Enclosed in this packet are key questions and FRQ-styled tasks for you to answer as preparation for the AP exam. These are essential understandings that you must master, and require more than a one-sentence answer! This assignment is NOT simply another “box to check” – it is an essential activity for your brain, and if you don’t put in the time and effort to make this a quality review activity, then you will not get anything out of it! If you do, however, put in the time required to make this a quality review activity, then you will set yourself up for a good score on the National Exam. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO COMPLETE THIS – YOU WILL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME IN CLASS WHILE I AM ON MATERNITY LEAVE. PLEASE USE IT WISELY.**

You may find help in your textbook, Princeton Review book, or online, but EVERYTHING must be in your own words. The point of this assignment is that you demonstrate YOUR understanding of these essential topics, NOT that you know how to cut and paste or “artfully” assemble phrases from the textbook.

**Remember:** If you put **garbage in**, you will get **garbage out.**

Submission Instructions:

This packet must be submitted electronically to [www.TurnItIn.com](http://www.TurnItIn.com) by 11:59 on Monday, May 12, 2014. (Why did I choose this day? Because this assignment will FORCE you to review on your own before the National Exam!)
I. Constitutional Underpinnings and Basic Government Principles

Key Understandings:

1. What are the defining features of democracy? What are the functions, values and characteristics of American government?

Some of the defining features of democracy include popular consent, voting and election, and separation of powers. A democracy is a government for the people and by the people. Popular consent supports this statement because it gives the government permission to govern them. The people participate actively through elections. To prevent the people being oppressed a separation of powers broke the powers up so no group is too powerful.

2. From what inspiration(s) did our founding fathers develop our American system of government? What were the main philosophical and political assumptions guiding the framers in creating our American system of government?

The founding fathers were inspired by certain things. Of many, the U.S was inspired by philosophies John Locke and Thomas Hobbes. From there philosophies are where we got our idea of a democratic republic society.

3. What were the major reasons the Articles failed? How did the Constitution redress the failures of the Articles?

- The Articles of confederation failed for a few reasons. The main reason why it failed was because the federal gov was weak, no national currency, no Supreme Court, no executive branch. The constitution fixed most of the issues with its laws promoting federalism, instead of powers being centralized in state legislatures they were separated and shared between state and federal government.

4. What arguments for and against ratification of the Constitution did the Federalists and Anti Federalists use? What compromises were reached at the Constitutional Convention?

-Anti federalist argued that it would threaten personal liberties through the development of a strong national government. They feared that it would be the same as the British Monarchy form of government. Anti - federalist also opposed the idea of one branch having advantageous amounts of power over other branches of government. The Constitution resolved the personal rights issue by including a bill of rights. The bill of rights includes amendments that protect the rights of citizens. The issue of the idea of a branch abusing its powers was somewhat solved by the checks and balances system and separation of powers prevented possible oppression inflicted by a powerful king.

5. Explain each of the three most basic principles of the Constitution and give an example of each: Checks and balances, separation of powers, and federalism

-Checks and Balances, Checks and Balances are the system that ensures balance among powers held by the three branches of government. The branches are able to check one another so that no authoritative powers can be abused without being countered.
-Separation of powers separates powers of the national government into three branches: The executive branch executes laws, the legislative branch makes laws, and the judicial branch interprets the laws.
-Federalism, is the principle that powers exist between both state and national government.

6. Explain the difference between each of the following and provide an example of each: expressed v. implied powers; enumerated v. reserved v. concurrent powers.
- Expressed powers are those powers that are expressed in the constitution, and implied powers are those that are not directly stated but later implied due to developments on issues.
- Enumerated powers are powers held by fed give and listed in the constitution. One example of an enumerated power is the power to declare war and make treaties.
- Reserved powers are state powers that are reserved based on the 10th amendment that declared that all powers not granted to the fed go belongs to the state government. An example of a reserved power is to issue licenses.
- Concurrent powers are those that are shared between the state and federal government. A concurrent power is the ability to tax.

