

**AP US GOVERNMENT  
AND POLITICS  
FALL 2018**

**Course Activities Packet**

**Unit 4-1:**

**The Branches - Congress (Parts 1 & 2)**

<b>AP Government Study Guide for Unit 4-1, Part A: Congress - Test on _____ (+/- a day)</b>
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When creating the test, we will write the questions with these exact resources in hand. Anything in them is fair game. Nevertheless, we have added some study questions in case that might also be helpful for you.

### 1. PowerPoint Notes – Introduction to Elections & Congress

What are some basic aspects of and differences between the Senate and the House of Representatives? What is the census, apportionment, and re-apportionment? What is constituency? Who are your Senators and Representatives? What are the terms and qualifications of service in each house? How is it that the Senate is the "upper" house? What are Congressional Committees and what is their role?

### 2. Guided Reading - Congressional Incumbency

What does "bicameral" mean? What is the story of the 17th amendment? What is a filibuster and cloture? What are marginal and safe districts? What advantages do incumbents have in elections?

### 4. How a bill becomes a Handout

What are the different phases, in order, that a bill goes through? What occurs at each stage in each house? What differences exist at each phase between each house of Congress?

### 5. Guided Reading - How a Bill Becomes a Law.

Who has an advantage in the legislative process: proponents or opponents of bills? Why? How are bills introduced? What happens to bills that are not passed into law by the end of Congress' 2 year term?

How are bills referred to particular committees? What is the role of the House Ways and Means Committee regarding revenue (tax) and appropriations (spending) bills? What is the fate of most bills? Besides bills, Congress can also pass what? What do the following terms mean, and what is their significance: hearings, mark-up sessions, discharge petition, the house rules committee, closed rule, open rule, restrictive rule?

What do the following terms mean regarding bills in the House of Representatives and what are their significance: committee of the whole, quorum, riders, quorum call? What do the following terms mean regarding bills in the Senate and what are their significance: riders, Christmas tree bills, filibusters, cloture, double-tracking

What is a conference committee and when is it needed? What can happen once a bill is sent to the President?

**6. Film: One person, One vote** (Note: This film is available online if you missed it. Go to my website, print the movie sheet, and the link is at the top of that sheet)

What sort of problem arose as people moved from rural areas to cities? What was determined in the cases of Baker v. Carr, and then in the other apportionment cases that followed?

7. Look over these two activities from unit 1:

A. **Separation of Powers & Checks and Balances Poster** from unit 1-1 The Constitution

What checks does Congress have on the other branches, and what branches do the other branches have on Congress?

8. **The LIMITED Powers of Congress - Article 1, Section 8** from unit 1-2 Federalism.

How does our Constitution limit Congress?

## PowerPoint Note sheet – Introduction to Elections and Congress

### Congress – Review Material

#### A. The Senate

1. 100 total Senators
2. Each State gets 2 Senators regardless of Population
3. Each Senator is elected by the state "at large;" that is, by all of the voters in the state.
4. Each Senator serves the state as a whole.

#### B. The House of Representatives

1. 435 total Representatives
2. Each state is "apportioned" a certain share of the 435 total Representatives based on its population.
3. The US Census is done every 10 years to determine which states populations have grown or shrunk relative to each other.
4. Each state is then "re-apportioned" a certain number of representatives in accordance with the results of the census.
  - Some states gain Representatives
  - Some states lose Representatives
5. Since Michigan's state population is currently about 3.5% of the total population of the United States, Michigan is apportioned 3.5% of the total 435 Representatives; that is, 15 of the 435.
6. Each Representative is elected only by the voters in his particular district. That is, voters in Michigan's 14th district cannot vote for the Representative who will serve in Michigan's 15th District or vice versa.
7. Each Representative serves the citizens of his district and not the entire state.

#### C. Vocabulary - \_\_\_\_\_

1. Constituency - The group of voters \_\_\_\_\_ by someone.
2. To say that Senators and Representatives represent different citizens is to say that they have different "constituencies."
3. A Senator's constituency is the voters in an entire state.
4. A Representative's constituency is the voters in a district.
5. Each of these voters individually is a '\_\_\_\_\_.'
6. A number of them are '\_\_\_\_\_.'
7. As a whole, they are the 'constituency' (or can still be referred to as the '\_\_\_\_\_'.')
8. Each of us is a constituent of a Rep, a Senator, the President, a governor, state legislators, local government officials, etc., regardless of whether we...

