

**AP US GOVERNMENT
AND POLITICS
FALL 2018**

Course Activities Packet

Unit 4-2:

The Branches - The Executive Branch

AP Government Study Guide for Unit 4-2: The Executive Branch and the Bureaucracy Test _____ (+/- day)

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.

4. Guided Reading – The Evolution of the Presidency. What are the qualifications to be President? Why was the 22nd Amendment passed? How can one be President for more than 8 years? What are Presidents and Congress better suited for? Which branch is more capable of quick, decisive action? Action in Foreign Affairs? Why? What effect did the Great Depression / New Deal and World War II have on the power of the presidency?

2. Powers of the President Power Point Part 1. What are "formal / constitutional" powers of the President? Where do they come from? What are *the* formal / constitutional powers of the President? Be fully familiar with each of them and know the details given about each power (Why Presidents have these powers, the checks that exist on them, the different forms of each power, all of it). Note: It is not necessary to memorize the specific examples that I gave you about these powers.

3. Powers of the President Power Point Part 2 What are "informal" powers of the President? Where do they come from? What are *the* informal powers of the President? Be fully familiar with each power and know the details given about each power (What controversy surrounds each power, whether the power can still be exercised or not, all of it). Note: It is not necessary to memorize the specific examples that I gave you EXCEPT NAFTA and the details of Nixon's claim of executive privilege.

What does the Constitution say are the grounds for impeachment? What does it mean? What is the impeachment procedure? What are the consequences for being 'convicted' in an impeachment proceeding?

4. The Federalist #70 _____

Have a good understanding of the language of the text. What is Hamilton arguing for in Federalist #70? Why? What would be the consequences of the alternative kind of executive?

5. Guided Reading - Presidential Approval and the Budget. Why is it important for a President to try to keep his approval rating high? What pattern does a president's approval rating typically follow over time? What events can temporarily boost a president's approval rating? What typically happens to the president's party during presidential and midterm elections? What do the following terms mean and what is their significance: Honeymoon Period, Lame Duck, Federal Budget, Office of Management and Budget. Who ultimately passes the budget? Who are the different 'players' that are typically involved in the budget process and how?

6. The federal budget Key Terms. What do these terms mean: The Federal Budget, Social Security, Medicare? What is the largest source of government revenue? (don't worry about the trends on the first page too much). What do these terms mean: Mandatory spending, Entitlement Spending, and Discretionary Spending? What are the 3 largest categories of federal spending? What trends have we seen over time with these three categories? What do these terms mean: The national debt, balanced budget, budget surplus, budget deficit? What is projected to happen in 2040? Why is the national debt a problem, and what can be done about it?

7. Guided Reading - The Bureaucracy. What is the bureaucracy and what does it do? What is the spoils system, patronage, and merit system (and what % of civil servants it covers)? How easily can Presidents remove people who have been hired under the merit system? What are the 4 categories of the federal bureaucracy? Fully explain the details and differences between each one. How does one become a cabinet head, and how easily can the President remove them? How does one become the head of an independent regulatory commission and how easily can the President remove them? What is the reason for their job security? How does the bureaucracy shape policy with implementation, rule-making and administrative discretion? What is an Iron Triangle/Issue network? What are the three points of an Iron Triangle/Issue network? Understand them. How can the other branches hold the Bureaucracy responsible?

8. Unit 4-2 Khan Academy Presidency Video - Technology and Presidential Communication. How do modern media options allow Presidents to 'go public, craft a message,' and have a 'rapid response?' Why is this important for Presidents?

