

**West Campus High School**  
**AP Government Summer Reading Assignments**  
**2009 – 2010 School Year**

**Mrs. Samaan**

I am asking that you complete the three summer assignments to help prepare you for the class. These assignments will enhance your knowledge of American Government and will enable us to begin the course as soon as school begins. **All assignments will be due the second day of class! Unless I notify you that there has been a change.** Copying/Pasting text will not be tolerated—this is cheating, thus you will receive an automatic zero, put information in your own words! You will have a quiz on all or part of the assignment when you return to school. This assignment will be a big part of your grade; it can be the difference between an A and B.

1. Read chapter 1 in your textbook and answer the short answer questions. You may pick up a textbook form Ms. Nobida starting on 7-14-2010.

2. Read the United States Constitution.

Read each article AND section and complete the worksheet. No assignment will be accepted late. No exceptions. Failure to do this assignment will affect your grade dramatically.

3. Read excerpts of John Locke's Second Treaties of Civil Government.

Do the questions on a separate sheet of paper. Attached your answer to the questions.

PLEASE CONTACT ME IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS. MY EMAIL IS [lynne-samaan@sac-city.K12.ca.us](mailto:lynne-samaan@sac-city.K12.ca.us)

Read the chapter 1 in your textbook and answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper (45 points)

1. Explain the difference between power, authority and legitimacy. Explain how Americans think of the last concept in particular.
2. Explain two senses of the word "democracy" and note historical examples of each.
3. What are some of the requirements for representative democracy and what are some ways that representative democracies in Europe are different from America?
4. Explain the sense in which the Founding Fathers expected the "will of the people" and "majority opinion" would figure into the new government.
5. What are three conditions of majoritarian politics?
6. Identify and explain four schools of thought about the distribution of power in society. Along the way, note which view suggests the widest distribution of power, which view is popular with political scientists and which view has the most positive ramifications for America.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## **THE US CONSTITUTION (75 Points)**

Available at: <http://www.usconstitution.net/const.html> or  
<http://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/constitution.overview.html>

**Directions:** Read the US Constitution and complete the following questions directly on this handout or on a separate sheet of paper attached to the assignment. We will discuss this in class and you will be responsible for this information on a future test.

### **PART I - THE OVERALL STRUCTURE OF THE CONSTITUTION**

1. Read each article of the Constitution. Summarize the general purpose or subject of each article in one or two sentences below.

Article I

Article II

Article III

Article IV

Article V

Article VI

Article VII

2. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for members of the House?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for members of the Senate?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for the President?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What is the term of House member? \_\_\_\_\_ What is the term of a Senator? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the term of the President? \_\_\_\_\_ How terms may someone serve as President? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Who fills a vacant seat in the House? \_\_\_\_\_

7. How many Senators does each state have? \_\_\_\_\_ How many House members does each state have? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Who is the leader of the House? \_\_\_\_\_ President of the Senate? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Who determines the pay of Congress? \_\_\_\_\_ President? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Any bill raising revenue must begin in which house? \_\_\_\_\_

11. Who follows the President and Vice President in succession? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Who has the power to admit new states? \_\_\_\_\_

13. The powers of the Constitution that are specifically granted to the branches of government or to office holders are called *express* powers.

a. Identify two express powers of the president.

\_\_\_\_\_

b. What are the express powers of the vice president?

\_\_\_\_\_

c. Identify two express powers of Congress.

\_\_\_\_\_

14. 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. Indicate where each power is listed in the Constitution.

a. A power that the executive branch has over the legislative branch:

\_\_\_\_\_

This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution \_\_\_\_\_

b. A power that the executive branch holds over the judicial branch.

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This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution \_\_\_\_\_

c. A power that the legislative branch holds over the executive branch.

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This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution \_\_\_\_\_

d. A power that the legislative branch holds over the judicial branch.

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This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution \_\_\_\_\_

e. A power that the judicial branch holds over the executive branch.

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This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution \_\_\_\_\_

f. A power that the judicial branch holds over the legislative branch.