**II. More on Congress**

<u>The Senate</u>	<u>The House of Representatives</u>
<b><u>Terms and qualifications</u></b>	
<b>Minimum Age:</b>	
<b>Minimum years of citizenship</b>	
<b>Length of term</b>	
<b>Maximum number of terms</b>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>4 pieces of evidence that the Senate was intended to be the upper house of Congress</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> <li>4.</li> </ol>	
<p><b><u>Congressional Committees (pg 344 &amp; 345)</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Each house is divided up into small groups, called _____, that specialize in certain areas of law</li> <li>2. Committees are further divided into smaller _____</li> <li>3. Committees are headed by powerful " _____"</li> <li>4.</li> </ol>	
<p>Go to: <a href="http://www.govtrack.us/">http://www.govtrack.us/</a> and fill in the following information</p>	
Michigan's Senior Senator:	Michigan's Junior Senator:
Committee Assignments (pick a couple that seem important): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> </ol>	Committee Assignments (pick a couple that seem important): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> </ol>
Your District:	Your Representative:
Committee Assignments (pick a couple that seem important): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> </ol>	

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_

**Congressional Incumbency (TB page 321)**

1. What is a "bicameral" legislature?
2. Although it is not in the book, what would a "unicameral" legislature be?
3. Of course, the two houses of our bicameral legislature are...

Go to page 323, the last paragraph which starts with the words, "The big changes in the Senate..."

9. Originally, who chose our Senators?
10. Look at the political cartoon. What nickname did the Senate have at that time?
11. Still looking at the cartoon, what criticism is the cartoonist leveling against the Senate?
12. Back to the reading. What demand arose from the situation depicted in the cartoon?
13. What did some states have to threaten to do to get the Senate to approve of an Amendment to change this situation?
14. What happened in 1913 and what change did it bring about.
15. What is a "Filibuster" (Just get it down for now. I will explain it in more detail during class)?
16. Fully explain Rule 22 (don't leave out the revision mentioned).

**Continue →**

### **Incumbency**

"**Incumbency**" is the condition of already having the position you are running for. "**Incumbents**" are politicians who already have the job that they are trying to get re-elected to. In 2012, Barack Obama was the incumbent President running against the challenger, Mitt Romney. In 2016, there was no presidential incumbent since neither Donald Trump nor Hillary Clinton were already president. Go to page 327, the paragraph that starts, "This influx of freshman members..." How significant is the incumbency advantage in Congress?

As we've discussed, the state of Michigan is divided up into 14 congressional districts to elect our 14 members of the House of Representatives. California, which has a much larger population, has 53 districts for their 53 Representatives. With this in mind 1.) List and precisely describe the two terms that political scientists use to describe congressional districts. 2.) Put a star next to the kind that are more common.

a.

b.

7. Typically, which are safer? Safe congressional districts for representatives or safe "states" for senators?

8. What are three things that incumbents can do to familiarize voters with their name that challengers cannot?

a.

b.

c.

9. What is a final advantage that scholars argue incumbents have over challengers?

10. List several examples of your answer to the last question.

### Handout - How a bill becomes a law

**Note:** Items on the left only happen in the Senate, on the right in the House of Reps only, in a box that spans all the way from right to left, in both houses.

