

Final Exam Study Guide – US Government

Please know all of the following:

The essential features of a state. 8

The four theories of the evolution of states and Hobbes' / Locke's position. 10

The purposes of government. 9 - 10

The three types of government. N

Essential features of a federal system of government. 20

The 4 theories of United States government. N

The differences between an institutional vs. structural approach. N

Definitions of normative and empirical theories. N

The New Jersey and Virginia Plan and the Connecticut Compromise. 74 - 75

The 3 parts to the U.S. Constitution. N

Charles Beard's interpretation of the Constitution. N

Branch of government which makes laws. N

The most powerful member of the House of Representatives. 173

Ultimate power of the Executive branch. N

Theoretical interpretations of executive power. N

Case that gave the Supreme Court the power to declare laws unconstitutional. 102

Name for the first 10 amendments of the Constitution. 108

The substance of the first 8 amendments to the Constitution. N

What are the limits of free speech. 381

Charles Lewis's thesis on the U.S. Congress. N

Definition of "reapportionment." 138 and "gerrymandering." 156 - 158

Age requirement of House and Senate candidates; how many years they can serve; how long they must live in the state; previous employment. 160 - 163

Definition of incumbency and how often incumbents win. 161

Definition of "filibuster and cloture." 145, 210 - 211

Percentage of bills that become laws. 202

Definition of a “veto” and percentage needed in Congress to “override.” 213

Definition of a lobbyist and PAC’s. 546, 608

Order of presidential succession and amendment which created it. 232

Definition of Electoral College and number of people in it. 597 - 604

Definition of the “cabinet.” 278 - 280

3 examples of executive agencies. 284

Definition of the War Powers Act? When did it pass? Troops committed by the president for how long? 178

Roles of the president. 226 - 227

Who is currently Secretary of Defense? State? Head of the Justice Dept? Check Websites

Definitions of “stare decisis;” “amicus curiae.” 310 - 311

Number of justices on the Supreme Court. 342

Duties of the Supreme Court. 346 - 347

Case that established “separate but equal” doctrine. 455

Decision that reversed “separate but equal” doctrine and year reversed. 455

Two major cases which gave rights to the accused. 420 - 422

What the Gideon case gave to the accused? 420

Author that we studied who suggested we did not have equal justice in America and the title of his book. N

Types of speech not protected by the 1st Amendment. 368, 381

Definition of a “political party.” 502

Three components to political parties. 562 - 563

Names of the 2 major parties in the U.S. 565 - 569

Definition of “proportional representation.” 590

Definition of a “party platform.” 584, 593 - 594

Definition of “soft” money. 610, 614 - 615

Definition of “suffrage” and the 3 amendments in the Constitution connected to this right. 476 - 479

What is an “interest group.” 538 - 539

The three main types of social policy. N

Definition of “political socialization.” 500

Ideologies of liberals and conservatives. N

The three components to public opinion. N

Noam Chomsky’s thesis on the media. N

Definition of “foreign policy.” 293 and N

What U.S. foreign policy was based on in the 19th and 20th centuries? 294

Why was the Cold War called “Cold?” 298 - 299

Name of President Truman’s foreign policy and what it was. 298 - 299

Differences between parliamentary/ presidential systems of government. 683 - 687

Types of economic systems. 571

Basic structure of the 3 types of economic systems. 19 - 22

The three “schools of thought” (theories) on America’s future. N

The key philosophical difference between realism and idealism. N

The definition of “free enterprise system.” N