

AP U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS Unit 5- Executive Branch & Bureaucracy

Because power is widely distributed and checks prevent one branch from usurping powers from the others, institutional actors are in the position where they must both compete and cooperate in order to govern.

The three key institutions of the federal government are Congress, the presidency, and the courts. The bureaucracy, which implements policy, is seen by some as an extension of the executive branch and by others as, in effect, a fourth branch of government because of the discretion it can exercise in carrying out policy directives. The Constitution grants specific powers to Congress, the president, and the courts, and in addition, each branch exercises informal powers (developed through political practice, tradition, and legislation). Because checks and balances are designed to prevent one branch from becoming too powerful, Congress and the president, for example, will sometimes cooperate and sometimes compete in governance.

The expressed powers of the president are set forth in Article II of the Constitution. The president has a significant degree of informal power, which has grown over time. Under the Constitution, Congress checks the power of the president, and this leads to tension between the two branches over both foreign and domestic affairs. The president and Congress have several interrelated powers. For example, while Congress passes legislation, the president must sign it into law. The president appoints judges and members of the cabinet, who must be confirmed by the Senate. The president also oversees most of the bureaucracy. Technology has impacted the president's use of the "bully pulpit" to influence public opinion. In addition to reaching out to the public through televised press conferences and the State of the Union message, the president is increasingly making use of social media to communicate views to a vast audience.

Using a merit-based civil service system for all staff except top-level political appointees, the federal bureaucracy carries out laws to regulate a wide range of individual and commercial activities. Bureaucrats implement policy using their discretionary and rule-making authority. Both Congress and the president can hold the bureaucracy accountable in policy implementation, and the two branches will sometimes be in conflict over whether or not administrative agencies are carrying out the letter and spirit of the law.

AP CB Unit 5 Big Ideas

Big Idea: Constitutionalism	Which branch of government is the most powerful? Why?
Big Idea: Constitutionalism	Are there really checks and balances when one political party controls all three branches of government? Why or why not?
Big Idea: Competing Policy Making Interests	In what ways has the evolution of government powers affected Americans and their daily lives?

Reading Activity	You are expected to read the textbook chapters, required AP documents, required AP Supreme Court cases, and supplemental readings as assigned. Read Federalist 70. <i>Stories of a Nation (SOAN) Textbook Chapters: Chapters 5 & 7</i>
Writing Activity	Create a presentation on a selected bureaucratic agency.
Chapter One Pager (Due on the day of the exam--- DO NOT wait till the night before.... This is to be completed	Create a one-pagers for Chapters 5 & 7, a total of two. Use a one pager template on the course Weebly or create your own. Be sure to hand write the information and fill the page- typed work will not be accepted. Your one pager must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a border with key terms/ideas



as you read and work through the material)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● chapter title ● minimum of two visuals ● main idea from each chapter sub-section ● colorful, LEGIBLE, minimum white space ● current event connection <p>*See class Weebly additional details such as samples and rubric</p>
---	---

Vocabulary (NOTE: ALL of the vocabulary should be studied for the test!

Formal presidential powers Informal presidential powers Veto Congressional override Pocket veto Commander-in-Chief Executive agreement Executive order Executive privilege Signing statements The Cabinet Ambassadors White House Staff "Advice and Consent" power "Good Behavior" clause Article III Federalist #70 "Lame duck" period 20th Amendment 22nd Amendment 25th Amendment	State of the Union Honeymoon period Bully pulpit Federal bureaucracy Departments Agencies Commissions Government corporations Regulations "Iron triangles" Issue networks Patronage Spoils system Political machine Civil service system Merit system Pendleton Civil Service Act (1883) Hatch Act (1939) Office of Personnel Management (OPM)	Discretionary authority Rule-making Red tape Bureaucratic implementation Department of State Department of the Treasury Department of Defense Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Department of Homeland Security Department of Transportation Department of Veterans Affairs Department of Education Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Federal Elections Commission (FEC) Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)	AMTRAK U.S. Postal Service NASA National Security Council (NSC) Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Congressional Budget Office (CBO) White House Chief of Staff White House Press Secretary White House Office Congressional oversight Committee hearings Power of the purse Congressional appropriation Congressional authorization Compliance monitoring War Powers Act (1973) Imperial presidency
--	--	--	---

The presidency has been enhanced beyond its expressed constitutional powers.