Name _____ Hour _____

Guided Reading 18 – The Evolution of the Presidency (SR 53 - 56)

1. List the 3 qualifications to be President of the United States (and Vice President too).
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 2. In your own words, explain this modified quote. "For over 150 years, the precedent established by George Washington avoided the Framers' much-feared 'constitutional monarch.'"
 3. **Explain** what was done after Franklin Delano Roosevelt was elected to be President 4 times.
 4. Since each presidential term is only 4 years, how is it actually mathematically possible to be president for a total of 10 years?
- Go to page 289.
5. In early America, which Branch of the government was clearly the most powerful?
 6. Who was the first president to use his personal popularity with the American people to assert himself against Congress by, for example, vetoing more legislation than all previous presidents combined?
 7. When the country needed quick decisive leadership during the civil war, Lincoln took many actions that might be construed as unconstitutional. How did Lincoln argue that his actions were constitutional?

8. Circle one: Which of the following is rather slow moving?

- A. Congress B. The President

9. Which is capable of quick decisive action?

- A. Congress B. The President

10. In the slow moving world of early America, which was allowed to make most decisions?

- A. Congress B. The President

11. In the new fast paced high technology world, who has the public expected to make more decisions?

- A. Congress B. The President

12. Because of its slow moving nature, Congress is particularly unable to respond to events in what area of policy?

13. During the presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, two crises occurred that required quick, decisive action. To combat both of these crises, FDR was given an enormous increase in executive power. What were these two crises?

- a. b.

14. With Roosevelt, the power of the President was permanently expanded as he created and oversaw a great number of new federal agencies to deal the great depression. What was the name of his overall program to fight the Great Depression?

15. **Fill in the blanks**, "To his successors, FDR left the modern presidency, including a _____
_____, and active and usually leading role in both
_____ and _____ and _____,
and a nationalized executive office that used technology - first radio, then television, and not the internet - to
bring the president _____ than ever before.

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bring the president _____ than ever before.

15. The **Federal Budget** is the government's plan for raising money and then spending it on various programs for the year. **Complete the sentence**, "The budget proposal (of the President) not only outlines the programs he wants but indicates ..."

16. What event gave what President a leading role in the budgetary process?

17. What is the current name of the executive office that prepares the budget for the President?

18. Look at figure 18.3. What is the single largest source of revenue (income) to the federal government?

19. Once the President's OMB creates a budget, it is submitted for approval to who?

Note - Congress can, and always does, change the president's budget proposal. It is ultimately Congress that creates the final federal budget which is a resolution that does not require the President's signature.

20. What committees actually have the final say on all government spending?

21. **Go to page SR 64B.** List the different players (some done for you) who are either formally required to be part of the budget process or decide to be part of the budget process. Answer questions about them if there any:

A. _____ - Interest groups will lobby the president, congressional committees, and even agencies inside the executive branch to appropriate funding for government projects that they support. (example: Lobbyists from weapons manufactures will lobby for more military spending)

B. _____ - These are the parts of the executive branch that are going to use this budgeted money to do their jobs. Of course, they are going to push for more of it.

C. The Office of Management and Budget - Why does the President rely on the OMB rather than work out the budget himself?

D. The President - What does the President do after the OMB submits his budget proposal to Congress?

E. Tax Committees in Congress - What are these committees in each house?

F. As you said in Question number 20, who has final say on all of this spending in the budget?

Skip to the second to the last one now. Don't worry about the others:

G. Congress as a whole - What are senators and representatives looking to do with the budget?

Name _____ Hour _____

The Federal Budget Key Terms**For Khan Academy US Government and Politics Video - 'Discretionary and mandatory outlays of the US Federal Government'****I. Federal Budget Key Terms Part 1**

A. The Federal Budget: The federal government's annual plan for bringing in money (called 'revenue') and spending that money (called 'expenditures').

B. Payroll Taxes: A tax, 50% of which is paid by the employee and 50% by the employer. It is used to fund programs like social security and Medicare.

C. Social Security: A government program that mainly provides monthly income to retired Americans.

D. Medicare: A government program that provides health care for the elderly.

E. Excise Tax: A tax on certain products like alcohol, tobacco, gasoline, etc.

Video Segment 1 Questions

1. What are the 4 largest sources of government revenue (the largest is on the bottom of the graphic)?

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.

2. What trends do you see?

3. According to the graph, has the amount of money collected in income taxes increased, decreased, or remained constant? By how much?