The Senate	The House of Representatives
<b>Phase 1 – The bill (wannabe law) is Introduced in either house by a “sponsor” or a few “co-sponsors”</b>	
A member is recognized by the presiding officer and simply announces that he is introducing a bill	A member simply drops a copy of the bill in a box on the clerk's desk called the "hopper"
Bills are marked with an <b>S.</b> and a number	Bills are marked with a <b>H.R.</b> and a number
The bill is sent to the appropriate committee by...	
The Presiding Officer	The Speaker of the House
<b>Phase 2 – Committees Action</b>	
Often, rather than scheduling further action on a bill, Committee chairs may simply set it aside and it dies. This is called " <b>pigeonholing</b> " the bill. Most bills die in committee this way.	
If not pigeonholed, the committee often refers the bill to one of its subcommittees to work on, or works on it itself.	
The subcommittee may hold <b>hearings</b> (Q and A sessions) with experts, lobbyists, or other interested parties invited (or subpoenaed) to testify.	
After hearings, the members of the subcommittee may ...	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Change the bill (by amending or re-writing the bill completely).</li> <li>2. Pass the bill (A majority votes in favor of the bill)</li> <li>3. Kill the bill (A majority votes against it)</li> </ol>	
If the bill is voted favorably out of the subcommittee, it goes back to the full committee which may do essentially the same exact things (hearings and then change, pass, or kill)	
If the full committee eventually votes favorably on the bill, it goes to the entire house (House of Reps or the Senate)	
<b>Phase 3 – The entire house (Senate or House of Reps) deals with the bill</b>	
Floor Debate - Members make speeches for or against the bill and offer amendments	
Senators can kill a bill by <b>filibustering</b> it, speaking endlessly so that a vote can never be taken for or against the bill.	Rules set by the <b>House Rules Committee</b> and enforced by the Speaker of the House govern debate so that filibustering cannot occur.
The full house votes to:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Amend the bill (Amendments are proposed and voted on)</li> <li>2. Pass the bill</li> <li>3. Kill the bill</li> </ol>	
Three things may happen here:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If the bill passes one house, it then goes to the other house and go through essentially the same procedure.</li> <li>2. Once the bill has passed both houses, it goes to the president to sign into law or to veto</li> <li>3. If it has gone through both houses, but, because of amendments, each house has passed a different version, the bill goes to a special "<b>conference committee</b>" of members of both houses to create a single version of the bill to send to the president. If the conference committee cannot create a <b>compromise version</b> that is approved by both houses, it dies.</li> </ol>	

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_

**Film: One person, One vote - <http://www.sunnylandsclassroom.org/Asset.aspx?id=1430>**

1. Fill in the missing information about Arizona (it will be repeated once).

County	Population	# of Representatives
Greenlee County		1
Maricopa County	2 million	

2. What principle was established to remedy this situation?

3. The way apportionment is supposed to work is that, if an area has more people, it gets more \_\_\_\_\_ and more representatives in the state legislature or Congress.

4. **Circle one:** As people moved from farms to cities, the population of congressional districts:

- A. Remained equal                      B. Became unequal

5. **Circle one:** According to Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter who wrote the decision in the case of **Colegrove v. Green**, who is responsible for fixing apportionment problems?

- A. State legislatures                      B. State Governors                      C. The President

6. Explain why didn't members of the state legislatures fix the "mal-apportionment" problems?

7. In the case of **Baker v. Carr**, if the Supreme Court ordered every legislature in the country to redistrict equally, they feared that the public would react how?8. What amendment, which guarantees "equal protection under the laws," came into play in **Baker v. Carr**?9. What was the outcome of the **Baker v. Carr**?

- A. The courts had jurisdiction (authority) to decide apportionment issues  
B. The state legislatures must still deal with apportionment issues

10. How many states faced redistricting lawsuits by the end of 1962?

11. What apportionment standard was set in the case of **Gray v Sanders**?12. In **Reynolds v Sims**, Justice Warren wrote that both houses of a state legislature had to be apportioned on a \_\_\_\_\_ basis and that districts had to be substantially \_\_\_\_\_ in size.

13. What was the deadline set by the court in the Reynolds case for states to reapportion their district equally?

14. By 1967, what effect did the court decision have on the size of voting districts in almost every state?

15. How did Justice Earl Warren feel about the **Baker v Carr** case which opened the door to the eventual establishing of the 'one person one vote' standard?

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_

**Guided Reading - How a Bill Becomes a Law (TB page 347)**

1. Start on the last paragraph of the page, "In the following account..." In the legislative process (bill to law process), who has the advantage? Supporters or opponents of bills?
  
2. Because of this (your answer to question #1), in order to get a bill passed, a member of Congress must do one of what two possible things?
  - a.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b.

**Introducing a Bill**

3. Who can introduce a bill?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. How are bills introduced in the House of Representatives?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. How are bills introduced in the Senate?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What do "H.R" and "S" on a bill indicate?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What happens to a bill that is not passed by both houses of Congress and signed by the President during the life (2 year term) of Congress?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What is the only way the President can introduce legislation?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Besides passing bills, Congress can also pass other actions called...

Continue →

**Study by Committees**

10. Once a bill is introduced, who refers it to the appropriate committee in each house?
  - a. In the House of Representatives:
  - b. In the Senate:
  
11. Read the rest of this paragraph and explain in your own words how the Speaker of the House can use this power (from the last question) to his advantage?
  
  
12. According to the Constitution, bills to raise revenue (that is, taxes) must originate in which house of Congress?
  
  
13. Name and define the other kind of bills that, in practice, also originate in the House of Representatives.
  
  
14. What is the name of this powerful house committee where tax bills and spending bills are sent?
  
  
15. What happens to most bills?
  
  
16. Bills that do not die in committee are scheduled for hearings (Q and A sessions with experts and interested individuals). What happens at these hearings?
  
  
17. **Complete the sentence:** These hearings are used to inform members of Congress, permit interest groups to speak out (whether or not they have anything helpful to say), and ...
  
  
18. Skip ahead to page 352, the first full paragraph. **Complete the sentence:** After the hearings, the committee or subcommittee will...
  
  
17. What ordinarily happens if the committee does not report the bill out favorably to the full House or Senate to consider?
  
  
20. Under these circumstances (from the last question), what can be done? List and define it.
  
  
21. Are these (from the last question) common?

22. **Complete the sentence**, "In the House [after a bill is out of committee], the Rules Committee reviews most bills and adopts a rule that ..."

23. Explain each of the following:

a. A Closed Rule:

b. An Open Rule:

c. A Restrictive Rule:

### **Floor Debate - The House**

24. Skip ahead to "Floor Debate - The House" on page 353. Because the House of Representatives is so large, what is the minimum number of Representatives that need to be present for to conduct business?

25. What is the name of this group of Representatives (from the last question)?

26. Although the Committee of the Whole can debate and amends bills, can it pass them?

27. Who or what must take this final action?

28. In the House of Representatives, amendments must be germane to the purpose of the bill. What does that mean?

29. Why might members of Congress ask for a Quorum call (note - it is NOT for its official purpose)?

30. What is the official purpose of a quorum call?

### **Floor Debate - The Senate**

31. Read the section on page 354 on the left titled, "Politically Speaking." What are riders?

32. What do we call bills that have a lot of riders?

Continue →

33. Since there are so many representatives, there are many more **formal rules** governing debate in the House. In the Senate, there are **informal rules** governing debate. The following procedures are all followed in the House. For each one, write "Yes" if it is also true in the senate. Write "No" if it is not also true in the senate.

a. Rules limit how long a member may debate a bill and when amendments can be offered:	b. Members remarks must be relevant to the bill:
c. There is a committee of the whole:	d. Amendments must be germane (no riders):

34. Many procedures in the House and the Senate can be skipped (like debating a bill and going straight to a vote) by **unanimous consent**. A member would call for moving to debate by unanimous consent, and if no one objects, debate would be skipped. If anyone objects, it is called a **hold** (as in, "Hold on. Don't vote. We need to debate.") and then debate would occur. If a member wishes to be informed before an action takes place, he or she may privately tell the presiding officer that they are putting a hold on the action. No questions here, but important for the test.

35. What is **cloture** (the definition in the margin in fine)?

36. What can be done to allow the senate to get on with other business while a filibuster is occurring (just name the procedure)?

37. Since, thanks to double-tracking, filibustering senators do not need to actually speak on the floor of the senate, what has happened to the number of filibusters?

38. What does the mere threat of a filibuster mean in practice?

38. Go to page 356, the paragraph that starts with, "If a bill passes the House..." If a bill passes each house with major differences, members of both houses must come together in a *what* to create a final version for each house to pass?

39. What fraction of both houses is necessary to override a presidential veto so that the bill will still become law?

When creating the test, we will write the questions with these exact resources in hand. Anything in them is fair game. Nevertheless, we have added some study questions in case that might also be helpful for you.

**1. Guided Reading - How Congress is Organized.**

What is the role of political parties in the organization of Congress? What committees assign other members to committees and why is this so important? What are the different leadership positions in Congress and what functions do they serve? How are these leaders, committee chairmen, and committee members in Congress chosen?

**2. Powerpoint - Leadership Positions in Congress Notes.** What are the titles of the presiding officers in each house, the other party leaders, and the assistants? Be very familiar with the summary table at the beginning of your powerpoint notes.

