

American Government: Stories of a Nation for the AP® Course

Guided Reading

Section 4.1: The Constitution and Congress

Name _____
Date _____ Class _____

 **Before you read**

Before reading this section, take a moment to read the Learning Target and vocabulary terms you will encounter.

Learning Target: Describe the differences between the House of Representatives and the Senate, the functions of each chamber, and how Congress operates within a system of checks and balances.

AP® Key Concepts

pork barrel spending

oversight

logrolling

 **While you read**

Use the following table to take notes as you read the section.

Characteristics/ functions of House of Representatives	Characteristics/functions of Senate	Impact on government

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 **After you read**

Once you've finished reading the section, answer the following questions.

1. When writing in the *Federalist Papers*, _____ wrote that a bicameral government was security for the people.
 - A. James Madison
 - B. George Washington
 - C. John Quincy Adams
 - D. Thomas Jefferson

2. Being _____ is a requirement to run for a seat in the House of Representatives.
 - A. wealthy
 - B. college educated
 - C. a U.S. citizen for seven years
 - D. twenty-one years old

3. The framers believed that by creating a _____ term for the House of Representatives, it would make representatives more accountable to voters.
 - A. brief
 - B. longer
 - C. staggered
 - D. limited

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4. Juan would like to run for the Senate; he is twenty-eight years old, he became a naturalized citizen at sixteen, and is a resident in his state. He is unable to run for Senate because:
- A. he was not born in the United States.
 - B. he has not lived in his state long enough.
 - C. he has to be thirty years old.
 - D. his parents are not U.S. citizens.
5. The elections for Senate seats are staggered so that _____.
- A. incumbents can easily prepare for upcoming elections.
 - B. legislation is not interrupted.
 - C. new candidates can always be able to run for office.
 - D. every two years a third of the Senate is up for election.
6. The House of Representatives has separate powers from the Senate including:
- A. confirming presidential nominees to the executive branch.
 - B. creating bills to raise revenue.
 - C. creating laws that are necessary and proper for the running of the federal government.
 - D. confirming presidential nominees to the judicial branch.
7. The Senate has powers that are separate from the House of Representatives. These include:
- A. declaring war against another nation.
 - B. confirming nominees to the federal judiciary.
 - C. creating bills for raising funds.
 - D. regulating trade with other nations.
8. Congress has been granted many powers; one of these is to:
- A. convict federal officials of impeachment.
 - B. propose budgetary amendments.
 - C. issue articles of impeachment against a member of the executive branch
 - D. regulate trade with foreign nations.
9. Legislation used to direct specific funds into projects within certain districts or states is referred to as:
- A. oversight.
 - B. logrolling.
 - C. pork barrel legislation.
 - D. discretionary legislation.
10. Logrolling was made obsolete in 2011 when the Republican controlled House of Representatives outlawed:
- A. earmarking legislation.
 - B. discussing bills outside of the House.
 - C. bipartisan work on bills.
 - D. working with the Senate.

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11. Special committee meetings held after government failings during Hurricane Katrina were part of which Congressional authority?

- A. budgeting
- B. legislative
- C. supervision
- D. oversight

12. The Senate has the authority to confirm nominees to the executive branch using its role of:

- A. advice and oversight.
- B. consent and counsel.
- C. advice and consent.
- D. oversight and advocate.

13. If a federal judge is caught lying under oath, this is grounds for:

- A. imprisonment.
- B. judicial review.
- C. impeachment.
- D. censure.