**AP U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS CONSTITUTION GUIDE**

Directions: For the following, use your copy of the Constitution to answer each question completely. Take your time and please write legibly.

**The Preamble:**

* By whose power was the Constitution written?
* The Preamble provides goals for the Constitution. Please list and explain three of the goals provided for in the preamble.

**Overall Structure of the Constitution:**

Read each article of the Constitution. Summarize the general purpose or subject of each article in one sentence in the chart below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Article: | Summary: |
| **I** |  |
| **II** |  |
| **III** |  |
| **IV** |  |
| **V** |  |
| **VI** |  |
| **VII** |  |

**Article I Focus:**

1. What two houses make up Congress?
2. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for the following?
   1. SENATE-
   2. HOUSE-
3. What is representation based on for the Senate compared to the House?
4. Identify the powers are enumerated (expressed directly in Constitution) to Congress?
5. Identify powers denied to Congress in the Constitution. Why do you think these are denied?
6. Identify two powers the Constitution prohibits from the states.
7. Article I Section 8, Clause 18 is very important to Congress. It is known as the “elastic clause”. Explain why you think this clause is viewed as integral to Congressional power.
8. Article I Section 8, Clause 3 is known as the Commerce Clause. What power does this provide Congress with? Why would this power have the potential to greatly expand congressional influence?

**Article II Focus:**

1. What are the constitutional requirements in order to hold the office of the President?
2. How many electors can states have? Who cannot be appointed as one?
3. What is the purpose of the electoral college these electors make up?
4. Identify the formal constitutional powers granted to the President.
5. What must the President provide to Congress according to this Article?
6. According to Article II, what are impeachable offenses?

**Article III Focus:**

1. What does this article formally establish?
2. Who has the authority to create inferior courts?
3. The court of *original jurisdiction* is the first court that hears a case. *Appellate Courts* hear cases on appeal from lower courts. Although, the Supreme court functions primarily as an appellate court, it is the court of original jurisdiction in certain kinds of cases. What are those?

**Article IV Focus:**

1. Article IV Section 1 is referred to as the Full Faith and Credit Clause. It states that *full faith and credit shall be given in each state to the public acts, records and judicial proceedings of every other state.* What do you think this means? What could be an example?
2. Article IV Section 2 Clause 1 states that citizens of each state are entitled to *“privileges and immunities”* in other states. What do you think the founding fathers meant by this? Why would this be such an important component to include in the Constitution?

**Article V Focus:**

1. What are the two methods by which an amendment can be proposed?
2. What are the two methods by which an amendment can be ratified?

**Article VI Focus:**

1. Article VI, Clause 2 is the Supremacy Clause. In your own words, please summarize what this means.
2. What does this article state will never be a qualification to serve in a public office?

**Article VII Focus:**

1. This article outlines the process of ratification for the Constitution. How many states were necessary to ratify this new form of government?