II. Federal Budget Key Terms Part 2

- A. Outlays: The Amount spent on something
- B. Mandatory Spending: Spending that the federal government has no choice but to do under existing law. It is primarily done on entitlement programs.
- C. Entitlement Programs: Programs that provide money or benefits to citizens who qualify for them; i.e., become 'entitled' to them.
1. Examples include Social Security and Medicare.
 2. Once you are old enough to qualify for these programs, the government has no choice but to provide you with these benefits under existing law.
- D. Discretionary Spending: Spending that the federal government chooses to do each year on things like infrastructure.
1. The biggest category of discretionary spending is spending on the military.

Video Segment 2 Questions

4. What are the largest categories of federal spending?
- a.
 - b.
 - c.
5. What trends do you see over time?
6. According to the graph, has the amount of discretionary spending gone up, down, or not changed? By how much?

III. Federal Budget Key Terms Part 3

A. GDP (Gross Domestic Product) - The total dollar value of all goods and services produced in a country in a year. More plainly, you could call it 'the dollars' worth of stuff we made in a year,' or 'total US income earned from producing things.'

1. Typically, GDP grows over time because we usually make more goods and services each year than we did the year before.
2. US GDP in 2017 was over 19 trillion dollars.

B. Understanding 'Percentage of GDP.'

1. As a nation, we pay for everything, including our government, with money earned from producing and selling goods and services, from GDP.
2. For this reason, economists sometimes report government spending as a percentage of GDP. It answers the question, "Out of all of the money earned in a year by making and selling American products, what percentage of it was used to pay for government spending?"

C. The national debt: The total amount of money that the federal government owes from past borrowing.

1. As the national debt increases, the amount of interest that we must pay each year also increases.

D. Three possible Budget Outcomes:

1. A Balanced Budget: When the government spends the same amount of money that it collects in a year.

- a. The national debt does not change.

2. A Budget Surplus: When the government spends less money than it takes in this year (it has money left over).

- a. The national debt can decrease

3. A Budget Deficit: When the government spends more money than it takes in this year (it has to borrow).

- a. The national debt increases.

- b. The amount of money we must pay each year in interest increases.

- c. The government typically runs budget deficits of several hundreds of billions of dollars.

Video Segment 3 Questions

6. What trends do you see in the graph?

7. What happens at or around 2040?

8. At this point, what % of government revenue is available for discretionary spending on things like the military, infrastructure, etc.?

IV. Federal Budget Key Terms Part 3 - Other Considerations?

A. Why is the national debt a problem?

1. The national debt is a problem because of the increasing amount of interest that is attached to it.
2. If you send the government \$1 in tax money and there is no debt, you get \$1 worth of government services in return.
3. If you send the government \$1 in tax money and there is a debt, you may get only \$.80 worth of government services in return because \$.20 of every dollar needs to be spent paying interest on the debt.
4. Theoretically, if the debt continues to rise, perhaps one day we may send \$1 in tax money to the government and get a nickel's worth of government services because \$.95 of every dollar needs to go toward paying interest on the debt.
5. Currently, the national debt is over \$20 trillion.

B. What can be done about the debt?

1. The only way to reduce (and maybe even eliminate) the national debt is to run budget surpluses instead of budget deficits for many years.
2. This can be done by either:
 - a. Raising taxes
 - b. Cutting spending on things like entitlement programs or national security
 - c. A combination of a. and b.
3. Despite what some people may say, eliminating government waste will do almost nothing to reduce the national debt.

Name _____ Hour _____

Guided Reading 21 – The Bureaucracy (SR 66 - 73)

1. What is **the Bureaucracy**? (Note: "bureaucracy" in general is defined in the margin, but I am asking you about "The" Bureaucracy, the Federal Bureaucracy, so stick to the main body of the text for that)

2. **Complete the Sentence**, "Although Congress makes the laws, it must rely on ..."