**3. Redistricting Notes.** Commit everything on these notes to your memory and understanding

**4. Guided Reading - Study Questions - Redistricting.** Understand the terms: apportionment, census, redistricting, and gerrymandering. Understand what the Supreme Court has ruled regarding redistricting. Identify the significance of Baker v Carr and Shaw v Reno. When might a state do a bi-partisan gerrymander, and how can gerrymandering be used to punish members of the opposition party?

**5. Guided Reading - The Committee System**

What are the different types of Committees in Congress? What does the House Rules Committee do (be thorough)? Explain "specialists" and "generalists." Why is selection to specific committees important? What are Pork (aka - pork-barrel legislation) and Earmarks? What does the Appropriations Committee do? How is party membership on each committee allocated? Who is typically the chairman of the various congressional committees? How can a chairman kill a bill?

**6. Guided Reading - Congressional Decision Making**

What are the three theoretical roles of members of Congress as our Representatives? What are the 5 sources or "Cues" members look to when deciding how to vote on a bill? Understand them thoroughly, including the following questions: What is Party Polarization or Partisanship, Divided Government, Gridlock, Logrolling? What tactics do Interest groups, Lobbyists, and Political Action Committees use to try to influence members of Congress?

Describe Congress' relationship with the other branches in terms of congressional oversight, appointments, impeachment, and judicial review.

**7. Table 7.5 - The advantages of Incumbency.** This table is located on the last page for this section of your supplemental readings packet (currently, supplemental readings page 52). You will be given a series of multiple choice questions which ask, "All of the following are advantages of Incumbency EXCEPT..." You will have to be able to find the false advantage.

**8. Table 7.1 The Powers of Congress.** This table is located on the last page for this section of your supplemental readings packet (currently, supplemental readings page 52). You will be asked a series of multiple choice questions which say, "All of the following are powers of Congress except..." and you will have to find the false power.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_

**Guided Reading – How Congress is Organized (SR 32 – 38)**

**Note:** Before you begin, look at the table at the end of this guided reading to get a good overview of the different leadership positions in Congress.

1. Then, when a new Congress is seated (comes together) every two years, two of the first items of business are what (Note: I'm not looking for "ascertaining formal qualifications")?

a.

b.

**The Role of Political Parties in Organizing Congress**

2. The basic division in Congress is between what two groups? List and define them.

a.

b.

3. Which party "controls" the committees?

4. At the beginning of each new Congress (Which consists of two years divided up into 2 sessions), the members of each party gather together in groups to elect their officers and leaders as well as other matters. What names do these groups go by?

5. What important task is done by the Republican Committee on Committees or the Democrats Steering Committees?

6. Look to your own textbook for a moment on page 335, the middle paragraph on the left which starts, "From the point of view of individual senators..." Fully describe what is at stake for newly elected senators when they are assigned to certain committees.

**The House of Representatives [& the subsection, The Speaker of the House]**

7. Back to the handout. Who is the presiding member of the House of Representatives, who elects her, and traditionally who is selected?

a. Presiding member of the House:

b. Elected by:

c. Traditionally this person is:

8. Besides the Speaker, who else is traditionally a member of the majority party?

9. Fill in the missing roles / powers of the Speaker (some are given for you):

- a. Presides over the House of Representatives
- b.
- c. Is the official spokesperson of the House
- c.
- d. Is the liaison (person in contact) with the president
- e.

10. The rest of this section mentions how some speakers have acquired more or less power, and that Republican Newt Gingrich was the last truly powerful Speaker in 1995. Go to the next section.

### **Other House Leaders**

11. Who are the next most powerful people in the House after the speaker and who elects them?

- a.
- b.

12. What does the majority leader (the second most powerful person in the House) do with the Speaker?

13. The majority and minority leaders (called floor leaders) have assistants who communicate with the rest of the party and tries to get members to vote on bills as the leader wishes them to. What is the name of this assistant to the floor leaders?

### **The Senate**

14. Fill in the following information about the **Presiding member(s) of the Senate**.

- a. The official presiding member:
- b. The presiding member when the official presiding member is not there:
- c. The person or people who actually do most of the presiding:

15. When is the only time the Vice President can vote in the Senate?

16. Since, unlike in the House, the presiding member is not the true leader of the senate, who is and who elects this person?

17. Go back to your textbook for a moment, page 334, the last paragraph of the page. What is the principle task of the majority leader (include who he usually consults with)?