7. How has federal power expanded over time? What have been the tools of this expansion? Give at least three examples.

-One way that the federal government power has expanded over time is with the necessary and proper clause. The necessary and proper clause was established in the case of Moloch v Maryland and has allowed congress to make all laws that are necessary and proper. This has been used in a wide variety of areas giving national government more power.
- The powers of the federal government grew as the result of FDR’s new deal. The new deal forced the state and national government to work cooperatively. The New Deal also increases the range of national government with a number of programs that the national government created to directly fix the economy.
- Governmental grants also increased the scope of the national government. Categorical grants allowed the federal government to fund the state government for issues that the national government wanted to be resolved. Categorical grants were given for a specific purpose meaning that states were not allowed to spend this money on anything, thus increasing national government influence on state governments.

8. What has been the role of federal grants in helping state and local governments find solutions to their problems? How has this role changed throughout the years?

- Block grants were given, and allowed for states to use large sums of money towards issues that they see fit.
- Categorical grants were given by federal government giving the state governments a specific task to accomplish using the money that they gave them.

9. What are the advantages of American federalism?

- There are a few advantages of federalism. One advantage is that federalism promotes mass participation. Another reason is that states keep certain rights to choose how to act on different issues regarding public policy. A third reason is because federalism promotes experimentation, which provides the ability to test policies. Also, there is more of a connection between politicians and the people.

Key Tasks: FRQ

1. (2001) The US Constitution has endured for more than two centuries as the framework of government. However, the meaning of the Constitution has been changed both by formal and informal methods.
   a. Identify two formal methods for amending the Constitution.

One formal method for amending the constitution is by a two thirds vote by both congressional houses as proposal, and two thirds of states, to ratify. A second formal method to amending the constitution is through a constitutional convention, where two thirds vote of states legislatures is required.
b. Describe two informal methods that have been used to change the meaning of the Constitution.

One informal method of changing some meaning of the constitution is through judicial interpretation. This method allows the federal courts to interpret certain areas of the constitution that seem vague or misunderstood. So, through the use of judicial interpretation the meaning of certain amendments have been changed. The court’s ruling could also declare acts or other laws unconstitutional.

Another formal method for amending the constitution is through cultural change. This method is when the meaning of the constitution changes as society grows and evolves socially. Provide a specific example for each informal method you described.

C. Explain why informal methods are used more.

An example of the change of the constitution through judicial interpretation would be

An example of social and cultural change leading to changes in the constitution is the three fifth compromises. This was added to solve a population issue, counting African Americans as 3/5 of a person, but now slavery is over so there is no longer a need for this compromise.

2. (2005) the power of the federal government relative to the power of the states has increased since the ratification of the Constitution.
   a. Describe two of the following provisions of the Constitution and explain how they have been used over time to expand federal power: the power to tax and spend, the necessary and proper clause, the commerce clause.

The necessary and proper clause is the power held by congress to make all laws that are necessary and proper. This expands the powers of the national government because it allowed congress to make many laws with the broad interpretation of “necessary and proper”. The broad interpretation of the commerce clause also increased federal power. The congress clause allowed the federal government to make laws pertaining to commerce and they often used the commerce clause on issues where they wanted to make laws that involved money in some way.

b. Explain how one of the following has increased the power of the federal government relative to the power of state governments: Americans with Disabilities Act, Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Clean Air Act.

The Clean Air act increased the power of the national government due to the use of mandates. An unfunded mandate was used to require states to do things without actually providing money to complete the task; this basically allows the federal government tells the states what to do.

II. Political Parties, Behaviors, Interest Groups, Elections, and the Mass Media

Key Understandings

1. In basic terms, what does it mean to be liberal? What does it mean to be conservative?

-To be liberal is to be open to change and new things that could benefit society in some way.
-To be conservative means to follow traditions more and somewhat avoids innovations or big change.

2. How do we acquire our political beliefs? What characteristics (race, gender, income, age, region, etc) impact the way people vote?

