# **Unit Four:**

**Question One:**

* What are some of the powers denied to the Congress in Article I, Section 9?
* What is the difference between “enumerated powers” and “implied powers”? How is this related to the difference between “strict interpretation” and “broad interpretation”?
* What checks are there on the legislative branch?
* What is the importance of the committee system in Congress?
* How do the Senate and House of Representatives differ?
* What is legislative supremacy?
* Why is the Civil Rights Act of 1964 considered to be landmark legislation?
* The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (more popularly known as Obamacare) was the subject of a recent Supreme Court case. Why did some argue the law was unconstitutional? Do you agree or disagree?
* Who are some of the more important members of today’s U.S. Congress?
* What are some of the more important committees in the Congress?
* Is it desirable for members of Congress to vote according to their conscience even it conflicts with the majority opinion of the people they represent?
* Why do you think the Congressional power to impeach and remove officials has been used so sparingly over the years?
* What is a filibuster? Do you agree or disagree with some who believe the filibuster is being used too often in modern times, or even abused?
* What are some of the important differences between the U.S. Congress and the Washington Legislature?

**Question 2:**

* What are some examples of powers that are shared between the President and Congress?
* Why did the Framers believe that an “energetic executive” was needed?
* On what constitutional grounds did President Lincoln issue the Emancipation Proclamation? Why did the Emancipation Proclamation not free all the slaves?
* What in colonial history made the framers fearful of creating a stronger executive branch? Do you think those fears were founded?
* How can public opinion affect presidential power?
* Mass media, such as the news, tend to focus on the person of the President rather than the Congress. Do you think this has thrown off the balance of power?
* What factors have necessitated many presidents to take a more broad view of presidential powers since the early years of the republic?
* What powers does the executive have that are not enumerated powers? Are they implied powers?
* What are some of the most important executive departments, and what are their responsibilities?
* What checks are there on the executive branch?
* What is an executive order and why has the use of executive orders greatly increased?
* What are executive orders? In what way are they different from legislation? Give some examples of executive orders.
* What are some of the most important executive departments, and what are their responsibilities?
* Should presidential authority be expanded in a time of war?

**Question 3:**

-What powers are denied to the states by the Constitution?

* Traditionally, education and health care were issues that state governments dealt with. Is the federal government overstepping its authority by getting involved in these issues?
* Explain the advantages and disadvantages of a federal system of government.
* What does the term sovereignty mean? Where does sovereignty does sovereignty reside in different systems of government?
* In what ways can the federal government influence state laws and the actions of state governments? Are these methods of influence appropriate?
* What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of a confederate form of government?
* How did the case of McCullough v. Maryland affect the division of powers between federal and state governments?
* What is the purpose of the 10th Amendment? How has it been important to the maintenance of federalism?
* How has the 14th Amendment impacted the relationship between the federal and state governments?
* Do you believe that the United Nations could correctly be termed a confederation? Explain why?
* What are the reasons for the growth in the power of the federal government as compared to the states?
* How does Congress use the “power of the purse” to influence state governments?
* At times U.S. laws and State laws conflict with one another. Issues such as same-sex marriage, medical marijuana, marijuana legalization and others are legal in some states, but are not recognized or outlawed by federal law. How should such issues be resolved?