# Leadership positions in Congress

<b>The US Senate Leadership Positions</b>	
Presiding Officer:  Vice President or President Pro Tempore	
Majority Floor Leader	Minority Floor Leader
Majority Whip	Minority Whip

<b>The US House of Representatives leadership Positions</b>	
Presiding Officer:  The Speaker of the House	
Majority Floor Leader	Minority Floor Leader
Majority Whip	Minority Whip

**Leadership positions in Congress**

**I. Official Presiding Officers**

**Presiding Officers of the Senate**

**Presiding Officers of the House of Representatives**

**A. Senate**

1.

a. Currently:



2. When the Vice President is absent...

a. Usually the longest serving member of the majority party

b. Currently:



**B. House of Representatives**

1.

a. The Most powerful member of Congress

b. Currently:



2. When the Speaker is absent...

Various members fill in

**II. Floor Leaders (Party leaders) of The Senate**  
(The Majority Party is currently the Democrats)

**Majority Leaders**

**Minority Leaders**

A. Senate Majority Leader

- 1. The most powerful member of the Senate
- 2. Currently:



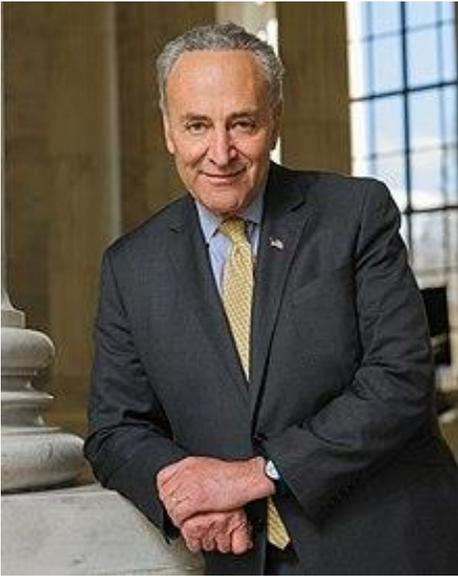
B. Assistant to the Majority Floor Leader:  
The Senate Majority \_\_\_\_\_

- 1. Currently:



C. Senate Minority Leader

- 1. Currently:



D. Assistant to the Minority Floor Leader:  
The Senate Minority \_\_\_\_\_

- 1. Currently:



**III. Floor Leaders (Party leaders) of The House of Representatives**  
(The Majority Party is currently the Republicans)

**Majority Party**

**Minority Party**

A. House Majority Leader

1. Currently:



B. Assistant to the Majority Floor Leader

The House Majority Whip

1. Currently:



C. House Minority Leader

1. Currently:



D. The House Minority Whip

1. Currently:



**Redistricting Notes**

Partisan:

Bi-Partisan

Example – Partisan Gerrymander

R	R	D
R	R	D
R	D	D
R	D	D

Example – Bi Partisan Gerrymander

R	R	D
R	R	D
R	D	D
R	D	D



Compact:

Contiguous:

Example Compact

Example Non-Compact

Example: Contiguous

Example – Non-Contiguous



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_

**Guided Reading – Study Questions - Redistricting (SR 31A - 31C)**

1. What do the following terms mean:

a. Apportionment:

b. Census:

c. Redistricting (and who does it):

d. Gerrymandering:

2. What 4 things has the Supreme Court ruled regarding redistricting over the years?

a.

1.) From a previous film, what was the Supreme Court Case that determined that courts could hear reapportionment challenges under the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment?

Answer (with a hint): **B** \_\_\_\_\_ **vs.** **C** \_\_\_\_\_

b.

c.

