

Unit 2 Study Guide – Interactions Among Branches

Directions

This is your study resource to use as we progress through our unit. It lists objectives, concepts, terms, and an outline of items that may appear on the unit exam. The essential guiding questions will help you tie together the important information from the chapter.

As you familiarize yourself with these terms, it is important to not only DEFINE or IDENTIFY the term, but also to know the term's importance. Ask yourself: Why is it important? How does it relate to the material we are studying? What relationship does a term have to another term on the list? IF YOU MERELY IDENTIFY OR DEFINE THE TERM WITHOUT KNOWING ITS IMPORTANCE YOU WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO SUCCEED ON TESTS AND QUIZZES.

Reading Assignments

Government in America: chapters 11,12,14, and 15

By the end of Unit 2, students will be able to...

- **Describe** the different structures, powers, and functions of each house of Congress.
- **Explain** how the structure, powers, and functions of both houses of Congress affect the policy-making process
- **Explain** how congressional behavior is influenced by election processes, partisanship, and divided government.
- **Explain** how the president can implement a policy agenda.
- **Explain** how the president's agenda can create tension and frequent confrontations with Congress.
- **Explain** how presidents have interpreted and justified their use of formal and informal powers.
- **Explain** how communication technology has changed the president's relationship with the national constituency and the other branches.
- **Explain** the principle of judicial review and how it checks the power of other institutions and state governments.
- **Explain** how the exercise of judicial review in conjunction with life tenure can lead to debate about the legitimacy of the Supreme Court's power.
- **Explain** how other branches in the government can limit the Supreme Court's power.
- **Explain** how the bureaucracy carries out the responsibilities of the federal government.
- **Explain** how the federal bureaucracy uses delegated discretionary authority for rule making and implementation.
- **Explain** how Congress uses its oversight power in its relationship with the executive branch.
- **Explain** the extent to which governmental branches can hold the bureaucracy accountable given the competing interests of Congress, the president, and the federal courts.

Interactions Among Branches – Chapter 11 (Congress)

Essential Guiding Questions

1. Characterize the backgrounds of members of Congress.
2. Identify the principal factors influencing the outcomes of congressional elections.
3. Compare and contrast the House and Senate.
4. Describe the roles of congressional leaders, committees, caucuses, and staff.
5. Assess Congress's role as a representative body.
6. Explain the impact of representation on the scope of government.

Key Vocabulary

Incumbent

Casework

Speaker of the House

Minority Leader

Conference Committees

Bill

Pork Barrel

House Rules Committee

Majority Leader

Standing Committees

Select Committees

Seniority System

Bicameral legislature

Filibuster

Whips

Joint Committees

Legislative Oversight

Caucus

Interactions Among Branches– Chapter 12 (The Presidency)

Essential Guiding Questions

1. Explain the characteristics for the president and the path to the white house and the impeachment process.
2. Evaluate the president’s powers and the expansion of powers.
3. Describe the roles of the vice president, cabinet, Executive Office, White House staff and First Lady.
4. Explain the president’s influence on Congress.
5. Describe the relationship between the president and Congress in terms of national security.
6. Identify the factors that affect the president’s ability to obtain public support.
7. Explain the president’s relations with the press and news coverage.

Key Vocabulary

22nd Amendment	25th Amendment	Impeachment
Watergate	Executive Orders	Cabinet
National Security Council	Council of Economic Advisors	OMB
Veto	Pocket Veto	Presidential Coattails
War Powers Resolution	Legislative Veto	Crisis

Interactions Among Branches– Chapter 14 (The Federal Bureaucracy)

Essential Guiding Questions

1. Describe the federal bureaucrats and the ways in which they obtain their jobs.
2. Differentiate the four types of agencies into which the federal bureaucracy is organized.
3. Identify the factors that influence the effectiveness of bureaucratic implementation of policy.
4. Describe how bureaucracies regulate and assess deregulation and alternatives to regulation.
5. Identify the means of controlling the bureaucracy and assess the role of iron triangles
6. Assess the roles of unelected bureaucrats in American democracy

Key Vocabulary

bureaucracy	patronage	deregulation
civil service	Executive Orders	Pendleton Civil Service Act
Office of Personnel Management	Merit principle	Hatch Act
Government Corporation	GS Rating	Senior Executive Service
Standard Operating Procedures	Independent Executive Agency	Policy Implementation
Regulation	Administrative discretion	street-level bureaucrats
Executive Orders	Iron Triangles	

Interactions Among Branches – Chapter 15 (The Federal Courts)

Essential Guiding Questions

1. Identify the basic elements of the American judicial system and the major participants in it.
2. Outline the structure of the federal court system and the responsibilities in each component.
3. Explain the process by which judges and justices are nominated and confirmed.
4. Describe the background of judges and justices and assess said background on decisions.
5. Outline the judicial process at the Supreme Court level and assess major factors that influence decisions.
6. Trace the Supreme Court’s use of judicial review in major policy battles in various eras of history.
7. Assess the role of unelected courts and the scope of their power in American democracy.

Key Vocabulary

Standing to Sue	Class Action Suits	Justiciable disputes
Amicus curiae briefs	Original Jurisdiction	Appellate Jurisdiction
District Courts	Court of Appeals	Supreme Court

Senatorial Courtesy
Stare decisis
Judicial Implementation
Judicial Activism

Solicitor General
Precedent
Judicial Review

Opinion
Originalism
Political Restraint

Unit Review and Enduring Understandings

- The republican ideal in the US is manifested in the structure and operation of the legislative branch.
- The presidency has been enhanced beyond its expressed constitutional powers.
- The design of the judicial branch protects the Supreme Court's independence as a branch of government, and the emergence and use of judicial review remains a powerful judicial practice.
- The federal bureaucracy is a powerful institution implementing federal policies with sometimes questionable accountability.