**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**AP Government & Politics Summer Assignment 2025**

*Next year, you will be embarking on a wild ride through the world of politics and the history of our government. There will be discussions, debates, lectures, activities, quizzes, and a lot of reading. Although this might sound challenging, the summer assignment is designed to get you ahead and lay a foundation in order to make sense of AP Government & Politics.*

***Required Assignments***

* Philosophies·
* Constitution Scavenger Hunt
* Amendments

Many of the answers can be found at https://constitutioncenter.org/ Complete all work in your own words. **DO NOT COPY/PASTE** from the Constitution or from any other source. This assignment must be completed in full and turned on or before SEPTEMBER 12, 2025 to receive credit.

* **Your work should be your own**. You may print and handwrite OR convert this to a GoogleDoc (so it automatically saves your progress as you work).
	+ Please change the font color so that your answers stand out. The formatting might get a little strange looking, please do not worry about it.
* It may be possible to simply search Google and submit the “correct” answers. It is always possible to copy another student’s answers. THIS IS A BAD IDEA. One of the skills you are developing is synthesizing a large amount of material and breaking it into smaller parts. When you cheat, you rob yourself of the opportunity to develop that skill and it will make the course more difficult.
	+ Students who “work on it together” and/or submit identical work will only receive a portion of the overall grade. (EXAMPLE: If two students submit identical work, each will receive 50% of the points earned.)
* There will be a Constitution Quiz on Friday, September 12th.
* *Please email with ANY questions:* *LHoffman@RMCTC.org*

**Philosophies:**

1. Who were John Locke, Montesquieu and Rousseau? What do they have to do with the USA?

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1. What is the “Social Contract”? How does it relate to our government?

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1. What natural rights did John Locke advocate? Do these sound familiar?

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1. What were the Articles of Confederation? What was the problem with these?

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1. Was everyone for the proposed US Constitution? Why or why not?

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1. How was the Constitution ratified?

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**Constitution:**

**Main idea: KNOW THE THREE BRANCHES, THEIR ENUMERATED POWERS AND HOW THEY CAN CHECK/BALANCE EACH OTHER!!!!**

**The Constitution** – this is an EXTREMELY important document for everyone in this country, especially AP Gov. students! Understanding it will provide a great foundation for the class. Knowing it well before starting the class will give you a solid starting point for the class that will last throughout the year.

These are guiding questions for reading the Constitution. All answers can be found in the U.S. Constitution, https://constitutioncenter.org/, or by searching online. *Remember that all responses should be written in your own words.*

1) Describe the basic function of each of the three branches: One sentence for each.

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| Legislative  |     |
| Executive  |     |
| Judicial  |     |

1. Identify the terms of office and qualifications for each:

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| **Executive & Legislative Officers** Constitutional eligibility requirements (also known as formal requirements)  |
|   | TERM OF OFFICE  | QUALIFICATIONS  |
| U.S. House  |   |     |
|  U.S. Senate   |   |     |
| President  |   |     |
| Vice President  |     |   |

1. Identify two powers denied to Congress in the Constitution. Where is this found in the Constitution?

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1. How does the House of Representatives determine the rules of proceedings (the ability to have debates, amendments, etc.)? Where is this found in the Constitution?

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1. Identify two powers the Constitution denies to the States. Where is this found in the Constitution?

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1. According to the principle 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. **\*\*Don’t forget to list where it is found in the Constitution!\*\***

* 1. A power that the executive branch has over the legislative branch.

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* 1. A power that the executive branch has over the judicial branch.

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* 1. A power that the legislative branch holds over the executive branch.

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* 1. A power that the legislative branch holds over the judicial branch.

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* 1. A power that the judicial branch holds over the executive branch.

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* 1. A power that the judicial branch holds over the legislative branch.

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# Electoral College

1. If not candidate for the presidency wins a simple majority of the total number of electoral votes, what body as the power to choose the president?

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1. What margin is required to choose the president?

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1. Where in the Constitution is the Electoral College described (hint: there are two parts)

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# ARTICLE I - Legislative Branch

1. Article I, Section 1: What is the meaning of Section 1? What is Bicameral? Why did they create two branches?

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# Article I, Section 2 – US House

1. Term of Office?

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1. Qualifications?

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1. Define apportionment.

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1. Define impeachment. Who has the power to impeach? How does impeachment work?

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## Article I, Section 3 – US Senate

1. Term of Office?

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1. Qualifications?

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1. How were US Senators originally selected? How did the 17th Amendment change this? Which system is more democratic?

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1. What are the restrictions on the Vice President’s Senatorial power?

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1. Who is the President Pro Tempore? Why does this position exist?

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1. What is the Senate’s impeachment power? What are the vote requirements?

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**Article I, Section 8-Congress’ Powers.**

1. What are the enumerated powers of Congress? What does enumerated even mean?

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1. Why does the legislative branch have so much power? (Hint: Articles of Confederation)

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1. How can Congress check other branches? Executive and Judicial

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# ARTICLE II - Executive Branch

## Article II, Section 1

1. What is the term of office for president and vice president? What are the qualifications?

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|   | Term of Office  | Qualifications  |
| President  |   |      |
| Vice President  |   |      |

1. Explain the president’s role as Commander in Chief.

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1. What are the President’s duties as they relate to diplomacy/foreign affairs?

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1. Define pardon.

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1. Can the president appoint judges/diplomats without Congress? What is Congress’ role?

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1. What is the State of the Union address? When is it to be given?

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1. List all of the enumerated powers of the president. YOU WILL BE TESTED ON THESE!

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## Article II, Section 4

1. Under what conditions can the president and vice president be removed from office?

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1. Define high crimes and misdemeanors.

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1. Who were the only three presidents to be impeached? Were they removed from office?

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1. What body has the power to impeach the president?

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1. What vote is required to impeach?

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# ARTICLE III - The Judicial Branch

## Article III, Section 1

1. What is the only court established by the Constitution?

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1. What is the term of office for federal judges? What is the logic of this provision?

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1. The court of original jurisdiction is the first court that hears a case. Appellate courts hear cases on appeal from lower courts. Although the Supreme Court functions primarily as an appellate court, it is the court of original jurisdiction in certain kinds of cases. What are those? \*\*Don’t forget to list where it is found in the Constitution!\*\*

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**Article IV-** What is full faith and credit?

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**Article VI-**What is the Supremacy Clause?

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# THE AMENDMENTS

1. What are two ways that amendments can be proposed?

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1. What are two ways that amendments to the Constitution can be ratified?

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1. What are the first 10 Amendments of the Constitution called? Why were these created?

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1. What is the 10th amendment? How might this conflict with the “Supremacy Clause”?

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1. Which amendment(s) of the Constitution protects the rights of women and how do they protect them?

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1. Which amendment(s) of the Constitution protect the rights of African Americans?

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1. The 25th Amendment describes the sequence of events that would install the vice president as acting president against the will of the president. Outline that sequence of events.

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