AP United States Government and Politics
Summer Assignment 2017/2018
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Dear Students and Parents:

I am excited that you have decided to accept the challenge of taking an Advanced Placement class, which is a university-level course taught in high school. I promise that you will strengthen your academic, intellectual, observation, and discussion skills. As individuals and as citizens, we all confront the consequences of government actions and decisions. A federal or state regulation, a law, an executive decision or a court ruling can determine how we will live our lives in significant ways. In short, the American government commands and exercises enormous power. This course is designed to help you understand not only the nature and function of this power but also your relationship to it.

Although this course will prove to be quite challenging, I guarantee that, when it is over, not only will it be meaningful to you but you will know more about our government and politics than your peers and even many adults. Your summer assignment will introduce you to the framework of our government, the United States Constitution, and important Supreme Court rulings. I will make this assignment as relevant as possible to the course and your success on the AP Exam in May.

Before the first day of class the first question I would like for you have to answer is WHY ARE YOU TAKING THIS COURSE? Possible answers may include:

- ✓ It will look good on my transcript.
- ✓ My parents are making me do it.
- ✓ My friends are taking it.
- ✓ I took AP US History.
- ✓ I love watching CSPAN
- ✓ I want the challenge of a demanding, nearly impossible course.
- ✓ I don't need sleep and love answering difficult multiple-choice questions.
- ✓ I had an amazing US History teacher.
- ✓ I want to get a 5 on the AP Test and brag about it to my friends and relatives.

All of these are good answers, but none of these in themselves are good enough. That is, an AP government student must be dedicated whole-heartedly to this course. It is expected that you will spend several hours each week preparing for this course. As a part of this course you will be consistently reading several different sources. Failure to stay up on the reading is unacceptable for a college-level course and will result in poor performance in this course. Part of entering an AP class is an assumption of a certain level of background knowledge and skills. With this in mind, the course requires the completion of a summer assignment. Additionally, I want to warn each of you that the summer assignment has been designed to preclude students leaving the assignment until the last few days of summer break. So, begin now and do a little each day. I expect to see quality work turned in and for you to be well prepared for the entrance examinations. If you fail to complete the summer assignment or if you fail any portion of the entrance examinations I will ask that you transfer to a regular offering of the course.

During my summer break, I am always available to help students via email. Students, and parents, may feel free to email me at: j.raines@tka.net. Regardless of where I am, I always have access to this email. I will almost always respond within 24 hours of receiving your email. If you email, please be specific about who you are and what exactly you need help with. I am looking forward to seeing you in the Fall!

Assignment #1: The Constitution

Read the United States Constitution. It should not take too long; the U.S. Constitution is the shortest written national constitution in the world. This document outlines how the United States government should work. Complete the following questions and be prepared to turn these in on the first day of class. You will use your responses as a study guide all semester.

You can find the text of the Constitution in many places online. I recommend using the following link https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution

Be sure the answers are written in your own words. **Do not quote the Constitution**. I know what it says; I want to know if you understand the words of the document. If you do not understand what a word or phrase means, look it up.

1. Read the 7 articles of the Constitution. In **one sentence** for each, summarize the general topic covered in each article. If you use the recommended web site, the phrase that pops up when you scroll over the article's box is not sufficient.

   Article I

   _____

   _____

   Article II

   _____

   _____

   Article III

   _____

   _____

   Article IV

   _____

   _____

   Article V

   _____

   _____

   Article VI

   _____

   _____

Article VII

_____

_____

2. Preamble: **In your own words**, list the general purposes of the Constitution.

A.

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B.

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C.

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D.

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E.

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F.

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3. Article I
   1) What are the formal job requirements for the House of Representatives?
      A.

_____

_____

B.

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C.

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_____

2) What is the term length for a Representative?

_____

_____

3) How are States represented in the House of Representatives?

_____

_____

4) How are States represented in the Senate?

_____

_____

5) What is the term length for a Senator?

_____

_____

6) What are the formal job requirements for the Senate?

A.

_____

_____

B.

_____

_____

C.

_____

_____

7) What is the Vice President's role in the Senate?

_____

_____

8) List the House and Senate offices specifically stated in the Constitution.

A.

_____

_____

B.

_____

_____

C.

_____

_____

9) In Article I, section 3, what power of the Senate is listed?

_____

_____

10) What determines when, where, and how Congressional elections are held?

_____

_____

11) Revenue bills always originate in which house?

_____

_____

12) According to the Constitution, what two actions can the President take on a bill?

A.

_____

_____

B.

_____

_____

13) With what two methods can a law be passed without the President's signature?

A.

_____

_____

B.

_____

_____

14) List the expressed powers of Congress, found in Article I, section 8.

A.

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B.

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C.

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I.

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L.

M.

