

AP Government Summer Assignment

AP United States Government and Politics requires all enrolled students to complete summer coursework prior to the first day of class. Though your class begins in August, 2017, **all summer work is due on the first day of class.** A test will be given based on the summer material at the end of the first week. The Summer Assignment is not optional and failure to finish the assignment will result in removal from the class.

First, what to buy if you have a little spare cash:

It is strongly advised you purchase an [AP U.S. Government and Politics preparation book](#) by the first day of class. It's not required but has been helpful for prior students. Barons and 5 for 5 are both excellent books and can be found at Barnes and Nobles for around 15-20.00.

Obtain a copy of the United States Constitution, either by acquiring [a paper copy](#) or printing [a digital one](#). If you know Nicolas Cage, you could try for [the original](#) but 2nd and Charles sells them for like \$5.00.

The Summer Assignment:

The focus of the first unit of the course is the philosophical and political roots of American government. Thus, you will explore and analyze during the summer so you will be prepared to discuss this topic in depth over the first couple of days of class.

Reading Requirements:

- [-Excerpt from Second Treatise of Civil Government, John Locke](#)
- [-Excerpt from The Spirit of the Laws, Baron de Montesquieu](#)
- [-Excerpt from Social Contract, Jean Jacques Rousseau](#)
- [-Common Sense, Thomas Paine](#)
- [-The Virginia Declaration of Rights](#)
- [-The Declaration of Independence](#)

Writing Requirements:

- [-Guided questions for each above reading](#)

*Have a question on a particular reading? Feel free to contact me at campbst@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us Please do not contact me to explain you wasted the summer and just realized you did not begin the assignment. Its not the way you want to start the year. So don't.

Submission:

*All guided reading questions must be answered and submitted by the first day of class in August, 2017.

***A 25% late penalty will be assessed for any assignments submitted after the due date.

Introduction: AP Government is designed to introduce students to the structure and function of our government and political systems. The course looks at the historical development of the government, the functions of governmental branches and agencies, the political process, as well as contemporary political issues that continuously raise debate among political groups. The following activities are designed to introduce students to some of these concepts. Additionally, this is an election year and should provide a lot of insightful information on the election process, political socialization, and political participation.

Assignment 1: The Constitution Assignment (See assignment below) You are to purchase and read *The Words We Live By* (Linda R. Monk) You will use it as a reference for not only answering the questions on the assignment, but it will be a useful reference tool throughout the year when looking at the Constitution. As best you can, use your own words to answer the questions. One of the biggest concepts in taking this course is developing and exercising the skill of critical thinking. Practice this concept when completing the assignment. Make sure you pay close attention not only to the text of the Constitution itself, but also the notes that accompany the information in the book.

Assignment 2: Understanding the Institutions of Government The institutions section of the AP Government exam makes up about 50% of the material covered. It is imperative that you develop a firm understanding of the basic concepts surrounding the institutions and continue to develop your knowledge of the structure and functions of the institutions. From past experiences, this is the portion of the course that gives people the most trouble, because it makes up so much of the information on the exam. This assignment will help you gain a base understanding of the institutions and how they operate.

Assignment 3: Supreme Court Important Cases. There are multiple cases that will be on the AP exam. Using the handout from my webpage create a journal of the cases. The handout gives you the names of each case and its significance. In your journal you are to figure out the who, the what, and the where. This will be an ongoing assignment throughout the year. Therefore, I will not take this up to grade. I will just check that you have begun.

DIRECTIONS: Using the book *The Words We Live By* as well as other possible resources concerning the United States Constitution, complete the following questions. You should complete all questions on this handout.

1. Read through the Preamble to the Constitution. In your own words describe what the Preamble means to us as a guide for understanding the principles and values of American government.
2. Read each Article of the United States Constitution. Summarize the general purpose or subject of each article in one to two sentences in the chart below.

Article I	
Article II	
Article III	
Article IV	
Article V	
Article VI	
Article VII	

3. Compare Article I to Article II. Which Article is longer and more detailed? Explain why you believe this is the case.
4. Identify four powers that the Constitution denies to Congress.
5. How does the House of Representatives determine the rules of proceedings (the ability to have debates, riders, etc.)?
6. Identify three powers the Constitution denies to the states.
7. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for members of the House?
8. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for members of the Senate?
9. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish on the President?
10. The powers of the Constitution that are specifically granted to the institutions of government are called expressed powers.
 - A. Identify two expressed powers of the POTUS (President of the United States).
 - B. Identify two expressed powers of Congress.
11. According to the principles of checks and balances, each branch of the government must have control over the other branches. Look at the first three articles of the Constitution and identify one of each type of checks and balances. Indicate where each power is listed in the Constitution (be specific in identifying the location).