-We acquire our political beliefs from our families, religious beliefs, school, or location. We most likely identify to the people who we are most around, the popular belief in your area is adopted. Men, whites, rich, elderly, and residents of the west are most likely to vote conservatively, while women, middle classed, young, and residents of the east are more likely to vote liberal.
3. What important role do political parties play in our society?

- Acts as a mediator between the people and the government.
- Educate and mobilize voters
- Recruit and mobilize voters
- Provide campaign funds and support
- Provide balance through different ideas presented by opposing parties.

4. What are the major platform issues of each party?

- Democrats focus on issues such as gun control, economy, immigration reform, healthcare, etc.
- Republicans focus on supporting big businesses, promoting limited government.

5. Why is it difficult in the US for third parties to flourish? Nevertheless, why are third parties important?

- Third parties fail because of the winner take all system, and because they are ignored by the media, so it is difficult to elect a member into congress or have enough support to flourish. Third parties are important because they offer more opinions on a variety of issues that are not exactly supported by the majority that belong to the two major parties.

6. Why is the Electoral College controversial?

- The Electoral College is controversial because they elect based on electoral votes rather than the popular vote. This means that it is possible for a candidate to win an election without winning the majority of the popular vote. Serving in the best interest of the majority is important in democracy and the Electoral College opens an opportunity to ignore this principle.

7. What techniques do interest groups most frequently use?

Techniques that are frequently used by interest groups include:
- Litigation: Influence through the court systems
- Lobbying: providing funds to gain the support of an incumbent so that their policy ideas would be implemented.
- Activism - Protest

8. What are PACs and how do they affect elections?

- Politely Action Committees are groups that are created by interest groups to raise funds, and donate to campaigns. These affect elections by giving support to a specific candidate.

9. What efforts have been made to regulate interest groups and campaign financing?

- Certain acts passed by congress made an attempt to limit interest groups. The Lobbying disclosure act was one of these acts, but had limited effectiveness due to various loopholes.

10. How has media coverage of politics changed throughout the years? Explain.

Media wasn’t as big of a source for information as it is today. The media became very reliable with pamphlets supporting constitution. Many years later the radio broadcast were used for the president to communicate and
brief the public on certain matters. Today, we have countless media outlets that can inform us on many things and receive many opinions on certain issues.

Key Tasks

1. (2009) In the United States political system, there are several linkage institutions that can connect citizens to government. Elections constitute one such institution. Because of low voter turnout, elections represent an imperfect method of linking citizens to their government. Even when there is low voter turnout, elections represent an imperfect method of linking citizens to their government. Even when there is low voter turnout, however, other linkage institutions can connect citizens to government.
   a. Describe how each of the following is related to the likelihood of voting: Age and education. Education is a factor that determines the likelihood of voting. The more educated a person is, the more likely they would vote, because they possibly know more about politics. The older people are, the more likely they are to vote while the youth typically vote less.
   b. Identify one current government electoral requirements that decreases voter turnout. Photo id sighting decreases voter turnout because it opens the opportunity to discriminate against certain voters based on their race, and as a result many people avoid this, and those who are discriminated against, votes are not counted.
   c. Explain how it decreases voter turnout. Identify one linkage institution other than elections and explain two ways it connects citizens to government. The media is another linkage institution. One way that it connects the citizens to government is by informing the people about politics. Mass Media often provide information about what generally goes on in politics. The media also connects the citizens to government by serving as representation of the majority. Social media is often a service to pinpoint issues that often sets political agenda if the issue is popular.

2. (2004) Different interest groups will choose different techniques to achieve their objectives based on their resources, characteristics, and goals.
   a. Describe each of the following techniques and explain why an interest group would choose each technique: Litigation, campaign contributions, grassroots lobbying/mass mobilization. Litigation is when an interest group support through submitting amicus curiae briefs. An interest group may want to use this technique to promote certain causes that are involved in the case. Campaign Contributions is when an interest group provides financial support to campaign through donation. This is a way to technically bribe because they are exchanging money for support, and reassurance that their policy would be implemented. Grassroots lobbying is used by groups that wants a personal influence to the people to gain support through passing out fliers or bumper stickers.
   b. Select one of the following groups and identify the primary technique it uses from the list in part (a). Explain why the group you selected would employ that technique over the other two techniques: American Medical Association, Sierra Club, National Rifle Association, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The NAACP primarily uses the litigation technique to get its policy ideas secured. An example of this is Brown v Board where lawyers from the NAACP helped the case. The NAACP has a legal defense fund specifically for litigation.