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Q.

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R.

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S.

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T.

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U.

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V.

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W.

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_____

15) List the powers denied to Congress, found in Article I, section 9.

A.

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B.

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C.

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D.

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E.

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F.

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G.

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H.

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14) List the powers denied to the States, found in Article I, section 10.

A.

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B.

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C.

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D.

E.

F.

G.

H.

I.

J.

K.

L.

M.

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N.

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O.

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P.

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4. Article II
   1) What is the length of a presidential term?

_____

_____

   2) Describe how the President is chosen, according to the current Constitution.

_____

_____

_____

_____

   3) If no presidential candidate receives a majority of Electoral College votes, how is the President chosen?

_____

_____

   4) What are the formal job requirements for the President?
      A.

_____

_____

B.

_____

_____

C.

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5) If for any reason the President cannot maintain his duties as President, who takes over the position?

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6) List the powers the Constitution grants the President.

A.

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B.

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L.

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7) How can Presidents, Vice Presidents, and other civil officers of the U.S. be removed from office?

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5. Article III
   1) What bodies exercise the nation's judicial power?

_____

_____

   2) In what kinds of cases does the Supreme Court have original jurisdiction?
      A.

_____

_____

      B.

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_____

3) What other type of jurisdiction does the Supreme Court have?

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_____

6. Article IV

1) Explain the Full Faith and Credit Clause (Article IV, section I) **in your own words**.

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2) Summarize Article IV, section 2 **in your own words**.

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3) What two restrictions does the Constitution place on the creation of new States?

A.

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B.

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4) What guarantees does the Constitution promise the States?

A.

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B.

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C.

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7. Article V
   1) How can a constitutional amendment be proposed?
      A.

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_____

      B.

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   2) How can a proposed amendment be ratified?
      A.

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_____

      B.

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8. Article VI
   1) What does the Constitution describe as the "supreme law of the land?" (The Supremacy Clause)
      A.

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      B.

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      C.

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2) What job requirement does the Constitution prevent from being applied to public offices and federal employment?

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9. Article VII
   1) How many states needed to ratify the Constitution in order to put it into effect?

_____

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   2) The Constitution was signed in 1787. In what year was it ratified by the required number of states? (This answer is not found in the Constitution itself.)

_____

_____

Assignment #2: The Amendments

You must familiarize yourself with each of the amendments below. Be prepared for a Test over this material on the first day of class. Failure on this assessment and I will request that you withdraw from the course. The test will require you to write out each amendment below.

US Constitutional Amendments

#	Year	What it did:
1	1791	Freedoms of Speech, Press, Religion, Assembly & Petition
2	1791	Right to form a well-regulated military; Right to bear arms
3	1791	Prohibits lodging of troops in private homes
4	1791	No unreasonable search and seizures
5	1791	Rights of the accused to remain silent; Right to Due Process
6	1791	Right to a speedy trial in criminal cases
7	1791	Right to a trial by jury in civil cases
8	1791	No cruel and unusual punishment
9	1791	There are other rights that may exist aside from the ones explicitly mentioned
10	1791	Powers reserved to the States
11	1795	Sovereign immunity to states against lawsuits
12	1804	Voters choose President and Vice President as a single ticket
13	1865	Abolition of slavery
14	1868	Definition of a citizen; Due Process; Equal Protection
15	1870	Voting rights for African American men
16	1913	National government may collect income tax
17	1913	Direct election of Senators
18	1919	Prohibition
19	1920	Voting rights for Women
20	1933	Sets the dates for federal government elected offices to end
21	1933	Repealed prohibition
22	1951	Set presidential term limits
23	1961	Voting rights for Washington, D.C. (President)
24	1964	Abolition of poll taxes
25	1967	Defines presidential succession
26	1971	Voting age lowered to 18
27	1992	Congressional pay increases

Assignment #3: Supreme Court Cases

You must research each of the Supreme Court cases below. Provide a brief background of each case and discuss the broader significance of each. You may write on a separate sheet of paper if you choose. Be prepared for a Test over these cases on the first week of class. Failure on this assessment and you will be asked to withdraw from the course.

Marbury v. Madison (1803)

McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)

Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)

Schenck v. United States (1919)

Gitlow v. New York (1925)

Brown v. Board of Education (1954)

Miranda v. Arizona (1966)

University of California v. Bakke (1978)

Baker v. Carr (1961)

Engel v. Vitale (1962)

Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)

Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District (1969)

New York Times Company v. United States (1971)

Wisconsin v. Yoder (1972)

Roe v. Wade (1973)

Buckley v. Valeo (1976)

Shaw v. Reno (1993)

United States v. Lopez (1995)

McDonald v. Chicago (2010)

Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (FEC) (2010)

Obergefell v. Hodges (2015)