Constitution Test Study Guide

1. The number of U.S. Senators serving from each state is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (2) and a senator's term is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(6) years in length. (Article I, Section 3, Clause 1)

2. If a President refuses to sign a bill, his refusal is called a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(veto).

(Article I, Section 7, Clause 2)

3. When a bill is rejected by the President, Congress can still make it a law by voting to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(override) the veto. An override requires a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (two thirds) vote in both houses (Senate and House of Representatives) (Article I, Section 7, Clause 2)

4. If the President is put on trial it is called an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (impeachment). The trial takes place in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (the Senate). (Article I, Section 3, Clause 6) \*The Chief Justice presides.

5. What is an "ex post facto" law?

An ex post facto law is a law that is "after-the-fact." It is an attempt to convict someone for doing something that was not illegal when he did it. Article I, Section 9 says that ex post facto laws are un-Constitutional.

6. How can the Constitution be changed?

There has to be a two-thirds vote of Congress and then a two thirds vote of all the states or the states can vote for a change without Congress. (Article V)

7. What role does Congress play in relation to the militia and the navy? Congress provides for the militia and the navy. Congress creates the armed forces. (Article I, Section 8)

8. How are new states created? Congress does that. (Article IV, Section 3)

9. Who has the formal power to declare war? Congress (Article I, Section 8, Clause 11)

10. What special power does Congress have in the area of raising revenue? Congress has the power to tax. (Article I, Section 8, Clause 1).

11. Who has the power to negotiate treaties with other countries? The President can do that with "the advice and consent of the Senate." (Article II, Section 2, Clause 2)

12. Four powers given to Congress include:

1. Power to tax
2. Power to declare war
3. Power to punish counterfeiting
4. Power to coin money
5. Power to create the armed forces
6. Power to establish a capitol city
7. Power to regulate commerce (buying and selling)
8. Power to establish patents for inventors
9. Power to borrow money
10. Power to make rules of how to become a citizen (naturalization)
11. Power to "call forth the militia"

(Article I, Section 8)

13. Three powers given to the President are:

1. Power to oversee the military
2. Power to appoint supreme court justices, ambassadors, etc.
3. Power to grant commissions

(Article II, Section 2, Clauses 1,2,3)

14. According to Article III, Section 3 what is treason? How can a person be convicted of treason? (Giving aid and comfort to enemies of the United States; testimony of two witnesses)

15. What are five steps by which a bill becomes law?

Step One: The bill is proposed in either the House of Representatives or the Senate.

Step Two: The bill is discussed in committee.

Step Three: The bill must be passed by both houses of Congress

Step Four: The bill goes to the President.

Step Five: The President either signs or vetoes the bill. If he signs it, the bill becomes law.

(Article I, Section 7, Clause 2)

16. The three requirements of someone running for President are:

1. Natural-born citizen

2. Age 35 or over

3. Fourteen years in U.S. residence.

(Article II, Section I, Clause 5)

17. Three qualifications of a Senator are:

1. Must be at least 30 years old

2. Nine years a citizen

3. Live in the state where you are

running

(Article I, Section 3, 3)

18. What is extradition?

When a prisoner or slave escapes to another state and is discovered, the state must transport the person back to the original state. (Article IV, Section 2, Clause 2)

19. What does Article VI say about U.S. debt? Debts are valid under the new government as they were under the Articles of Confederation government. (Section 1)

20. What is the census, how often must the census be taken, and what does the census have to do with Congress?

The census is a population count, and it is taken every ten years. members of Congress are determined by population counts. (Article I, Section 2, Clause 3)

21. What does Article I, Section 9, Clause 1 prevent Congress from doing with the slave trade? (Congress cannot restrict it in any way until 1808)

22. Who is the President of the Senate and what is his job?

It is the Vice-President, and he breaks tie-votes. (Article I, Section 3, Clause 4)

23. List four things that the states are not allowed to do under the restrictions of Article I, Section 10, Clauses 1?

1. No state can make a treaty with a foreign government.

2. No state can coin its own money.

3. No state can pass its own ex post facto laws.

4. No state can give anyone a royal title.

24. The top of the judicial branch is

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The Supreme Court (Article III, Section 1)

25. According to Article III, Section 2,

"the judicial power shall extend to:"

1. All cases in law and equity

2. Laws of the United States

3. Treaties of the United States

4. Controversies concerning the U.S., states, or individuals

(Article III, Section 2, Clause 1)

26. What is the Electoral College, How many Electors are in the College, and how is this number determined?

The Electoral College is the process by which Presidents of the United States are elected.

There are a total of 538 electoral votes. To be elected, a candidate must receive a majority of the electoral votes—at least 270 votes.

How do we arrive at 538 electoral votes?

   100 senators   
   435 representatives in the House   
       3 electors for Washington, D.C.   
= 538 electoral votes

(Article II, Section 1, Clause 3) and (Amendment 12)

27. According to Article VII, what is necessary for the new Constitution to be ratified?

9 states have to vote for it.

28. Two additional titles of the President are:

- Commander-in-Chief

- Chief Executive

(Article II, Section 2, Clause 1)

29. According to the Preamble, the purposes of creating the Constitution are:

- To form a more perfect union

- To establish justice

- To insure domestic tranquility

- To provide for the common defense

- To promote the general welfare

- To secure the blessings of liberty

(Preamble)

EXTRA CREDIT -

1. Name a special immunity that members of Congress enjoy.

2. How often is Congress required to meet?

3. All bills that raise revenue must come from which House of Congress?

4. States must give each other "full faith and credit." What does that mean?

5. The United States Constitution was written in the year \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and was ratified in the year \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.