Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**GOVERNMENT UNIT STUDY GUIDE**

**PART 1: Key documents**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DOCUMENT** | **DEFINITION** *What is it?* | **3 Specific Facts about the Document** |
| **ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION** |  |  |
| **CONSTITUTION** |  |  |
| **BILL OF RIGHTS** |  |  |

**PART 2: The United States Constitution (Structure and Principles)**

What are the three parts of the Constitution?

1. 2. 3.

What are the three branches of our government?

1. 2. 3.

*Write a complete sentence for* ***4*** *of the principles listed below. Be sure to use the term in the correct context in each sentence.*

checks and balances federalism limited government individual rights

separation of powers republicanism popular sovereignty

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Term** | **Complete Sentence** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

**PART 3: How a Bill Becomes a Law** *In the space below, draw a diagram/story board showing at least 10 steps taken for a bill to become a law..*

**PART 4: Government by the Numbers** *Write the significance of each number. \* have more than one answer.*

**2/3**

**3/4**

**2\***

**3**

**4**

**6**

**8**

**9\***

**10**

**17**

**18**

**25**

**30**

**35**

**100**

**435**

**PART 5: Checks and Balances** *Where do these “checks” belong? Place each statement on its correct arrow in the above diagram.*

**Executive**

(President, Vice President, Cabinet, etc)

***Enforces the Laws***

**Judicial**

(Supreme Court, other lower courts)

***Interprets the Laws***

**Legislative**

(Senate, House of Representatives)

***Makes the Laws***

Can override President’s Veto

Can declare President’s Actions Unconstitutional

Approves appointments of federal judges

Appoints Federal Judges

Can Declare Acts of Congress Unconstitutional

Can Veto Proposed Bills

**Part 6: The Bill of Rights** *Read each scenario below and determine which, if any, rights are being violated.*

1. Carolyn is arrested for shoplifting a candy bar from a neighborhood convenience store. At trial, she is found guilty. The judge decides that the appropriate punishment is to cut off Carolyn’s hands so that she will not be able to shoplift again.

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1. Mr. Reynolds, an avid hunter, opens the door of his home one day to find agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms outside. They inform him that certain provisions of a new federal law allow them to confiscate his rifles so that he may not engage in terrorist activities or plot against the US government. They have no evidence that he is connected to any such activities.

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1. A known drug dealer is arrested for suspected connections to an inner city murder. The police do not inform him of his rights and immediately begin to interrogate him. They continue until he admits he knows the victim of the crime and was in the neighborhood where the murder took place.

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1. Your parents are very religious people, but you are not. Today, your parents are going to a service at their place of worship and they expect you to come along. You refuse. They make you come anyway, and they ground you for the following month.

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1. Because of the budget deficit, the US government is looking for ways to cut costs. They have announced a plan during peacetime to house unmarried soldiers in the homes of American citizens who do not have children.

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1. Because members of Congress are unhappy with students’ standardized test scores in many states, they pass a federal law that abolishes local school boards and requires a standardized national curriculum.

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1. You are in the security line at the airport. The transportation safety agent requires you to take off your coat, take off your shoes, and empty your pockets. The agent also completes a pat-down search.

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1. Sara, an eighteen year old college student, is arrested for stealing a classmate’s term paper and selling it on the Internet. When she appears before the judge, she asks for a lawyer to help defend her. The judge tells her that if she is smart enough to be in college, she is smart enough to defend herself. Besides, she is not being charged with a felony, so the stakes are not very high.

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**Part 7: Constitution Look Up** *Locate the spot in the Constitution where the following ideas are mentioned. If the idea is found among the Articles, list the Article, Section, and Clause (as much as possible). If the idea is found in the Bill of Rights, list the Amendment #.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **IDEA** | **LOCATION** |
| Powers of the President.  |  |
| Powers to states, or people |  |
| Three actions that would be considered treason   |  |
| Crimes for which a government official can be impeached |  |
| Fraction of votes that are needed to amend the Constitution  |  |
| Eminent Domain |  |
| Searching private property |  |
| Qualifications for being President |  |