

AP U.S. History  
Unit 3: The Critical Period  
Constitution Worksheet

PREAMBLE: \*

1. What are the purposes of the new government?

- **form a more perfect union**
- **establish justice**
- **insure domestic tranquility**
- **provide for the common defense**
- **promote the general welfare**
- **secure the blessings of liberty**

ARTICLE I: The Legislative Branch:

1. Name the two branches of the legislature. What are they jointly called? What qualifications to be a member of each?

- **House of Representatives & Senate**
- **Congress of the United States**
- **HoR: 25 years old, 7 years a citizen, inhabitant of the State elected from**
- **Senate: 30 years old, 9 years a citizen, inhabitant of the State elected from**

2. Who is the chief officer of the House of Representatives? Of the Senate?

- **HoR: the Speaker, as chosen by the Representatives**
- **Senate: the Vice President (doesn't vote unless evenly divided); backup, President *pro tempore***

3. Describe the impeachment process.

- **Impeachment is the action of charging with an offense (treason, bribery, high crimes & misdemeanors)**
  - **The House brings the charges**
  - **The Senate conducts the trial**
  - **The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court presides over the trial**
  - **2/3 majority needs to convict of crimes**

4. How often must Congress meet? Why?

- **At least once every year**
- **New members are elected and must be seated**

5. What is a quorum? What are the Rules of Proceedings? The Journal of Proceedings?

- **Minimum number of people needed to conduct business; simple majority constitutes**
- **Determine how business is to be conducted**
- **Says what they do; can include voting record on bills**

6. What is a revenue bill? What is different about this bill?

- **Bill requiring taxation, tariffs**
- **Must originate in the HoR; Senate can amend revenue bills**

7. Describe the skeletal outline of passing a bill into law?

- **Can come from House or Senate; must be approved by majority of both; goes to the President for approval**
- **If President doesn't approve, he sends back to Congress with objections**
- **In order to get around President's disapproval, law/bill must be passed, again, by 2/3 majority of b**
- **both House & Senate**

8. What are the two kinds of vetoes?

- **Sending unsigned bill back to Congress with reasons for disapproving**
- **Pocket veto: the President fails to sign a bill within the ten-day time period before Congress adjourns; President isn't compelled to give reason for not signing**

9. What were some of the powers exclusively held by Congress?

- **Lay and collect taxes, etc. for the common defense and general welfare**
- **Borrow \$ on behalf of U.S.**
- **Regulate commerce with foreign nations**
- **Regulate commerce amongst the states**
- **Laws re. naturalization**
- **Coin & regulate \$**
- **Post office; routes**
- **Patents**
- **Define and punish piracies**
- **Declare war**