

Name: _____

Class period: _____

2026-AP Government Summer Assignment

Your assignment is to read the United States Constitution and create for yourself a basic understanding of the document that contains the guiding principles of American self-rule. Print this out and please be sure to fill out everything in your **best handwriting (if I cannot read it, I cannot grade it)**, as you will hand it in for a grade of **150 points**. This assignment must be done in **pen, blue or black**.

Use this website for the assignment:

<http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution.html>

Begin by clicking on “read transcript”

THE PREAMBLE

This paragraph, which begins with “We the People...”, outlines the basic tasks we ask our federal government to perform. List each one as it’s written in the document; then in the blank next to it, think of something the federal government actually does to carry out this task.

TASK

ACTION

- | | | |
|----|-------|-------|
| 1. | _____ | _____ |
| 2. | _____ | _____ |
| 3. | _____ | _____ |
| 4. | _____ | _____ |
| 5. | _____ | _____ |

ARTICLE I

...outlines which branch of the federal government? _____

Section 1: Congress shall consist of _____ and _____

Section 2 ... describes which chamber? _____

Fill out each of the following rules & requirements as prescribed:

Length of term in office: _____ Minimum age: _____

Minimum years as U.S. citizen: _____

Number of representatives per state shall be based upon: _____

Which “sole power” belongs to this chamber as described in Section 2? _____

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Section 3... describes which chamber? _____

Fill out each of the following rules & requirements as prescribed:

Number of Senators per state: _____ Senators are to be chosen by: _____

*this was later changed by which amendment? _____

Every two years, how many Senators will be up for re-election?: _____

Length of term in office: _____ Minimum age: _____

Minimum years as U.S. citizen: _____

The "President of the Senate" is: _____ With what power?: _____

Which "sole power" belongs to this chamber as described in Section 3? _____

If a president is on trial who presides _____

A guilty verdict equals: _____

How many members must be present to convict? _____

Sections 4, 5 & 6... describe how the chambers are to operate with respect to meetings & adjournments, compensation, internal structure, rules, etc.... in general, who is tasked with running the House and Senate? _____

Define Quorum: _____

Can each house punish their members? _____

Section 7... describes the legislative process

In Clause 1, only the House of Representatives may: _____

Refer to Clause 2 to fill in the blanks:

A bill must pass _____ before being sent to _____.

If the bill is not signed into law, it returns to each chamber where a _____ vote is needed before the bill may become a law.

Section 8... describes all of the powers given to Congress. Write each power in your own words in the space provided (each separated paragraph or sentence is a clause)

Clause 1: _____

Clause 2: _____

Clause 3: _____

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Clause 4: _____

Clause 5: _____

Clause 6: _____

Clause 7: _____

Clause 8: _____

Clause 9: _____

Clause 10: _____

Clause 11: _____

Clauses 12 – 16 call for Congress to: _____

Clause 17 allows for Congress to appropriate land for: _____

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. Where is the **full faith and credit clause** and what does it say?

Section 9... limits the federal government in certain key areas – look up and define the following terms:

Writ of habeas corpus: _____

Bill of attainder: _____

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Ex post facto law: _____

Also in this section, Congress cannot place a tax on _____,
nor in regulating commerce favor one state over another.

Section 10... places limits on state governments, including the following:

No state may enter into _____ with another state
or foreign country.

Article II

...outlines which branch of the federal government? _____

Fill out each of the following rules & requirements as prescribed in Section 1:

Length of term in office: _____ Minimum age: _____

Citizenship requirement: _____ Residency requirement: _____

Paragraphs 2, 3 & 4 of Section 1 (although later amended) describes _____

The last paragraph of Section 1 describes _____

Section 2... describes the President's powers

With regards to the military, the President is the _____

The President has the power to grant _____

2nd clause: With advice & consent of the Senate, the President may make _____ and
nominate/appoint _____

When the Senate is in recess, the President may fill vacancies. How long may these appointments last?

Section 3... outlines three things the President may do with respect to Congress, they are:

Section 4... for which offenses may the President, Vice President and other executive officers be impeached and removed from office?

