

This study guide is a mix of terms, concepts and charts to know- you can complete it however you study best- in your notebook, on this paper or both. But either way, just do it. The test is Wednesday April 18. It is mostly multiple choice, a few fill in the blank and you will have to know the branches and powers to complete charts. It's a lot, but we've gone over much of this over time. You got this.

Know:

1. Law of Blood/Law of Soil
2. Naturalization
3. Bill of Rights- look over your Bill of rights test
4. 1st amendment- Congress shall make no law respecting an **establishment of religion**, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the **freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.**

- a. Define censorship
- b. Understand freedom of assembly
- c. Petition is a formal request for the government to act.
- d. Know the restrictions: know slander, libel and whether public officials can be criticized

5. Obligations of Citizenship-

A right is a privilege or a claim to something. At the national level, the U.S. Constitution guarantees really big rights such as freedom of expression, freedom to peacefully assemble, freedom to petition the government, freedom of worship, and the right not to have the government search your stuff without a warrant. In fact, these rights are guaranteed to everyone living in the U.S. — not just U.S. citizens! Rights that belong only to U.S. citizens include voting in a federal election, serving on a jury, and running for federal political office.

Responsibilities are duties to other people, the government, or society

Give some examples of rights and responsibilities

6. Branches of Government/Separation of Powers-

Know and describe the major principles that guide the United States Government:

- a. Popular Sovereignty- sovereignty means "the right to rule"
Popular means "the people or public"
Thus, popular sovereignty means "the people's right to rule"
 - Declaration of Independence
 - is a statement about popular sovereignty
 - Says that governments should draw their powers from the consent of the government
 - Constitution- "we the people"
- b. Limited government/rule of law-

- government can only do what the people allow it to do
- Rule of law- the law applies to everyone- Constitution limits both federal and states laws- monarchs before the Magna Carta had few limits
- c. Separation of powers- Montesquieu believed that the people's liberty could be protected by separating the legislative, executive and judicial tasks of government
- d. Checks and balances- system in which each branch of government is able to check, or limit the power of the other two branches in a number of ways- COMPLETE THE CHART THAT SHOWS HOW EACH BRANCH INTERACTS WITH THE OTHER TWO and memorize
- e. Federalism- power is shared by the national government and the states. Each level of government- national and state- has independent authority over people at the same time.

Three types of power: **enumerated, reserved, concurrent**
(complete chart and memorize)

Define Supremacy Clause

In his book, *The Spirit of the Laws*, how did Montesquieu describe how liberty could be threatened? *Separate the parts of government so no one part can become too powerful.*

Study the handout SS.7.C.3.8 Clarification 1-4

Legislative Branch

- The two houses of Congress
- Terms and sessions- each Congress lasts for a term of 2 years and is divided into 2 sessions, or meetings. A *joint session* occurs when the House and Senate meet together to do business together or to hear a presidential speech
- The House of Representatives
- The Senate
- The Committee System and types of committees
- Legislative powers- expressed, implied, law making powers
- Other powers and limits- non legislative powers, limits on congressional powers

The Speaker of the House is a powerful position. The House Speaker is both the presiding officer of the House of Representatives and the leader of the majority party. The Speaker is also second to the Vice-President of the United States in the line of succession to the Presidency.

Executive Branch

- Office of the President- how does a citizen become president? Qualifications?
- Electing a president- every 4 years chosen by electors (KNOW THIS TERM) how many votes are need to win in the Electoral College?
- Vice President- Article I states that the vice president shall preside over, or oversee the Senate and that he/she can vote in that body in case of a tie and will become president if the the president dies, is removed from office, falls seriously ill, or resigns.
- Presidential succession
- The Presidential Succession Act
- The 25th Amendment- when would this amendment be used?
- Presidential Powers- what are the duties of the president?
 - Beyond responsibility to carry out the laws, the Constitution gives the president several specific powers:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____
 - f. _____
 - g. _____

The Constitution requires the president to tell Congress about the “state of the union” and then each year, he gives the State of the Union address.- discusses the nation’s most important issues and his or her plans to address them.

Presidential Roles:

- Chief Executive
- Chief Diplomat
- Head of State
- Commander in Chief
- Legislative Leader
- Economic Leader
- Party Leader

Know the terms:

Dual court system

Jurisdiction- the authority to hear and decide a case

Which Article of the Constitution established a national Supreme Court?

It also gave Congress the power to do what?

What did the Judiciary Act of 1789 create?

Dual Court System

KNOW that all 50 state courts operate independently of each other and of the federal courts.

The goal of the court system is to treat every person the same.

Written on the building that houses the United States Supreme Court are the words:
“Equal Justice Under Law”

Under the Constitution, every person accused of breaking the law has a right to have a public trial and a lawyer.

If the accused cannot afford a lawyer, the court will name one and pay for his or her services.

Each person is presumed, or assumed to be, innocent until proven guilty.

	US SENATE	US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Number of members		
Term length		
Passing vote		

Judicial Branch

What is the role of the federal courts?

2 main jobs-

1. _____
2. _____

Courts hear 2 types of cases:

1. _____

2. _____

BE ABLE TO COMPLETE THIS CHART

FEDERAL COURTS	STATE COURTS

Study the handouts-

SS.7.C.3.3 Clarifications 1-3 on the 3 branches of government

SS.7.C.3.8 Clarifications 1-4 on the structure, function and processes of the legislative, executive and judicial branches

SS.7.C.3.10 Clarifications 1-3 on sources and types of law

SS.7.C.2.5 Clarifications 1-4 on Constitution safeguards and limits individual rights

SS.7.C.2.9 Clarifications 1-3 on voting processes, qualifications for political office

Review the Sources of Law handout from icivics