**AP Government**

**The Executive Branch Study Guide**

The Presidency - Chapter 13

Congress & The President - Chapter 14

The Federal Bureaucracy – Chapter 15

*Terminology:*

**The Presidency**

1. Divided government 13. Executive Agencies 26. 12th Amendment
2. Unified government 14. Independent Agencies 27. 22nd Amendment
3. Electoral College 15. Acting Appointments 28. 25th Amendment
4. Faithless electors 16. Presidential honeymoon 29. Impeachment
5. Pyramid structure 17. Veto message & Pocket 30. Bully pulpit
6. Circular structure veto 31. Inherent powers
7. Ad hoc structure 18. Line-item veto 32. Take Care of Clause
8. Cabinet 19. Clinton v. New York (1998) 33. Executive orders
9. Executive Office of 20. Executive privilege 34. Signing statements

the President 21. U.S. v. Nixon (1974) 35. Executive agreements

1. Office of Management 22. Congressional Budget and 36. Coattail effect

& Budget (OMB) Impoundment Act (1974) 37. Approval rating

1. Council of Economic 23. Impoundment 38. Imperial presidency

Advisers (CEA) 24. Lame duck 39. War Powers Act (Resolution)

1. National Security 25. Presidential Succession

Council (NSC) Act (1947)

**Congress & The President**

1. Budget 13. Indexing 24. Congressional Budget Office
2. Deficit 14. Tax Reform Act (1986) 25. General Accounting Office
3. Expenditures 15. Gross domestic product (GPD) 26. Appropriations Committee
4. Revenues 16. “Military Industrial Complex” 27. Budget & Accounting Act 1921
5. Interest on Debt 17. Social Security Act (1935) 28. Senate Finance Committee
6. Income tax 18. Medicare (1965) 29. Congressional Budget &
7. Internal Revenue Service 19. “Great Society Impoundment Act 1974
8. Regressive tax 20. Incrementalism 30. Budget resolution
9. Progressive tax 21. Mandatory expenditures 31. Reconcilation
10. Flat tax 22. Office of Management & 32. Authorization Bill
11. Federal debt Budget (OMB) 33. Appropriations Bill
12. Tax loopholes 23. House Ways & Means 34. Gramm-Rudman-Hollings 1985

Committee 35. Sequestrations

**The Bureaucracy**

1. Bureaucracy 11. Competitive service 20. Committee clearance
2. Government by proxy 12. Merit system 21. Legislative veto
3. Patronage 13. Civil Service Reform Act 22. INS v. Chada (1983)
4. Spoils system of 1978 23. Red tape
5. Pendleton Act (1883) 14. Hatch Act of (1933 & 1993) 24. Duplication
6. Laissez faire economics 15. Whistle Blower Protection 25. Deregulation
7. Discretionary authority Act (1989) 26. National Performance Review
8. Command & control policy 16. Iron triangles 27. Freedom of Information Act
9. Incentive system 17. Issue networks (1966)
10. Office of Personnel 18. Authorization legislation 28. National Enviromental Policy

Management 19. Appropriations Act (1969)

***Important Legislation:***

* Clean Air Act (1963) - Endanger Species Act (1973) - Civil Rights Act of 1964
* Voter Rights Act of 1965 - Aid to Families with Dependent - No Child Left Behind (2000)
* American with Disabilities Act Children (AFDC) - Welfare Reform Act 1996

1990

***General Knowledge***

**Presidency:**

1. List the differences between a president and a prime minister.
2. What are the qualifications to be president? How does the public perceive the presidency?
3. What does it mean to have a divided or a unified government? Why do we still have gridlock, even with a unified government?
4. What are the arguments for why we have gridlock?
5. How does the difference between representative and direct democracy explain gridlock?
6. What concerns did the Founders have about the idea of having of president? How did the creation of the Electoral College allay those fears? (Federalist papers 69 – 70)
7. Learn the list of presidential powers on p. 398. You should know all of them. Pay attention to which powers the Presidents shares with the Senate or Congress as a whole or has sole power.
8. What are the three structures for a president to organize his staff? What are the advantages and disadvantages of each?
9. Explain how much influence the president has over his cabinet officials and agency heads.
10. Why is there a tension between the White House staff and cabinet secretaries?
11. Explain the differences in the three audiences that the president speaks to. Think about how Presidents Clinton and Bush have managed to address these three audiences.
12. Explain the reasons why the president’s popularity does and does not have an effect on getting congressional support for his programs.
13. After spending some time looking at the three links for charts of presidential popularity, write down three generalizations you can make about presidential popularity.
14. Give details about the following terms: veto message, pocket veto, and the line-item veto.
15. What is executive privilege and what has the Supreme Court said about it?
16. What is impoundment? What did Nixon do and how did Congress respond?
17. What are the four groups that the book talks about who have input on a president’s program? Be familiar with the strengths and weaknesses of each.
18. What are the three constraints on the president’s ability to plan a program?
19. What is the role of political polls in decision-making? What are the two models the book describes for using polls?
20. What is the present line of succession if the president should die in office?
21. Summarize the conclusion the text makes about the power of the president and the federal government.
22. After reading the handout on “Restraining the Imperial Presidency,” make a list of the ways that the Congress tried to limit the president’s powers in the past 30 years. Make sure you understand all of these.

**Bureaucracy**

1. What makes American bureaucracy distinctive? (look at the arguments about the bureaucracy, limitations to it, and Max Weber’s classical conception of bureaucracy)
2. Examine the myths and truths of the American bureaucracy. Explain Americans’ have these misconceptions and what are the truths.
3. How and why has the role of bureaucratic agencies changed since the Civil War?
4. How has the process for recruiting and hiring of bureaucratic workers changed over America’s history?
5. How and why have these officials lost constitutional rights because of the job they do?
6. What concerns does the president have in choosing whom to appoint? How have these concerns changed since the 19th century?
7. Compare and contrast the four different bureaucratic agencies, as well as known examples of each?
8. What is meant by the idea that the bureaucracy as policy implementers? What challenges does the bureaucracy face that makes this job impossible to carry out?
9. Why was the implementation of the 1965 Voting Rights act so successful?
10. Why do regulatory powers of government become greater starting in the late 1877? (How does Munn v. Illinois assist that effort?)
11. What are the three elements that all regulation has in them?
12. Why do people argue for deregulations? Why do people argue for regulation?
13. How can the President maintain his authority of the bureaucracy? How effective is his control over the bureaucracy?
14. What controls does Congress have over the bureaucracy?
15. Explain what iron triangles are and why they are less common today.
16. What are the five bureaucratic pathologies that the book identifies? Explain why each exists. Why is it so difficult to reform the bureaucracy?