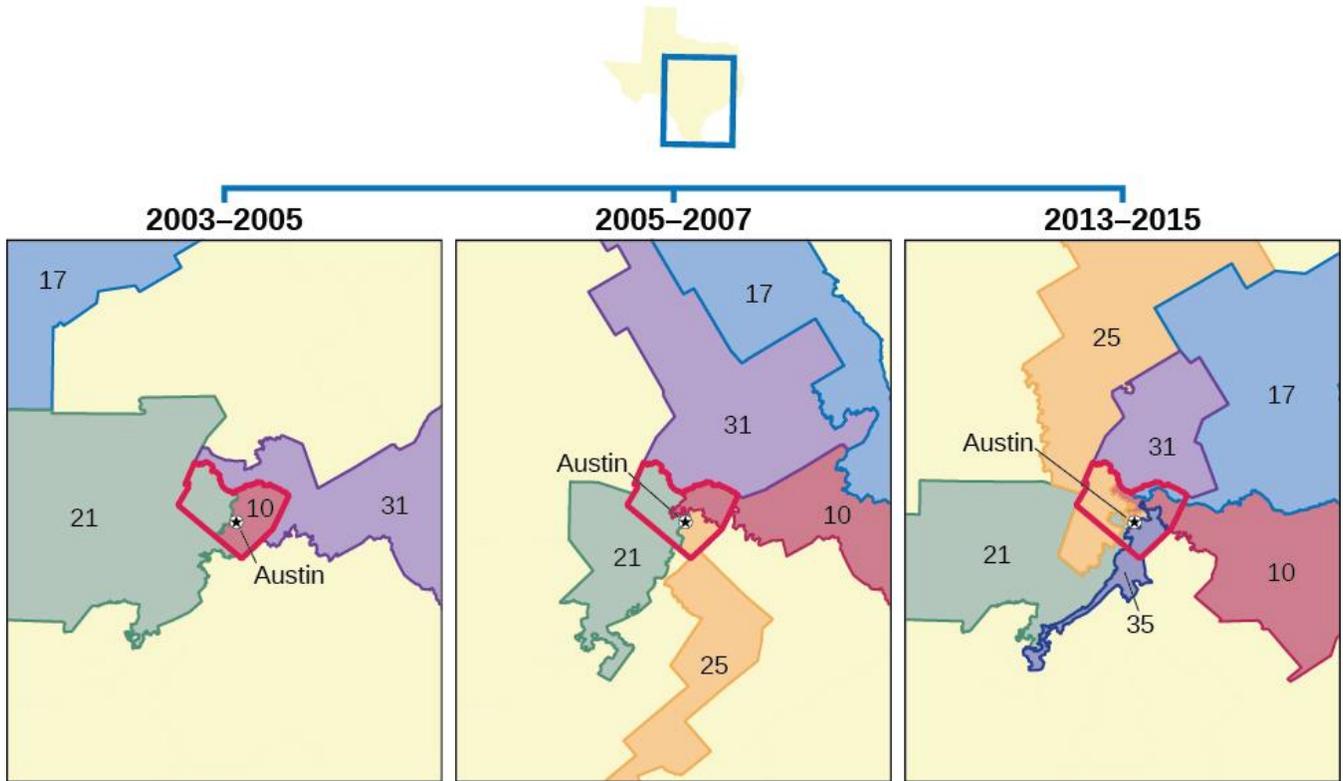
d.

1.) Note - This was determined in the case of **Shaw vs. Reno**.

3. When might a state government do a “bi-partisan gerrymander” to create safe districts for both parties?

4. How can redistricting be used to punish incumbents of the opposition party (rather than secure the seat of an incumbent member of the majority party)?

### Gerrymandering in Austin, TX, 2003–2015



5. Explain what is being shown in this graphic?

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_

**Guided Reading 16 - The Committee System (SR 39 - 42)**

1. List and define the 4 types of Congressional Committees. Use the definitions in the margins rather than the ones in the body of the text.

a.

b.

c.

d.

2. Who appoints the majority party members of the important **House Rules Committee**?

3. This powerful committee reviews bills before they go from a committee to the full house and issues a **rule**. What does the "rule" contain (be complete)?

4. What is true of bills that are considered under a **closed rule**?

5. Although committee inaction or "pigeonholing" usually kills a bill, what can the majority party in the house sign to force a bill out of committee to the full house to be considered (note - this rarely happens)?

6. Since senators serve on more committees and representatives on less, who are the "specialists" and who are the "generalists"?

### **Committee Membership**

7. **Complete the Sentence**, "[Members of Congress] often request [committee] assignments based on their own interests or expertise or ...

8. For example, members often want to be able to serve the voters back home by being placed on committees with access to "pork" or "earmarks." Define each.

a. Pork:

b. Earmarks:

9. Once such important committee is the **Appropriations Committee**. Even if Congress approves a program, what must the Appropriations Committee do for the program to be anything more than symbolic?

10. Read the rest of this section and answer the following questions.

a. If the Senate was 75% Democratic and 25% Republican and a Senate Standing Committee had 20 total members, how many of the 20 would likely be Democrats and how many Republicans?

b. However, what might the majority democrats do regarding membership on some of the more important committees?

c. Which committee is this especially true of?