Concept	Constitutional Power	Location in Constitution
Power the Executive Branch has over the Legislative Branch		
Power the Executive Branch has over the Judicial Branch		
Power the Legislative Branch has over the Executive Branch		
Power the Legislative Branch has over the Judicial Branch		
Power the Judicial Branch has over the Legislative Branch		
Power the Judicial Branch has over the Executive Branch		

12. The court of original jurisdiction is the first court that hears a case. Appellate courts hear cases on appeal from lower courts. Although the SCOTUS (Supreme Court of the United States) functions primarily as an appellate court, it is the court of original jurisdiction in certain kinds of cases. What are they?
13. According to the Constitution, who has the power to declare war (NOTE: Reference Article I)?
14. What power does the Constitution give the POTUS in the area of war?
15. Explain the Commerce Clause. Where is it located in the Constitution?
16. Explain the "Necessary and Proper" Clause. Where is it located in the Constitution?
17. Explain the Supremacy Clause. Where is it located in the Constitution?
18. Given your analysis of the Commerce, Necessary and Proper, and Supremacy Clauses of the Constitution, how do they collectively impact the power of the national government?
19. Explain the idea of habeas corpus. Where is it located in the Constitution?
20. Explain the idea of bills of attainder. Where is it located in the Constitution?
21. Explain ex post facto laws. Where is it located in the Constitution?
22. Explain the Full Faith and Credit Clause. Where is it located in the Constitution?
23. Identify and explain the two types of due process.

24. Explain the Equal Protection Clause. Where is it located in the Constitution?

25. Explain the idea of eminent domain. Where is it located in the Constitution?

26. Outline the general purposes of all twenty-seven Constitutional amendments (in your own words)

Amendment	Summary
1st	
2nd	
3rd	
4th	
5th	
6th	
7th	
8th	
9th	
10th	
11th	
12th	
13th	
14th	
15th	
16th	
17th	
18th	
19th	
20th	
21st	
22nd	
23rd	
24th	
25th	
26th	
27th	

DIRECTIONS: Using both the Internet and *The Words We Live By* (along with other possible sources), find the information requested.

Article I: The Legislative Branch

1. Complete the following chart.

House of Representatives	Name	Political Party / State
Speaker of the House		
Minority Leader		
Majority Whip		
Minority Leader		
Minority Whip		
Your representative		

2. Which Congressional district do you live in?

3. Where is your local voting precinct (exact location)?

4. What is the role/duty of the Whip of each party?

5. How many committees are there in the House of Representatives?

6. How many Democrats are currently in the House? How many Republicans are currently in the House?

7. What is the base pay for a member of the House of Representatives? Base pay for the Speaker of the House?

8. How did the 2010 Census impact Georgia? Did we gain or lose seats?

9. Complete the following chart

Senate	Name	Political Party / State
President of the Senate		
President Pro Tempore		
Senate Majority Leader		
Majority Whip		
Senate Minority Leader		
Minority Whip		
Your Senators		

10. When are your Senators up for re-election?

11. How many committees are there in the Senate?

12. How many Republicans are there in the Senate? How many Democrats are there in the Senate?

13. What is the base pay for Senators?

14. What is a filibuster?

15. When was the longest filibuster in Senate history? Give some details.

16. How many states have one Democratic Senator and one Republican Senator?

Article II: The Executive Branch

17. Complete the following chart (you don't have to give the party for members of the Cabinet)

President and Cabinet	Name	Party / State (POTUS & VP only)
President		
Vice President		
Secretary of State		
Secretary of Treasury		
Secretary of Defense		
Attorney General		
Secretary of Interior		
Secretary of Agriculture		
Secretary of Commerce		
Secretary of Labor		
Secretary of Health and Human Services		
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development		
Secretary of Transportation		
Secretary of Energy		
Secretary of Education		
Secretary of Veteran's Affairs		
Secretary of Homeland Security		

18. Who is the President's Chief of Staff? What is the role of the Chief of Staff?

19. What is the base pay for the POTUS (President of the United States)? For the Vice President?

Article III: The Judicial Branch

20. Complete the following chart

Supreme Court	Name	When Sworn In? President who Appointed?
Chief Justice		
Associate Justices		

21. How many federal district courts are there?

22. Where is our federal district court headquartered?

23. How many circuit courts of appeals are there?

24. In which circuit do we live?

25. What special powers/duties does the Chief Justice have on the SCOTUS (Supreme Court of the United States)?

26. What is the base pay for SCOTUS justices? The Chief Justice?