

Unit 4 Outline: The Presidency & Congress

Unit Chapters

- 12: The Presidency
- 14: The Federal Bureaucracy
- 11: The Congress

Chapter 12 Details—The Presidency

Key Terms

22 nd Amendment	“Honeymoon Effect”	“Bully Pulpit”
Impeachment	Veto	Press Secretary
Watergate	Pocket Veto	“Body Watch”
25 th Amendment	Coattail Effect	
Cabinet	Legislative Veto	

Focus Questions

1. Understand the basic restrictions of the office – how many terms a President can serve; how a President can reach the office; how the President can be removed, etc.
2. Familiarize yourself with the eight “unofficial” roles of the president, their general meaning, and some examples of each.
3. Describe the Framers’ original conception of the Presidency. (Fed #70)
4. Describe the Chief Executive role of the President and where it’s derived from the Constitution.
5. Why do you think the role of the Vice President is described as “not worth a warm bucket of spit?” Furthermore, the VP spot is termed the “second team.” What does this mean?
6. How would you explain the difference between the function of the Executive Office of the President and the White House Staff? Examples to illustrate?
7. To reinforce the key terms list, know each of the roles/function of the NSC, CEA, and OMB.
8. What constitutional requirements and powers point to the president role as Chief Legislator? Explain the effectiveness of the veto power.
9. Why do you think the legislative veto was deemed unconstitutional?
10. Why is party leadership in Congress so important to a president and his/her agenda? Summarize the main points in the “Leading the Party Section.”
11. It is said that newly elected Presidents have a “mandate from the people.” Explain what that means and whether it reflects reality.
12. To what end and why does the president bargain with Congress?

13. How does the president set the priorities/agenda of Congress in the “honeymoon” period and beyond? Use examples to illustrate.
14. Explain what it means that the president is the Commander in Chief?
15. Explain what the War Powers Act stipulated and why did Congress enact it? Was it successful? Explain.
16. What does it mean that the president is the Crisis Manager for the nation? Use examples to illustrate.
17. Why has the president taken a more prominent role in foreign affairs over the years?
18. What factors affect presidential popularity and approval ratings? How is popularity related to power and policymaking?
19. Why is the press so important to the president? Give examples of the relationship between the press and the president.

Chapter 14 Details—The Bureaucracy

Key Terms

Pendleton Civil Service Act	Office of Personnel Management	Regulation
Civil Service	Plum Book	Deregulation
Merit Principle	Policy Implementation	Executive Orders
Hatch Act		

Focus Questions

1. Explain the Weber definition of a bureaucracy (most of that first paragraph).
2. Are bureaucracies always ineffective, inefficient, and always mired in red tape? No. Why do they have such a poor reputation?
3. How has the bureaucracy fundamentally changed from the 1800s to present? What were some of the reforms that led to the new bureaucratic norms?
4. How does the Plum Book figure in the transition of a new presidential administration? What are presidents looking for in appointments to the bureaucracy?
5. Describe the function of the Cabinet Departments.
6. Describe the function of the Independent Regulatory Agencies. Examples?
7. Describe the function of Government Corporations. Examples?
8. Describe the function of the Independent Executive Agencies. Examples?
9. What does policy implementation mean as it relates to the federal bureaucracy?
10. Define, describe, and give examples of the six major failings of the bureaucracy in policy implementation: program design, lack of clarity, lack of resources, administrative routine, administrative discretion, and fragmentation.
11. Familiarize yourself with how regulation works and what are some examples of how it is applied in society.
12. Explain what is needed for an agency to perform its regulatory role.
13. Explain what are the pros and cons of deregulation.

14. Explain what methods are available to the president and Congress to control the bureaucracy.
15. How do bureaucracies factor into the “iron triangles” that were previously introduced? What about issue networks?

Chapter 11 Details—The Congress

Key Terms

Incumbent	Majority Leader	Select Committee
Casework	Minority Leader	Oversight
Pork	Whips	Committee Chair
Filibuster	Standing Committee	Seniority System
Cloture	Joint Committee	Congressional Caucus
Speaker of the House	Conference Committee	Bill

Focus Questions

1. Do the Members of Congress “look like” the American people? No. Explain why using gender, race, religion, and occupational background statistics.
2. Explain the effects of incumbency on congressional elections. What’s the percentage of return in the House and Senate?
3. Incumbents are seen to have six major advantages in re-election campaigns. Define and describe each of them: advertising, credit claiming, position-taking, weak opponents, and money.
4. Incumbents aren’t “bullet proof” though when it comes to election time. How might they be defeated?
5. Why are “open seats” more competitive?
6. How do the House and Senate differ, generally, as legislative bodies?
7. How does the structure of leadership differ between the two houses (the House and the Senate) of Congress?
8. How does the committee system work?
9. One of the main function of Congress, beyond legislating, is oversight. Describe what this is and how it generally works in reality by citing examples to illustrate.
10. How does a Member get on a committee?
11. How does the seniority system work in getting ahead on a committee? Is it still the same today?
12. Know the general process/outline of how a bill becomes law.
13. How does party loyalty operate in the legislative process?
14. What is the difference between a member acting as a trustee, a delegate, a partisan and a politico? How are members sometimes conflicted in performing the trustee role and delegate role?
15. When is ideology the prime determinant in how a Member votes on an issue?

Supreme Court Cases: For all cases, research and take notes on what happened in the case to bring it to the Supreme Court (the facts), the constitutional question before the Court, the decision and reasoning of the Court, and the significance of the case as legal precedent

-*Baker v. Carr (1962)*

-*Shaw v. Reno (1993)*