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FOUNDATIONS OF GOVERNMENT REVIEW ?S

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1. What conflicts were apparent and what interests prevailed during the American Revolution and the drafting of the Articles of Confederation?
2. Why was the A of C unable to hold the nation together?
3. In what ways is the American Constitution a marriage of interest and principle? How did the framers reconcile their competing interests and principles?
4. What principles does the Constitution embody? Why did the framers of the Constitution establish the legislative, executive, and judicial branches?
5. What limits on the national government's power are embodied in the Constitution?
6. What sides did the Federalists and Anti-Federalists represent in the fight over ratification? What key principles did each disagree?
7. Why is the Constitution so difficult to amend?
8. What purposes do the amendments to the Constitution serve?
9. Did the Framers value liberty, equality, and democracy? Why or why not?

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POLITICAL PARTIES/VOTER BEHAVIOR REVIEW ?S

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**Interest Groups:**

1. Why do interest groups form?
2. What are the organizational components?
3. What are the benefits of interest group membership? What are the characteristics of interest group members?
4. Why has the number of interest groups grown in recent years?
5. What are some of the strategies that interest groups use to gain influence?
6. What are the problems in curbing the influence of interest groups?

**Political Parties and Voter Behavior:**

1. How have political parties developed in the United States?
2. How do parties form? What is the historical origin of today's Republican and Democratic parties?
3. What has been the historical role of 3<sup>rd</sup> parties in the US?
4. How are political parties organized? At what levels are they organized?
5. What ties do people have to political parties?
6. What are the important electoral functions of parties? How has the role of political parties in electoral campaigns been transformed in recent decades?
7. How do the differences between Republicans and Democrats affect Congress, the President, and the policy making process?
8. Do parties help or hinder democracy? Why or why not?
9. What is the history of suffrage in the US?
10. What factors influence how many voters participate?
11. What different types of elections are held in the US? What rules determine who wins elections?
12. How does the government decide the boundaries of electoral districts? How is the ballot determined?
13. What are the steps in a successful election campaign?
14. How is the president elected?
15. What factors have the greatest impact on a general election campaign?
16. How does money affect how certain groups achieve electoral success?
17. What are the primary influences on voters' decisions?
18. Why is political participation relatively low in the US? What are the implications for democracy?

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## THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH REVIEW ?S

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1. How does Congress represent the US as a whole? How is it not representative?
2. In what specific ways do members of Congress act as agents for their constituencies?
3. What are the basic building blocks of congressional organization? What is the role of each in forming legislation?
4. How do the rules of congressional procedure influence the fate of legislation as well as the distribution of power?
5. What sorts of influences inside outside of government determine how members of Congress vote on legislation?
6. What other powers allow Congress to influences the process of government?

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## THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH REVIEW ?S

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1. What powers does the Constitution provide to the president as head of state? Have these powers been used to make the presidency imperial?
2. What powers does the Constitution provide to the president as head of government?
3. What institutional resources does the president use to manage the executive branch?
4. What political resources can the president draw on in exercising the powers of the presidency?
5. How did the presidency develop into a truly democratic institution?
6. How did the development of a mass presidential constituency contribute to the rise of presidential government?
7. What is a bureaucracy? What role does it play in government?
8. How have the size and role of the federal bureaucracy changed over the course of American history?
9. How do the President, Congress, and courts exercise control over the bureaucracy?

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## THE JUDICIAL BRANCH REVIEW ?S

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### JUDICIARY

1. Within what broad categories of law do cases arise?
2. How is the US court system structured?
3. What factors play a role in the appointment of federal judges?
4. What shapes the flow of cases through the Supreme Court? How does a case reach the Supreme Court?
5. What is the basis for the power of judicial review? How does this power make the Supreme Court a lawmaking body?
6. What factors influence the judicial philosophy of the Supreme Court?
7. How has the increase of the Supreme Court's power changed its role in the political process?

### CIVIL RIGHTS/LIBERTIES

1. How does the Bill of Rights provide for individual liberties?
2. What are the differences b/t substantive and procedural restraints contained within the Bill of Rights? What are some examples of each?
3. How and when did the Supreme Court nationalize the Bill of Rights? (Incorporation)
4. What protections does the first amendment provide? What is not protected?
5. What is due process? How do the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> amendments provide for due process of law?
6. What is the right to privacy?
7. What is the legal basis for civil rights?
8. What is the critical Supreme Court ruling in the battle for equal protection? How has Congress tried to make equal protection a reality?