3. (2006) While interest groups and political parties each play a significant role in the United States political system, they differ in their fundamental goals.
   a. Identify the fundamental goal of interest groups in the political process. The fundamental goal of interest groups is to influence the policy making process.
   b. Identify the fundamental goal of major political parties in the political process. The fundamental goal of major political parties is to influence elections and get members elected.
c. Describe two different ways by which interest groups support the fundamental goal of political parties in the political process.

Interest groups can help the political parties to elect candidates through campaign contributions. By funding candidates this can help pay for media attention that could help gain votes. Votes can also be gained through grassroots lobbying. This can be handing out flyers expressing the benefits to selecting a particular candidate.

d. For one of the forms of support you described in (c), explain two different ways in which that form of support helps interest groups to achieve their fundamental goal in the political process.

Campaign contributions can help interest groups by gaining the support of the candidate to ensure that they can consider them while in the policy making process.

III. The Legislative Branch

Key Understandings:

1. What powers does Congress have?
   - Congress has multiple powers. To declare war, to make all laws that shall be necessary and proper, y To approve treaties, to impeach the president, to approve the national budget, etc.

2. What is the basic structure of Congress? What/who are the leaders? How significant of a role do political parties play in Congress?
   - The structure of congress is bicameral, including the house of senate and the House of Representatives.
   - The house of reps is led by the speaker of the house, with other authoritative positions below them. These positions are within Majority and Minority party leadership. Today, the majority party is the Republican Party. Party leaders represent their parties on the floor of the house. Party Whips primarily helps the leader. The chairmen lead the organization of party members. Partisanship is much more visible in the House of Representatives due to its size. This is mostly a factor on bills that draws opposing views from different parties
   - The vice president is the leader and presiding officer over the house of senate. They also have whips majority leaders, etc.

3. Why was Congress created as a bicameral legislature? What are some basic differences in the way that the House and the Senate operate or in their authority?
   - Congress is broken into two houses (bicameral) as the result of the Great Compromise to appeal proposals of large and small state for state representation. Small states wanted equal representation (senate) and large states wanted population proportionate representation (representatives).

4. In general, how does a bill become a law? What role do committees play in the legislative process?
   - A bill is first introduced to the house or to the senate, it soon requires committee referral in order to scan for any errors and resolve any issues that are expressed. After going through a committee it is amended and debated. It is then reintroduced to congress before being amended and debate once more. After this long process is complete it is voted on.

5. What tools do lawmakers have to alter, delay, or push forward the passage of bills? What about the law-making process is cumbersome and keeps so many bills from becoming laws?
   - To delay a bill different tactics are used, such as the filibuster, and the veto. The earmarks and pork barrel are used to alter bills. Bills can also be simply pushed forward with the proper votes. This process is very difficult
because there are so many things that can stop the passing of a bill there can be certain areas of disagreements on a bill, vetoes, filibusters, and, persistent alterations.

6. What/who influences the way that a member of Congress makes decisions? Explain at least 3 and give examples!
The people influence the way congress makes decisions because they often reflect partisanship and state viewpoint so they can be reelected.

7. What key checks does Congress have on other branches?
Congress is able to impeach the president, and deny the admissions of justices.

8. Is the Legislature the most powerful branch? Why or why not?
Yes, because this is the branch that is responsible for passing many bills. The legislative process is very important because it can bring many changes to our country to form a perfect union. Their checks are also very effective on other branches.