### **Committee Chairs**

11. In addition to selecting subcommittee chairs, calling meetings, and recommending members to conference committees, what effective method of bill killing can committee chairs exercise?

12. Historically, who was chosen to be committee chairs?

13. Today, chairs are interviewed by party leaders to ensure that the candidates demonstrate what?

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_

**Guided Reading 17 - Congressional Decision Making (SR 43 - 52)**

1. List and define the three theoretical roles that members of Congress play as our representatives (As long as you can list and understand these three roles from their definitions, no other information on this page will be on the next test.)

a.

b.

c.

2. As members of Congress must make decisions to support or oppose bills, they sometimes look for "cues" as to how they should vote. Look at the first few pages of this reading section. What are the 5 sources of these "cues?"

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

**I. PARTY**

3. **Knowing which political party a member belongs to will tell you more about how he or she will likely vote on an issue than anything else!** Regarding the first source, (political) **party**, who in particular in their party do members of Congress often look to?

4. Related to this topic is the issue of **partisanship** or **party polarization**. Look at your own textbook for a moment on page 338 and explain what party polarization is.

5. Back to the handout. Another way of putting it is that party polarization exists when almost all Democrats vote one way on a bill and all Republicans vote another. According to the handout, was party polarization common or uncommon leading up to the election of 2006?

6. In 2006, voters selected Democrats to control Congress while a Republican, George W. Bush, was President. What is the name of this situation? Name it and also give its formal definition.

7. Name **and explain** the situation that results from divided government (and party polarization).

## **II. Constituents**

8. Name and define the second source of voting cues for members of Congress.
  
9. What percentage (or fraction) of the time do members seem to reflect the views of their constituents?

## **III. Colleagues and Caucuses**

10. Regarding the 3rd source of voting cues for members of Congress, **colleagues and caucuses**, which colleagues do members particularly look to when they themselves have little knowledge of the subject of the bill?
  
11. Explain **Logrolling** (Do not just write "vote trading").

## **IV. Interest groups, Lobbyists, and Political Action Committees**

12. Regarding the 4th source of voting cues for members of Congress, **Interest Groups, Lobbyists, and Political Action Committees**; Lobbyists, people hired by organizations to try to influence members of Congress, attempt to persuade Congressmen and women by providing them with what?
  
13. In addition to hiring lobbyists to provide information to members of Congress, the reading lists two other (lengthy) tactics that organized interest groups may take. List (in full) these other tactics.
  - a.
  
  - b.

## **V. Staff and Support Agencies**

14. The 5th source of voting cues for members of Congress, **Staff and Support Agencies**, are the people and agencies who work for the Congressmen and women. Since many members of Congress rely heavily on advice and information from these employees, who are lobbyists just as likely to contact about an issue as the members themselves?

### Congress and the other branches

15. Go to “**Congressional Oversight of the Executive Branch.**” One "check" Congress exercises over the executive branch in the practice of **Congressional Oversight**. Define it.

16. Besides using oversight investigations to determine if an executive agency or department in carrying out its responsibilities as Congress intended, oversight might also include investigating government officials or the President for the possibility of what?

17. Circle the one that accurately describes hearings by Congressional committees or subcommittees engaged in oversight.

A. Private question and answer sessions that Congress eventually reports to the public upon their conclusion.

B. Televised question and answer sessions that Congress can use to its political advantage over the executive branch.

18. Skip to "CONFIRMATION OF PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS." While you know that Congress "checks" the executive by confirming many of his appointments to government positions, including federal judges, which particular house of Congress performs this function?

Note - Article II, section 2 reads, "[the President] shall nominate, and by and with the **advice and consent** of the Senate, shall appoint ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, judges of the Supreme Court, and all other officers of the United States..." so this ability to approve of appointments is sometimes called the 'advice and consent' power. Approval requires a simple majority or 51/100 senators. Know all of that for the test.

19. You also know that Congress can bring charges against or "**impeach**" members of the executive or judicial branches. What offenses does the constitution list as impeachable offenses?

20. While vague, most commentators agree that this term was meant to mean what?

21. Because Congress' laws are subject to judicial review (the power of the federal courts to rule laws unconstitutional) Congress must be ever mindful to do what?