Section 5.2: The Constitution and the American Presidency

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Befo

#### re you read

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

Learning Target: Describe the powers of the presidency and ways in which the president influences the bureaucracy.

#### **AP® Key Concepts**

formal (or enumerated) powers informal powers treaty State of the Union Address veto pocket veto

presidential pardon executive privilege executive agreement signing statement executive order



### While you read

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

Presidential powers	Functions in policy agenda	Influence on bureaucracy

Section 5.2: The Constitution and the American Presidency

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### After you read

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

- 1. Which was a fear that the framers of the Constitution had regarding the executive branch?
  - A. that the executive branch would not be powerful enough
  - B. that the executive branch would become tyrannical
  - C. that the executive branch would not represent the views of all Americans
  - D. that the executive branch would lead to the failure of the republic

### Section 5.2: The Constitution and the American Presidency

- 2. Which statement BEST describes the system of electing a president?
  - A. The Senate votes on a qualified candidate nominated by each of the states.
  - B. Electors, chosen based on representation in Congress and by state legislatures, vote on candidates.
  - C. Eligible Americans cast votes for a president directly by popular election.
  - D. The president in office selects the president he wishes to take his place.
- 3. President Smith is wrapping up his second term as president and has high approval ratings, the support of Congress, and is on good terms with allied countries. If President Smith decides to run for a third term, he would violate the:
  - A. First Amendment.
  - B. Twenty-Second Amendment.
  - C. Fifteenth Amendment.
  - D. Eighteenth Amendment.
- 4. According to Alexander Hamilton, why was it necessary to have a single, energetic executive?
  - A. One executive was the key to protect against foreign attacks and to protect liberties.
  - B. More than one executive would risk making the government too large.
  - C. Having one executive was the key to prevent factions from forming.
  - D. Having more than one executive would give too much power to the executive branch.
- 5. What did Alexander Hamilton think of having more than one executive?
  - A. He believed that having more than one executive was important to protect liberties.
  - B. He believed that having more than one executive would prevent anarchy.
  - C. He believed that having more than one executive would lessen the effectiveness of the president.
  - D. He believed that having more than one executive would check the office of the president better.
- 6. Formal or enumerated powers are:
  - A. powers that are not expressly granted in the Constitution but are required for the president to carry out his or her responsibilities.
  - B. powers that are expressly granted in the Constitution so the president may carry out his or her responsibilities.
  - C. powers that are granted to the president to allow him or her to make formal treaties with foreign nations.
  - D. powers that allow the president to override any piece of legislation.
- 7. What is the main idea behind informal powers given to the president?
  - A. that the president may exercise the powers listed in the Constitution in an informal setting
  - B. that the president may exercise the powers listed in the Constitution to carry out the responsibilities as president
  - C. that the president may exercise additional powers to achieve policy goals
  - D. that the president may exercise additional powers not listed in the Constitution to carry out the responsibilities as president

### Section 5.2: The Constitution and the American Presidency

- 8. Which statement summarizes the responsibility of the president as chief executive?
  - A. to execute and enforce the laws of the nation
  - B. to pass laws
  - C. to determine the constitutionality of proposed laws
  - D. to make treaties with foreign nations
- 9. What is the benefit of the president appointing a diverse cabinet?
  - A. The president will be seen as inclusive of all views.
  - B. The president may not be fully supported by his or her party.
  - C. The president will be seen as willing to represent all Americans.
  - D. The president will likely see an increase in his or her approval rating.
- 10. What is the main function of the various cabinet heads?
  - A. to carry out the various policies as directed by the president
  - B. to advise the president and act as a link between the president and the bureaucracy
  - C. to suggest policy to Congress and work with interest groups to influence senators
  - D. to interpret the laws passed by Congress for implementation at the state level
- 11. Which statement summarizes the role of the president as chief diplomat?
  - A. overseeing the heads of various bureaucracies within the executive branch
  - B. determining the constitutionality of laws
  - C. passing proposed bills into law
  - D. guiding U.S. foreign policy and meeting with the heads of nations
- 12. What is the main purpose of modern State of the Union Addresses?
  - A. to update Congress on the president's policy
  - B. to inform other members of the federal government of future policy plans
  - C. to address the entire nation, military personnel, and members of the government
  - D. to recap all the policies that have been implemented over the previous year
- 13. How can the president use a veto to his or her advantage?
  - A. The president can override a veto in Congress.
  - B. The president can threaten to use a veto to shape policy.
  - C. The president can veto certain parts of a bill to shape policy.
  - D. The president can use a veto to deny a law that he or she determines unconstitutional.
- 14. The president is attending a meeting in which the details of the nuclear plans, codes, and communications equipment are discussed. This is an example of the president acting as:
  - A. commander in chief.
  - B. chief legislator.
  - C. chief diplomat.
  - D. chief executive.

### Section 5.2: The Constitution and the American Presidency

- 15. The president has the power to release individuals convicted of a crime from legal consequences and set aside punishment of that crime by means of:
  - A. executive order.
  - B. presidential pardon.
  - C. executive privilege.
  - D. veto.
- 16. Executive privilege can be defined as the right of the president to:
  - A. excuse someone from punishment of a crime they have committed.
  - B. override Congress in passing a law.
  - C. keep certain conversations and records confidential.
  - D. expand his or her power to carry out responsibilities.
- 17. Assume Congress has adjourned, but the president is on the verge of making an important agreement with North Korea. The president has the ability to make an agreement without Senate ratification through:
  - A. executive privilege.
  - B. executive order.
  - C. executive agreement.
  - D. presidential pardon.
- 18. The president is signing a bill into law and is adding comments about how the law is to be interpreted or implemented. This is an example of:
  - A. a presidential comment.
  - B. a signing statement.
  - C. a presidential pardon.
  - D. a pocket veto.
- 19. What is the function of an executive order?
  - A. to pass a law without the approval of Congress
  - B. to expedite the process of passing a law through Congress
  - C. to allow the president to dictate policy without the approval of Congress
  - D. to describe how a law should be interpreted
- 20. Which president issued the most executive orders?
  - A. George W. Bush
  - B. Barack Obama
  - C. Franklin Delano Roosevelt
  - D. Donald Trump