Key Tasks:
1. (2006) the framers of the US Constitution created a legislative system that is bicameral. However, it is not just bicameral; the framers also established two houses of distinctly different character and authority.
   a. Discuss two reasons why the framers created a bicameral legislature.
   One reason why the framers created a bicameral legislature was because it was a compromise between big states who wanted to be represented in proportion to population, and small states who wanted to be represented equally. Congress contains two houses that fulfill both of these proposals.
   A second reason is because the framers needed to balance power in a legislative body. The two house system ensures that a single house wouldn’t dominate in terms of power.
   b. Identify one power unique to the House of Representatives and explain why the framers gave the House that power.
   The framers gave the House of Reps the ability to select the president when the electoral votes are tied; this was given to the house because they are supposed to represent the people, which is evident considering its size.
   c. Identify one power unique to the Senate and explain why the framers gave the Senate that power.
   The senate approves treaties with a two thirds vote; they were given this power because they were supposed to be considered the more elite group and more impartial.

2. (2009) In the United States Congress, the majority party exerts a substantial influence over lawmaking. However, even when one party has a numerical majority in each chamber of the US Congress, there is no guarantee that legislation supported by that majority party will be passed by both chambers. Rules of each chamber independently influence the likelihood that legislation will pass in that chamber; legislation passed by one chamber is not always passed by the other.
   a. Describe two advantages the majority party in the US House of Representatives has in lawmaking, above and beyond the numerical advantage that the majority party enjoys in floor voting.
   The majority party has the advantage to set the party agenda. The majority party also controls debate
   b. Describe two differences between House and Senate rules that may make it likely that legislation may pass in one chamber but not the other
   The filibuster exists in the senate which could prevent any bill from being passed in that house due to the long stalling process. The House has a rules committee which means that they are more regulated and are able to get more bills passed in the house.
   c. Explain how the differences identified in (b) can lead to the passage of a bill in one chamber but not in the other.
3. (2008) Congressional reapportionment and redistricting are conducted every ten years. When redistricting, politicians often engage in gerrymandering.
   a. Define congressional reapportionment and explain one reason why it is important to states. When the number of representatives is determined, this is important for the states because it shows how much they are represented.
   b. Define Congressional redistricting. When the number of representatives that a state receives is adjusted based on the population changes documented in the census.
   c. Explain two goals of politicians when they gerrymander during redistricting. One goal is to shift the partisanship in the house to have more support on certain issue. Another goal is to represent your constituents more with new representatives; this could increase chances of reelections.
   d. Describe two limits that the United States Supreme Court has placed on congressional redistricting. One limit that the Supreme Court has placed on congressional redistricting is that the congressional districts must be of equal population. This limit would make gerrymandering less effective. Another limit that the Supreme Court has place on redistricting is that a certain race couldn’t be excluded, which prevents districts from losing members where they should have one.

IV. The Executive Branch

**Key Understandings:**

1. What are the formal requirements for the presidency? Are there also informal requirements? What are they?

   - The US Constitution requires for the president
     - Natural born citizen
     - At least 35
     - A resident of the United States for about 14 years.

2. What people and bodies help the President to do his job?

   - The Vice President
   - The Cabinet helps with the execution of laws and helping to make decisions
   - The first lady advises the president and makes public contributions.
   - The White House Staff serves as assistants and informants to the president.

3. What roles does the President play in our government system?

   The president plays the role of chief of executive, chief diplomat, Chief of military, Chief of state, chief legislature, Chief of party, and Chief of economy.

4. What are the ways in which a President can influence legislation? What things get in the way of a President influencing legislation?

   One way that the president influences legislation is through proposing legislation. An example of this would be Obama Proposing his healthcare reform, despite the difficulties to get bills passed this reached success

5. How does the President wield a great deal of power through the budget? Who or what limitations are there on his spending?
The president is able to set the nation’s priorities by funding certain areas more than areas. It is required for money to be spent on entitlement programs which could limit the amount of money that the government can spend. Congress can also deny budgets that they don’t approve of.

6. What key checks does the President have over other branches?

President can veto legislation in congress
Appoints federal judges

7. What is the bureaucracy? What does the bureaucracy do? What are the different types of agencies, commissions, and departments? Give an example of each.

The bureaucracy is a group of government created organization that assist the president with the execution of laws a department. Independent agencies are those that are not under the control of another department. An example of an agency is the EPA. Government Corporations are groups that mostly aim to serve private businesses. Ex CIA. A department is considered to be most important; they are included in the cabinet and are headed by a secretary. An example of a cabinet department is the department of education.


No, they enforce laws. Agencies have the job to regulate areas that cannot be handled by congress, and execute laws associated with them. The bureaucracy does not participate much in the legislative process.

Key Tasks:

1. (2008) A number of factors enable presidents to exert influence over Congress in the area of domestic policy. However, presidents are also limited in their influence over domestic policymaking in Congress.
   a. The Constitution grants the president certain enumerated powers. Describe two of these formal powers that enable the president to exert influence over domestic policy.

   The president can exert influence in domestic policy through his veto powers. This influences policy because the president has the power to haul bills from being laws and becomming stop policy. The president can also exert its influence by calling congress into session. He can call congress into session to discuss issues, this influences the policy makers.
   b. Choose two of the following. Define each term and explain how each limits the president’s ability to influence domestic policymaking in Congress: mandatory spending, party polarization, lame-duck period.

   Party polarization is the indifference between the extremes of political ideologies. This limits the president’s ability to influence policy because members from an opposite party can go against a law or bill. Lame duck is the period when the president is at the end of its term. The president loses power during this period so he wouldn’t be able to get much done.

2. (2004) Presidents are generally thought to have advantages over Congress in conducting foreign policy because of the formal and informal powers of the presidency.
   a. Identify two formal constitutional powers of the President in making foreign policy.

   Commander and Chief, negotiate treaties
   b. Identify two formal constitutional powers of Congress in making foreign policy

   Regulate commerce and taxes, approve treaties.
   c. Identify two informal powers of the President that contribute to the President’s advantage over Congress in conducting foreign policy.

   Executive agreements and agenda setting
   d. Explain how each of the informal powers identified in (c) contributes to the President’s advantage over Congress in conducting foreign policy.

   Executive agreements could be used by the president to do things without congressional approval. The president also holds the power of agenda setting which controls what is produced by congress.

3. (2003) Presidential approval ratings fluctuate over the course of each presidential administration.
a. Identify two factors that decrease presidential approval ratings, and explain why each factor has that effect.

One factor that decreases approval ratings is when president do not keep their promises made in their presidential campaign. Not meeting these expectations decreases the level of reliability of the president. A second factor that decreases approval rating is when the president gets into trouble. A famous example is when Bill Clinton was in

b. Identify two factors that increase presidential approval ratings, and explain why each factor has that effect.

Something that increases public opinion is the effective use of the media as a tool to increase presidential morale. The better the use of the media, the public would establish a better relationship with the people because of the effective use of a popular medium.

4. (2006) The US Congress and the President together have the power to enact federal law. Federal bureaucratic agencies have the responsibility to execute federal law. However, in the carrying out of these laws, federal agencies have policy making discretion.

a. Explain two reasons why Congress gives federal agencies policy-making discretion in executing federal laws.

One reason is because congress as a group does not know everything, so they rely on agencies who know about the topic for the effective and efficient execution of certain laws. Another reason is that congress does not have enough time to handle the execution of laws. It would be more efficient to give the bureaucracy the authority to enforce these laws.

b. Choose one of the bureaucratic agencies listed below. Identify the policy area over which it exercises policy-making discretion AND give one specific example of how it exercises that discretion: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and Federal Reserve Board.

c. Describe two ways in which Congress ensures that federal agencies follow legislative intent.

The FCC is given authority over communications and regulations on media such as television. For example the FCC is responsible for approving what should and shouldn’t go on television.

Congress can ensure that agencies follow intent by using oversight. Watching over these agencies could keep track of effectiveness and can detect when the agencies are not following congressional intent. Congress can also ensure that the agencies following intent through their control on the budget. The amount of money that agencies revives are approved by congress and if the agencies don’t do their jobs than they won’t be funded.

V. The Judicial Bench

Key Understandings

1. What are the origins of judicial review, and what consequences follow the acceptance that judges are the official interpreters of the Constitution?

