?
3. Where is the *supremacy clause* and what does it mean?
4. How can the above clauses effect the national government's power?
5. Where is *writ of habeas corpus* mentioned and what does it mean?
6. Where is *bill of attainders* mentioned and what does it mean?
7. Where is *ex post facto* mentioned and what does it mean?
8. Where is the *full faith and credit clause* mentioned and what does it mean?
9. Where are TWO *due process clauses* and what does it mean?
10. Where is the *equal protection clause*? What does this imply?
11. Where is the *take care clause*? What does it mean?

## **PART III MAJORITY AND SUPERMAJORITY**

1. What is the difference between simple majority and supermajority?
2. 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?
3. 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?
  4. a. What does impeach mean?
    - b. What body has the power to impeach the president?
    - c. What vote is required to impeach?
    - d. Where in the Constitution is the impeachment power described?
  5. a. What does has the power to accept or reject a president's nomination to the Supreme Court?
    - b. What margin of a vote is required for a presidential nominee to make it to the Supreme Court?
    - c. Where is judicial nominations described in the Constitution?
  6. a. If no 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. In what TWO parts of the Constitution is the Electoral College mentioned?
  7. The Constitution specifies a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority for just one process, what is it?
  8. What are two ways that amendments to the Constitution can be proposed?
  9. What are two ways that amendments to the Constitution can be ratified?

PART IV. THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION. In the left column, name the amendment and in the right column explain the amendment

Amendment 1	
Amendment 2	
Amendment 3	

Amendment 4	
Amendment 5	
Amendment 6	
Amendment 7	
Amendment 8	
Amendment 9	
Amendment 10	
Amendment 11	
Amendment 12	
Amendment 13	
Amendment 14	
Amendment 15	
Amendment 16	
Amendment 17	
Amendment 18	
Amendment 19	

Amendment 20	
Amendment 21	
Amendment 22	
Amendment 23	
Amendment 24	
Amendment 25	
Amendment 26	
Amendment 27	

1. Which amendment(s) of the Constitution protect the rights of women?
2. Which amendment(s) of the Constitution protect the rights of African Americans?
3. How were US Senators chosen before the 17<sup>th</sup> Amendment?
4. Outline the sequence of events described in the 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment.
5. How many times is the word privacy mentioned in the Constitution?