

Congress 10.1 & 10.2

Name: _____ Per: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____

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| <p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Why does the Constitution establish a bicameral legislature? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Historically, it is modeled on the two houses of the British Parliament and colonial legislatures. <input type="radio"/> Practically, two houses were adopted as part of _____, which solved the dispute between large and small states at the Constitutional Convention over how they would be represented in the national legislature. <input type="radio"/> Theoretically, having two house of Congress means that _____ | <p>The National Legislature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Congress turns the will of the people into public policy _____. <input type="radio"/> The Framers on the whole believed that Congress would be the most powerful branch of the federal government <input type="radio"/> The Constitution spends more space detailing the powers and structure of Congress _____ <input type="radio"/> Yet in U.S. history, Congress has perhaps been less admired by the American people than the presidency. |
| <p>Congress and Federalism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Federalism involves the _____ between the central government and the state governments. <input type="radio"/> The different roles taken by the members of Congress are examples of federalism in the national government. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> _____ who act in the interests of the citizens of that state. <input type="radio"/> At the same time, these congressional representatives must work together on behalf of all Americans to address issues of national importance. | <p>Representation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Each state is _____ in the Senate and represented by _____ in the House. <input type="radio"/> Some critics argue that this structure gives too much power to the smallest states <p>Congressional Terms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Beginning in 1789, Congress has met _____ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Originally congressional terms began and ended in March. This start date was changed to _____ of every odd-numbered year by the 20th Amendment. |
| <p>Adjourning Congress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> During a session, Congress can choose to adjourn, or suspend its operations, until the next session. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Though Congress meets for most of the year, each house typically has _____ <input type="radio"/> Neither house can officially end a session _____ <input type="radio"/> The President can end a session of Congress, but only if both houses cannot agree on a date to adjourn. This power has never been used. | <p>Special Sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> The President can call one or both houses of Congress into a special _____ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Only 27 joint special sessions have been called. The Senate has been called out alone 46 times, while the House has never been called out alone. <input type="radio"/> Special sessions are rarely called today since Congress meets for most for the year. <input type="radio"/> The President may threaten to call a special session _____ |
| <p>The House of Representatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> How are the seats in the House distributed and what qualifications must members meet? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> There are currently _____ <input type="radio"/> Seats are distributed _____, with each state guaranteed at least one representative. <input type="radio"/> Representatives must be at least 25 years old, have been a U.S. citizen for at least seven years, and reside in the state that they represent. | <p>Size of the House</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> For many years the number of seats in the House _____ and new states were added. <input type="radio"/> The _____ fixed the size of the House at 435 members. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Congress can change this number if it wishes. |

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| <p>Census</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> _____ the Census Bureau counts the national population. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> The Census figures are then used to decide _____ until the next Census is taken. <input type="radio"/> Currently, each seat in the House represents about _____ people. | <p>Congressional Elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Representatives are elected every two years. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> _____ <input type="radio"/> Each state holds elections in November of even-numbered years. <input type="radio"/> Elections held in nonpresidential years _____ <input type="radio"/> Usually the party that holds the presidency _____ in an off-year election. |
| <p>Congressional Districts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Representatives are elected from single-member congressional districts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> The voters in each district can elect only one representative to the House. <input type="radio"/> The <i>Westberry v. Sanders</i> Supreme Court ruling in 1964 requires _____ <input type="radio"/> _____ <input type="radio"/> High population states have more districts than small population states. <input type="radio"/> _____ so their district consists of the entire state. | <p>Gerrymandering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Gerrymandering involves drawing the borders of districts _____ <input type="radio"/> Tactics include clustering the opposing party's voters in a few districts or spreading them out thinly over many districts. <input type="radio"/> Due to gerrymandering, only a few congressional districts in any election _____ <input type="radio"/> _____ |
| <p>Formal Qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Custom requires representatives to live in the districts they represent. <input type="radio"/> Representatives must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Be at least _____ <input type="radio"/> Have been a _____ <input type="radio"/> Be an _____ from which he or she is elected. <input type="radio"/> The House has the power to refuse to seat an elected member, to punish members, and to expel them. | <p>Informal Qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> They include factors such as gender, ethnicity, political experience, name recognition, and party affiliation. <input type="radio"/> Being an _____ more than 90 percent of those seeking reelection to the House win. <input type="radio"/> Being able to _____ is also a key. In 2008 the average cost of running a winning campaign for a seat in the House was over \$1 million. |

1. What is a single-member district?

2. Why do politicians gerrymander districts?

3. How long does a term of Congress last?

4. How does a special session differ from a regular session of Congress?