Judicial Review was established in the case Marbury vs. Madison and gave the justices the ability to determine laws or acts unconstitutional. Pressure follows the abilities that the Supreme Court has. There is a tremendous amount of pressure because some of the most important issues regarding the constitution have to be settled in the court.

2. What factors are important in the selection of Supreme Court justices by presidents? How have the politics of judicial nominations become more complex in recent years?
One factor that is important is partisanship, the president usually choose those in the same party as the president. Experience is another factor that is taken into account.

3. Why did our founding fathers give Supreme Court Justices a lifetime appointment? They were given life time appointment so they would worry about partisanship or try to appeal to a group when considering reelection.

4. What is the difference between criminal and civil law? Federal and state courts? Original jurisdiction and appellate jurisdiction? Civil law deal with issues between individuals and organization, while criminal law deals with various crimes and punishments concerning those crimes. Federal court deal with constitutional issues, treaties, disputes between multiple states, etc. State courts deal with criminal cases, and other cases involving state law.

5. How are federal judges selected? What are the criteria? Who selects them? Who confirms them? Federal judges are appointed by the president. They have to be

6. What is the process by which the Supreme Court decides a case?

7. What is the difference between judicial activism and judicial restraint? What are examples of each?

Key Tasks:

1. (2000) The Supreme Court is commonly thought to be “above politics.” However, one can argue that the appointment of Supreme Court justices is political.
   a. Identify three characteristics of Supreme Court nominees and discuss how each characteristic has been politically relevant during the appointment process.

One characteristic of Supreme Court nominees is the party that they are associated with. The president appoints supreme court justices and would much rather prefer a justice that has the same party as them to take a certain side on partisan divided topics. A second ch
   b. Identify two methods that have been used by interest groups to influence the appointment process. Explain how each of these methods has been used to influence that process.

2. (2005) The judicial branch is designed to be more independent of public opinion than are the legislature or the executive. Yet, the United States Supreme Court rarely deviates too far for too long from prevalent public opinion.
   a. Describe two ways in which the United States Supreme Court is insulated from public opinion.

One way that the U.S. Supreme court is insulated from public opinion is that they are appointed instead of elected. This means that they didn't have to rely on public opinion inorder to get a position as a supreme court justice, so therefore they are not too involved with public opinion regarding their jobs. Another way that justices serve life terms. This means that they don’t have to appeal to the people in order to be reelected because they are elected permanenly, or until withdrawal or impeachment.

   b. Explain how two factors work to keep the United States Supreme Court from deviating too far from public opinion.

One factor that keeps the justices from going too far from public opinion is that they are appointed instead of elected. If a justice rule in a way that differs from the public view too frequently those chances of impeachment is imminent. Another factor that keeps justices from deviated too far public opinion is the existence of other powers that can overrule judicial decisions. These powers includes congressional ability to pass other amendments that the justices must use when considering their decisions.

3. Each policy-making institution in the United States federal government is subject to restrictions on its power.
   a. Explain how each of the following can restrict presidential power: power of the purse and appointment confirmation process.
The power of the purse restricts presidential power because the president can make budgets but it needs congressional approval and it can be denied. The same applies to the appointment confirmation process. The president can only appoint positions but it is up to congress to actually make it official, limiting presidential power.

b. Explain how each of the following can restrict Congressional power: Presidential power as commander-in-chief and executive privilege.
The presidential power as commander and chief allows the president to deploy troops without the approval of congress, who has the power to declare war. Executive agreements allow the president to conduct foreign policy without congressional approval, that would usually stop.

c. Explain how each of the following can restrict judicial power: enforcement of judicial rulings and Constitutional amendments.
Amendment restrict judicial power because the judiciary has the job of interpreting laws based on the constitution and with with more amendment it decreases their ability to use a broad interpretation of an amendment because of the lack of an apprpuate amendment on the issue.

