

Appendix B-unit objectives

**Unit 3 objectives**  
**Congress, the Presidency and our Federal Bureaucracy.**  
**AP Government**

**Part One- Congress**

1...list and describe the six (6) functions of Congress.

2...answer the following seven (7) questions with regard to material in Chapter 11 about the federal congress:

- a. What are the most important powers of congress according to the text?
- b. What special powers are given to the Senate?
- c. Explain a few differences between the two chambers of congress: 1) in the size and rules that govern them 2) in the ability to debate and filibuster 3) in their power and prestige.
- d. How do people in congress compare to the average American citizen?
- e. Congressional elections: 1) how do candidates get on the ticket? 2) what is the coattail effect? 3) how much does incumbency play into congressional elections and why?
- f. Explain the controversy over reapportionment, redistricting and gerrymandering. How have the courts addressed this problem?
- g. What are three of the perks and privileges of being a seated member of congress?

***Reading: Creating a Capital Congress by Larry Sabato***

3...develop a simple visual that makes clear through evidence a) the hierarchical leadership structure in both houses of congress b) gives details about the roles of each position c) gives the names and pictures of the current leaders in those positions (regular sized sheet of paper will do).

4...list and describe the five (5) types of committees common to congressional organization.

***Lectures: How a bill becomes a law!***  
***and Creating the Federal Budget.***

**Part Two- the Presidency**

The President has a complex job that carries many responsibilities. To understand the Executive office we must look at the Presidency from three distinct perspectives; the roles the President assumes, the special powers the President has acquired, and the Executive Office itself which is comprised of myriad groups including the cabinet, the many bureaucratic agencies, the Presidents advisors, and the office of the Vice President. To understand all of these students should complete the following:

5...choose a **20<sup>th</sup> century President** and then link your President via their experience in office to each of these...

- a. Pardons and Reprieves
- b. Commander-in-Chief (wartime powers)
- c. Treaties or executive agreements
- d. Major legislation/ use of the veto power-congressional overrides
- e. Public approval
- f. Emergency Powers
- g. Executive Orders
- h. Executive Privilege
- i. Abuse or impeachment

6. The **Amazing Race Project**- will include material gathered from your research in objective 5 and include several other sub objectives listed below ( a more detailed handout will be given in class and we will discuss each leg of the race:

- a. Gather polling data
- b. Candidate Biography
- c. Developing a platform (issue research)
- d. Raising Money
- e. Campaigning (board décor)
- f. Debate (speeches before admin)
- g. The Election (popular and electoral)

7...choose two of the agencies from the **EOP** listed on page 414 in your text to research, then briefly explain what they do and how they serve the President....also explain how the **Vice President** supports the President and by what legal means he or she might become President.

### **Part Three- The Federal Bureaucracy**

8...complete questions on notes related to **federal bureaucracy**....notes and questions will be made available on Edmodo.

9...answer the following **AP prompt**:

Is Congress effective in exercising legislative oversight of the federal bureaucracy? Support your answer by doing one of the following:

- Explain two specific methods Congress uses to exercise effective oversight of the federal bureaucracy or
- Give two specific explanations of the failure of Congress to exercise effective oversight.

**Group Project: Breaking through the red tape!**  
**Instructions will be given in class.**