3. The federal Bureaucracy is often called the _____ branch of government.

Roots of the Federal Bureaucracy

4. When taking office, new presidents would often fire people in the bureaucracy so he could replace them with people loyal to him and his political party. What was this system known as?

5. This system was a form of patronage. What was **patronage**?

From the Spoils System to the Merit System

6. In accordance with the Pendleton Act of 1883, the spoils system has been replaced with the new civil service system called the Merit System. What is the Merit System?

7. About what percent of federal employees are covered under the merit system?

NOTE - Because these bureaucrats are hired based on their performance on competitive exams and can no longer be fired for political reasons, their jobs are not examples of patronage.

Formal Organization

8. There are at least how many civilian agencies within the federal bureaucracy today?

9. What are the 4 categories of the Federal Bureaucracy (all agencies fall within one of them)?

a.

b.

c.

d.

Cabinet Departments (aka - Executive Departments)

10. Explain what the 15 **cabinet departments (aka Executive Departments)** are.

11. The heads of these departments, along with the vice president and few others, make up an advisory body to the president called what?

12. What are the heads of most of the cabinet departments all called and what is the head of the Justice Department called?

13. Although cabinet secretaries work for the President, who else can hold them, and all other bureaucrats, accountable by appropriating their funding in the budget process (the power of the purse)?

14. **Complete the sentence**, "Most departments are subdivided into ..."

Government Corporations

15. What are government corporations?

16. What do government corporations do that other governmental agencies do not do?

17. **Circle the one that is true:**
 - A. Congress will create a government corporation to try to compete with private businesses
 - B. Congress will create a government corporation to provide a valuable public service when business has little financial incentive to do so.

Independent Executive Agencies

18. What are **Independent Executive Agencies** (the definition in the margin is good)?

19. **Complete the sentence**, "The heads of these agencies are appointed ..."

Note - So unlike most bureaucrats who are hired under the merit system, cabinet secretaries and the heads of independent executive agencies are appointed by the President (approved by Senate) and can be fired at his discretion. So these jobs might be considered to be more like patronage.

Independent Regulatory Commissions

20. What are independent regulatory commissions?
21. Explain why Congress created them (This answer might be a bit long)
22. List 4 examples of Independent Regulatory Commissions
- a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
23. Like Cabinet Secretaries and the heads of independent executive agencies, heads of the independent regulatory commissions are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Is it just as easy for the President to fire them too?
24. **Why not? Complete the sentence to see.** "In 1935, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that in creating independent [regulatory] commissions, Congress had intended that they be ...

How the Bureaucracy Works

25. When Congress creates a new office somewhere in the bureaucracy, what is it actually delegating or giving away?
26. That is because even though these offices are executing a law that Congress passed, they will make many policy decisions themselves about how exactly they will execute them, and these policy decisions have the effect of what?
27. Congress sets general guidelines for these bureaucratic agencies, and leaves it to the agency to work out the details which is called what (Name and define it)?

Name _____ Hour _____

Unit 4-2 - Khan Academy Presidency Video - Technology and Presidential Communication

1. While Presidents have always been 'automatically newsworthy,' what media options do modern Presidents have that earlier Presidents have not?

2. From 2010, to 2014, the percentage of voters who follow politicians on social media has...
 - A. Doubled overall
 - B. Doubled among younger voters
 - C. Doubled for Republicans

3. This makes it easier for the President to speak directly to the people to support his agenda, called...
 4. They even _____ to appeal to specific demographics.

5. What did President Obama create that President Trump now uses (and uses and uses and uses)?
 6. It allows the President to have a _____ to events as they unfold.

7. To see why this is important, answer the following question (it's not in the video). Which do you think has a greatest impact on people? Which do you think has the most 'staying power'?
 - A. The first interpretation of an event that they hear.
 - B. The second interpretation of an event that they hear.
 - C. The third interpretation of an event that they hear.

8. So social media like twitter allows Presidents to 'beat the media' in framing events in the minds of voters rather than possibly having to fight later to 're-frame' events. No question here.