Formal and Informal Powers of the President

	Formal or Informal?	Define	Explain how the president would use to implement policy.
Veto			
Pocket-Veto			
Executive Orders			
Treaties			



Commander-in-Chief			
Executive Agreements			
Bargaining & Persuasion			
Signing Statements			
Explain how presidents have interpreted and justified their use of formal and informal powers.			

Special Notes:

- Presidents use powers and perform functions of the office to accomplish a policy agenda.
- Different perspectives on the presidential role, ranging from a limited to a more expansive interpretation and use of power, continue to be debated in the context of contemporary events.
- Policy initiatives and executive orders promoted by the president often lead to conflict with the congressional agenda.

President and Congressional Tension

Explain how the president's agenda can create tension and frequent confrontations with Congress.	
--	--

Special Note: Policy initiatives and executive orders promoted by the president often lead to conflict with the congressional agenda.

Tensions between the President and the Senate

	Explain how conflict could occur with the Senate for each of the following.
Cabinet Members	
Ambassadors	



White House Staff	
-------------------	--

Special Note: Senate confirmation is an important check on appointment powers, but the president's longest lasting influence lies in life-tenured judicial appointments.

Federalist No. 70

Author	
Main ideas	
Explain the argument for a strong executive.	

Presidential Requirements

	Presidential Requirements	Where in the Constitution are the requirements found?
Minimum Age		
Citizenship Requirement		
Length of Term		

Constitutional-Power Restrictions

	Describe the 22 nd Amendment	Explain why this demonstrates the changing presidential role.
22nd amendment		

Special Note: Term-of-office and constitutional-power restrictions, including the passage of the **Twenty-second Amendment**, demonstrate changing presidential roles.



Communication, technology and the Presidency

	Explain how each has changed the president's relationship with the national constituency .	Explain how each has changed the president's relationship with the other government branches .
Modern technology (TV, radio, internet)		
Social media		
Nationally broadcast State of the Union		
"Bully pulpit"		

The federal bureaucracy is a powerful institution implementing federal policies with sometimes questionable accountability.

	Define
Bureaucracy	
Patronage	
Merit	
Civil Service	
"Power of the Purse"	
Compliance monitoring	

Special Note: Political patronage, civil service, and merit system reforms all impact the effectiveness of the bureaucracy by promoting professionalism, specialization, and neutrality.



Tasks performed by departments, agencies, commissions, and government corporations

	Explain how each assists the bureaucracy in carrying out the responsibilities of the national government
Writing and enforcing regulations	
Issuing fines	
Testifying before Congress	
Issue networks and "Iron Triangle"	

Bureaucratic Agencies

	Explain how the federal bureaucracy uses delegated discretionary authority for rule making and implementation.	Cite a recent example in the past 2 years.
Department of Homeland Security		
Department of Transportation		
Department of Veterans Affairs		
Department of Education		



Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)		
Federal Elections Commission (FEC)		
Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)		

Special Note: Discretionary and rule-making authority to implement policy are given to bureaucratic departments, agencies, and commissions.

Methods of Oversight

	For each, explain how Congress uses its oversight power in its relationship with the executive branch.
Committee hearings	
Power of the Purse	

Special Notes:

- As a means to curtail the use of presidential power, congressional oversight serves as a check of executive authorization and appropriation.
- Presidential ideology, authority, and influence affect how executive branch agencies carry out the goals of the administration.
- Compliance monitoring can pose a challenge to policy implementation.

Presidential responsibilities and goals

Explain how the president ensures that executive branch agencies and departments carry out their responsibilities in concert with the goals of the administration.	
--	--



Special Note: Presidential ideology, authority, and influence affect how executive branch agencies carry out the goals of the administration.

Governmental branches hold the bureaucracy accountable

How does each ensure that the bureaucracy is held accountable?	Formal Powers	Informal Powers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congress 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Courts 		

Special Note: Governmental branches can hold the bureaucracy accountable given the competing interests of Congress, the president, and the federal courts.

Remixed from T. McKibben

Homework Reading Schedule

Date	Homework/Reading Task	Date	Homework/Reading Task
6/7	Read <i>Federalist 70</i>	21/22	Read pgs 221-229
8/9	Read pgs 155-164	23/24	Save My Agency Presentation
10/13	Read pgs 165-167 & Funko Pop	27/28	Save My Agency Presentation
14/15	Read pgs 168-175 & iCivics	29/30	Read pgs 230-239
16/17	Read pgs 176-178, 216-221	31/3	Study