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This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution \_\_\_\_\_

15. According to Article I of the Constitution, who has the power to declare war?

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16. What power does the Constitution give the President in the area of war?

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## **PART II - MAJORITY AND SUPERMAJORITY**

The Constitution requires a simple majority for some actions and a supermajority for others. A simple majority means more than half, while supermajority requirements can involve a 2/3 majority or a 3/4 majority. Most elections in the United States require a plurality, or the most votes, but not necessarily a majority.

1. a. What bodies have the power to override a presidential veto? \_\_\_\_\_

b. What margin is required to override a presidential veto? \_\_\_\_\_

c. Where in the Constitution is the veto power described? \_\_\_\_\_

2. a. What body has the power to ratify treaties? \_\_\_\_\_  
b. What margin is required to ratify treaties? \_\_\_\_\_  
c. Where in the Constitution is the ratification power described? \_\_\_\_\_

3. *To impeach* means “to bring charges against” or “to indict”.  
a. What body has the power to impeach the president? \_\_\_\_\_  
b. Where in the Constitution is the impeachment power described? \_\_\_\_\_

4. a. What body has the power to convict the president of charges brought against him in the impeachment process and thereby remove him from the presidency? \_\_\_\_\_  
b. What margin is required to convict and remove a president? \_\_\_\_\_  
c. Where in the Constitution is the impeachment power described? \_\_\_\_\_

5. a. What body has the power to accept or reject a president’s nominations to the Supreme Court? \_\_\_\_\_  
b. What margins is required to elevate a president’s nominee to a seat on the Court? \_\_\_\_\_  
c. Where in the Constitution are judicial nominations described? \_\_\_\_\_  
d. How long does a Supreme Court justice serve? \_\_\_\_\_

6. a. If no candidate for the presidency wins a simple majority of the total number of electoral votes, what body has the power to choose the president? \_\_\_\_\_  
b. What margin is required to choose the president? \_\_\_\_\_  
c. Where in the Constitution is the Electoral College described? (Hint: there are two parts)

7. The Constitution specifies a three-fourths majority for just one process. What?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. See Article VI. Explain the supremacy clause in your own words. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. What are two ways that amendments to the Constitution can be proposed? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. What are two ways that amendments to the Constitution can be ratified? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

11. How many states had to ratify the Constitution for it to go into effect?

\_\_\_\_\_

### **Part III - THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

The first ten amendments to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights protect citizens from the will of the majority. In other words, no majority could vote to take these rights away. Read each amendment to the Constitution and answer the questions below.

1. Outline the general purpose of the first 10 Amendments.

Amendment 1

Amendment 2

Amendment 3

Amendment 4

Amendment 5

Amendment 6

Amendment 7

Amendment 8

Amendment 9

Amendment 10

11. Which amendment(s) of the Constitution protect the rights of women? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Summarize what this amendment(s) of the Constitution says \_\_\_\_\_

13. Which amendments (s) of the Constitution protect the rights of African Americans? \_\_\_\_\_

14. How were US Senators chosen before the Seventeenth Amendment? \_\_\_\_\_

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15. The Twenty-Fifth 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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**John Locke's Second Treatise of Civil Government (55 points)**

**Available at:** <http://www.constitution.org/jl/2ndtreat.htm>

**Directions:** Read the following sections of John Locke's *Second Treatise of Civil Government* and answer the questions on a separate sheet of paper.

**Chapter II – On the State of Nature**

1. Summarize Locke's description of the state of nature.

**Chapter IX**

1. Summarize the first question Locke poses in paragraph one of this section.
2. The great chief end, therefore, of men uniting into commonwealth, and putting themselves under government is..
3. List two of the three wants Locke list next
4. What "inconveniences" are discussed in the next paragraph?
5. What two powers does Locke say man has?
6. What does man give up as result?

**Chapter XI**

1. The great end of man's entering into society is what?
2. What are some the "bounds of trust" that are discussed in Section 142?

### **Summary**

1. What documents in American politics are influenced by John Locke?
2. What parts of government and ways of thinking can be traced to Locke?