

American Citizenship
Chapter 3: The Constitution

Notes:

Section 1
Six Basic Principles

A. An Outline of the Constitution

- a. Contains roughly 7,000 words
 - i. Preamble
 - ii. Articles
 - 1. _____

 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - iii. Basic Organization and Powers
 - 1. Article IV
 - a. _____

 - 2. _____
 - a. Amendments Proposal and Ratification
 - 3. Article VI
 - a. _____

 - 4. Article VII
 - a. _____

 - iv. Followed by _____ Amendments

B. Basic Principles

- a. _____
 - i. Governed by the People
 - ii. “_____...” Preamble

b. Limited Government

i. _____

ii. Rule of Law

1. Government and its officials are always subject to the law

c. _____

i. _____ is the lawmaking body

ii. Executive _____

iii. _____ interprets and applies the laws

iv. Each Branch is _____

d. Checks and Balances

i. Each Branch, though separate, yet also tied together

ii. _____

1. Example

- a. Congress can pass laws and president can veto the law

iii. Makes Compromises vital

e. Judicial Review

i. _____

ii. Determine if governments actions are _____

1. To declare illegal, null and void

f. _____

i. The division of power among a central government and several regional governments (AKA States)

Notes:

Section 2
Formal Amendments

Notes:

C. Constitution

- a. _____
- b. Change has come about in two ways
 - i. Formal Amendment
 - 1. _____
 - _____
 - ii. Informal

D. Formal Amendment Process

- a. _____
- b. Two methods for proposal
- c. Two methods for ratification
 - i. Four methods of Formal Amendments
- d. First Method
 - i. _____
 - _____
 - _____ (38)
 - 1. 26 of 27 Amendments adopted in this manner
- e. Second Method
 - i. _____
 - _____
 - 1. 21st Amendment ratified through this method
- f. Third Method
 - i. _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - 1. Never Done Before
- g. Fourth Method
 - i. _____
 - _____

h. Federalism

- i. _____
- ii. _____ at state level

Notes:

E. Proposed Amendments

- a. 10,000 Proposed
 - i. Only 27 Amendments exist today
- b. Bill of Rights -1791
 - i. First 10 Amendments
 - 1. First Action by the Congress in 1791
 - 2. _____
- c. Later Amendments
 - i. Check Page 76 for Subject of Amendments

Section 3

Constitutional Change by Other Means

F. Basic Legislation

- a. _____ has given meaning to many of the constitution brief statements
 - i. _____
 - ii. Homeland Security
 - iii. Etc.

G. Executive Action

- a. _____
- b. Example
 - i. _____
- c. Executive Agreements
 - i. _____
 - ii. Treaty
 - 1. _____

H. Court Decisions

a. Marbury v. Madison 1803

i. _____

ii. _____ helped define
the role and power of the Supreme Court

I. Party Practice

a. _____ political parties

b. Big use of electoral college

i. _____

J. Customs

a. Powers and/or organizations not granted by
constitution

i. _____

ii. Succession of President to Vice President

1. _____

iii. _____

1. Started by George Washington

2. _____

Notes: