

Branches of government

Study guide

Key concepts and terms to understand

1. **Separation of powers**- dividing government into separate branches with particular powers for each part
2. **ratify treaties**- approve agreements
3. **Override** to overrule a presidential veto. Congress can do this with 2/3 vote in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.
4. **Veto**- to reject a law; this is the right of the President
5. **Appoint judges**- the power the President has to choose judges
6. **Judicial review**- the right of the Supreme Court to declare a law by Congress or an action by the President as unconstitutional
7. **impeach**- to charge with a crime
8. **Checks and balances**-controls that each branch of government has upon the other. You need to understand the checks that each branch has upon the other.
9. **Federalism**- the system set up in our country where the federal (national) government and the state governments share power.
10. The **structure of the 3 branches and the powers of the 3 branches**
11. **The Bill of Rights**- Understand the first 10 Amendments to the Constitution and be able to apply them to various scenarios (situations). Note: We will take a formative assessment (not for a grade) on these amendments next Friday Sept. 8th just to see where you are at with them.

Directions: Please **respond with strong detail in your writing (Note: You do not need complete sentences)** to the following questions concerning the concepts and terms for our test on Monday Sept 17th. **These are some samples of what you will see on your test.** We will review in class this week, but you want to be sure to look over your notes and are very familiar with them prior to your test. You may use your composition book on the test; the test questions will be asking you to apply your knowledge of the concepts.

Legislative branch (job and powers)	What is the main job of the legislative branch? Why would there be two parts of Congress (the House of Representatives and the Senate)? In what ways does Congress interact with other nations of the world? What is an inference you could make regarding this?
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<p>Executive branch (job and powers)</p>	<p>What is the main job of the executive branch?</p> <p>Why is there a need to have laws that are executed?</p> <p>What would be two advantages and two disadvantages to a President having term limits (how long they can serve as President)?</p> <p>What is an inference we can make concerning the fact that the President has the power to veto a potential law that Congress wants to pass?</p> <p>Why would the President make treaties with other nations of the world?</p>
<p>Judicial branch (job and powers)</p>	<p>What is the main job of the judicial branch?</p> <p>What is one advantage and one disadvantage to allowing the judicial branch to serve in their position for life?</p> <p>Why might someone consider the power of judicial review to be the most powerful action that any branch of government has?</p>