VI. Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Key Understandings

1. What is the fundamental difference between civil liberties and civil rights?

-Civil Liberties protect the people from any form of government oppression, such as protecting our abilities to worship our own religions

2. When, if ever, is it appropriate to limit speech? The SCOTUS usually upholds free speech except in which kinds of cases? What constitutional tests have been used to determine whether a restriction on speech was allowable?

It is appropriate to limit speech when it intends to incite violence, the supreme court has seemed to show little tolerance for hate speech and obscenity. Clear and present danger test, and direct incitement.

3. To what degree does a “wall of separation” exists between church and state in the United States?

-The wall of separation exist through the rules that protect religious freedom without government interferance. The establishment clause prevents the government from establishing a national or official religion. The free exercise clause protects a citizen’s right to practice their religion without any

4. What is due process? What are the differences between procedural and substantive due process?

-Due Process is a clause of the 14th amendment that -Substantive due process interpret whether the substance of a law is violates rights. It protects citizens from unjust laws. Provedural due process interprets whether or not the law is unconstitutional on practice, by excluding certain groups.

5. How has the Supreme Court defined the "right of privacy" in its rulings? In what areas of life has privacy become an issue? Cite Supreme Court case law as you explain this concept.

In Griswold v Connecticut the supreme court ruled that bans on contraceptives violpated the right to privacy which is implied in amendments 1,3,4,9, and 14. The privacy implications included marital rights, so the right to plan a family is protected. This reasoning was used in the case Roe v Wade, which prohibits bans on abortions.
6. What are the rights of persons accused of crimes?

- Protection against self-incrimination
- Protection from unreasonable searches and seizures
- Right to an attorney and a speedy trial
- Cruel and unusual punishment

7. What historic barriers to voting, public accommodations, employment, and education existed in the past for African Americans and how have these barriers been overcome?

Many barriers existed for African Americans to overcome. One barrier is segregation, this barrier was made legal by Plessy v. Ferguson, and enforced by jim crow laws and black codes. This has been overcame by the ruling of Brown v. Board that ruled the plessy ruling unconstitutional. Voting barriers included literacy test and poll taxes, this was soon overcame by the Voting Rights Act.

8. Explain the process by which the Bill of Rights has been incorporated. Which elements of the Bill of Rights apply to states that formerly applied only to the national government? How did this come to be?

The bill of rights was incorporated into the constitution after arguments by anti federalist that personal rights would be threaten. These only applied to the national government until the judicial doctrine, selective incorporation, made it applicable to the states. The third and seventh amendments were not included because they are not considered to be fundamental.

Key Tasks
1. (2005) Initially, the United States Constitution did little to protect citizens from actions of the states. In the twentieth century, the Supreme Court interpreted the Constitution to protect the rights of citizens from the state governments in a process referred to as incorporation.
   a. Define selective incorporation.
   - Selective Incorporation is a doctrine that applies the bill of rights with the exclusion of amendments three and seven to the states.
   b. For two of the following, explain how each has been incorporated. Each of your explanations must be based on a specific and relevant Supreme Court decision.
      i. Rights of criminal defendants
      ii. First Amendment
      iii. Privacy rights

Privacy rights have been incorporated to the states. The right privacy has been implied by multiple amendments including the first, fourth, fifth and ninth. These were used as legal provision in cases such as Griswold vs Connecticut. The court ruled that Connecticut violated marital rights by banning contraceptives. The right to privacy was established from this case, and considered the right to be guaranteed by prenumbras.

First Amendment

2. (2001) Many scholars and observers have argued that the ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution has become the single most important act in all of United States politics.
   a. Identify which provision of the Fourteenth Amendment was applied in one of the following Supreme Court cases. For the case you select, explain the significance of the decision in United

The Equal Protection clause of the 14th amendment was applied to the Brown v Board case. This case was very important because it declare the separate but equal doctrine unconstitutional, which was great for equal rights because and

b. Identify which provision of the Fourteenth Amendment was applied in one of the following Supreme Court cases. For the case you select, explain the significance of the decision in United States politics: *Mapp v. Ohio (1961), Gideon v. Wainwright (1963), Miranda v. Arizona (1966)*