Article III:

...outlines which branch of the federal government? _____

Section 1... establishes one _____

Who is given the power to establish the “inferior” courts of the federal system? _____

Based on the idea that judges shall hold their office during “good behavior,” how long is the term of a federal judge & Supreme Court justice? _____

Section 2... identify six areas in which the federal courts have jurisdiction as described in Clause 1:

Clause 2 ...describes the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court

The Supreme Court has original jurisdiction when the parties involved are _____

or _____

In all other federal cases, the Supreme Court has _____ jurisdiction.

Section 3... defines _____ as the only crime in the Constitution. The Framers intended this very specific definition to prevent the loose use of the charge, for example, against people who criticize the government. How is this crime defined

ARTICLE IV:

...outlines relations between the states, and the federal government's obligations to states

Section 1... calls for states to extend _____ to the acts, records and proceedings of other states.

Section 2... describes how citizens of states shall be treated in other states.

Clause 1 entitles citizens of each state all _____ & _____

Clause 2 does not allow _____

*Clause 3 was later repealed by amendment

Section 3... who is given the power to admit new states to the union? _

Section 4... the federal government guarantees it will do three things for the states:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Article V:

...outlines how the Constitution will be amended in the future

Which are the two ways an amendment may be proposed?

Which are the two ways an amendment will be ratified?

What is the role of the President in the amendment process? _____

ARTICLE VI

Section 1... calls for the federal government to be responsible to _____

Section 2... states the Constitution, federal laws and treaties are _____

Section 3... calls for federal officers to take an oath, and that no _____ shall be required to qualify for office

ARTICLE VII

...describes how The Constitution itself would be ratified

States needed for ratification: _____ On what day was The Constitution signed?: _____

Number of Convention attendees who signed the final document: ____

For the following signers, **Pick three**, click on their name, read biography and briefly describe any role, contribution, or views held during the Constitutional Convention:

George Washington (Virginia): _____

James Madison (Virginia): _____

Roger Sherman (Connecticut): _____

Alexander Hamilton (New York): _____

Benjamin Franklin (Pennsylvania): _____

Go back to main Constitution page, then click on “Constitutional Amendments 1-10” (aka “The Bill of Rights”), click on “read transcript” and write a brief description of each amendment’s overall intent in your own words (not necessary to be very specific about the provisions in each amendment):

1st: _____

2nd: _____

3rd: _____

4th: _____

5th: _____

6th: _____

7th: _____

8th: _____

9th: _____

10th: _____

Part II:

1.) Current government officers:

- a. President: _____
- b. Vice President: _____
- c. Secretary of State: _____
- d. Secretary of Defense: _____
- e. Speaker of House: _____
- f. Chief Justice: _____
- g. Governor of Georgia: _____
- h. Two senators for Georgia: _____ and _____
- i. Oconee's representative in U.S. Congress: _____
- j. Oconee is in what congressional district: _____

2.) Read the copy of **Declaration of Independence** and answer the 12 questions on the form in blue or black ink.

2026 Summer Assignment: Declaration of Independence and questions

- 1.) What does Thomas Jefferson mean when he says, “...it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another...”?

- 2.) What is the purpose of the Declaration of Independence as stated in the preamble?

- 3.) According to Jefferson, who has the right to create a government? According to Jefferson, what is the purpose of a government? According to Jefferson, what should be done if a government fails to fulfill its purpose?

- 4.) What does self-evident mean?

- 5.) What does unalienable mean? List the “unalienable rights”.

- 6.) Whose ideas does Jefferson reference when he says, “that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness”? How did he change them?

- 7.) What type of government is referred to by “Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed”?

- 8.) Cite five specific examples that Jefferson uses in his argument against the King of England, George III.

9.) At the end of the Declaration of Independence, list the four things, that according to Jefferson, “Free and Independent States”

10.) List the four parts of the Declaration. Explain the purpose of each part:

Part I:

Part II:

Part III:

Part IV:

11.) Under what conditions does Jefferson think that people have a right to overthrow their government?

12.) What did Jefferson mean by “all men are created equal”?