

Textbook: Chapters 12 & 14 Questions

Part I: Congress (Chapter 12)

Key Terms – Chapter 12 are on the Website.

Objective 1: Understand the demographical makeup on the federal legislative branch.

1. Describe the membership of Congress, in terms of numbers, qualifications, and previous occupations, and general yearly schedule.
2. What are some major demographical differences that exist between the Senate and House of Representatives in the 115th
3. What is meant is meant by the 115th Congress. How often do we get a new Congress? When did the current Congress begin? When will our next Congress begin?

Objective 2: Understand how Congress is impacted by elections.

4. What are the qualifications to hold office in the House of Representatives?
5. What are the qualifications to hold office in the US Senate?
6. How do the House and Senate differ on the incumbency effect?
7. Describe 5 advantages of Congressional incumbents over their challengers.
8. How does “pork barrel” and “casework” help an incumbent gain reelection?
9. How might an incumbent be “unseated” from Congress? Provide 3 ways.
10. Describe the goals of the 1994 Republican Contract with America? Also how would this of help Republicans improve in upcoming congressional and state level elections?

Objective 3: Understand how Congress shapes public policy.

11. What are two key differences between the House and Senate?
12. How does the House Rules Committee play an important function?
13. What powers place the House “higher” than the Senate? What powers place the Senate “higher” than the House?
14. Describe the process for using and stopping a filibuster in the Senate.
15. Why are rules of the Senate so difficult to change?
16. Complete the table: This info is also on the Who Am I assignment?

| Position | Responsibilities | House or Senate | Currently Held By... |
|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Speaker of the House | | | |
| Majority Leader | | House | |
| Minority Leader | | House | |
| Whip | | | |

Objective 4: Understanding Congressional committees

17. How does a member of Congress spend most of their time on the “hill”? How many of these do they typically participate in?
18. What are the key differences between the 4 types of committees?
19. How do committees interact with the executive bureaucracy?
20. How is the selection of committee and committee chairperson a political process?
21. What did Woodrow Wilson mean when he said, “...the government of the United States is really a government of the standing committees of Congress”?
22. What are some notable standing committees in Congress?
23. What is the function of Congressional caucuses? How are they like an alliance?

Objective 5: Understanding the Congressional process

24. Describe the tedious process by which a “bill” becomes a “law”.
25. In what ways is the president the Chief Legislator?
26. How might interest groups influence legislation but only unofficially?
27. At what stage are revisions by the two houses of Congress reconciled?

Objective 6: Congress allegiance and reform

28. Describe how a member of Congress is loyal to their party. Who keeps that loyalty?
29. Describe how a member of Congress is loyal to their constituency. How keeps that loyalty?
30. Describe how a member of Congress is loyal to their ideology. How keeps that loyalty?
31. Describe how a member of Congress may interact with a lobbyist.
32. How has Congress become more democratic in the past 30-40 years?

Key Terms – Chapter 14 “Budget” are located on the website

1. Why is it said that, “Congress controls the power of the purse?”
2. What are sources of income for Congress?
3. Describe the problem of the federal debt and the federal deficit. Where does this money come from?
4. What categories account for the use of the federal budget? What has been the largest growing trend of this expenditure.
5. Describe the current problem with the social security system.
6. How does social spending today compare with Johnson’s Great Society?

The Budgetary Process

7. Who are the major players in the budgetary process?
8. What role does the House Ways & Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee play making sure expenditures can be funded?
9. Who officially creates the budget? Who approves the budget? When is the budget finalized? What if this deadline is not met (hint – it has happened many times and happened LAST YEAR!)
10. Describe the difference between increases in the “Security State” expenditures and the “Social State” expenditures in the last 50 years.